



Hold Fast to a Better Method

Bona R851 & Gypsum-Based Concrete

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It's known that contractors are told to use a primer when gluing over gypsum-based concrete such as Gyp-Crete®. However, the issue has been due to compatibility with all the various primers on the market.



Our recommendation for gypsum-based concrete floors:

1. The substrate must be dry
2. Abrade gypsum-based concrete substrate with a 36 to 60-grit Bona Double-Sided Sanding Disc
3. Apply **Bona R851** and install the flooring

The advantage to this recommendation:

- **Less cost** - no primer is needed
- **Less time** - don't have to wait for primer to dry

What psi rating is needed for installing hardwood over gypsum-based concrete?

2000 psi for engineered flooring and 2500 psi for solid hardwood is the recommendation from most flooring manufacturers. NWFA recommends 3000 psi for engineered flooring and solid hardwood.

Why do we say abrade the floor instead of a primer?

- When gypsum-based concrete such as Gyp-Crete is poured, the gypsum settles to the bottom and the more soluble ingredients—which create adhesion issues—tend to float to the top. Abrading the floor is an effective method to remove the more soluble ingredients, exposing more gypsum at the surface.
- Gypsum-based concrete substrates tend to be very dusty, even after thorough vacuuming. Primers are typically recommended because many types of adhesives do not have the ability to “wet-out” the dust on the surface, thereby creating an adhesion issue. Bona R851 is the exception! Through extensive testing, Bona's Research and Development team has concluded that abrasion and thorough vacuuming prior to applying R851 is all you'll ever need, no primer necessary!

Can I apply a moisture barrier after abrading Gyp-Crete or other gypsum-based concretes if there are moisture concerns?

YES. Apply Bona R580 Moisture Barrier at the rate of 130 square feet per gallon. This is the equivalent to covering the Gyp-Crete or gypsum-based concrete with a continuous sheet of 6-mil polyethylene film.



Is this information the same for a gypsum-based concrete floor that has a radiant heat system underneath it?

YES, this would apply—just make sure they use/cycle the radiant heat system prior to installation.

How do I know if the gypsum-based concrete is dry?

According to the manufacturer, Maxxon, a 3/4" thick pour is fully dry and ready for floor installation within 5 to 7 days, when properly ventilated and temperatures are maintained above 50° F.

Can I use a moisture meter to test if the gypsum-based concrete is dry?

YES. When a moisture meter is required, use a pin-invasive type such as a Delmhorst® model G-79 or Delmhorst BD2100 (follow the Delmhorst directions). Keep in mind, these meters measure only what the pins contact. For thicker pours you will need to drill pilot holes and use longer pins to obtain an accurate measurement.