

Triarch products work well over a variety of substrates, both for interior and exterior settings. This document will only discuss interior substrates and is not intended to be a technical discussion of substrate preparation, but rather a general show & tell document in summary form¹. For a more detailed discussion of the associated preparation steps for substrates, please refer to Chapter 4 of our Qualified Installer Manual.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF APPROVED SUBSTRATES:

- Unpainted Gypsum Board (drywall, sheetrock etc.)
- High-performance wall boards
- Unpainted masonry, CMU, concrete and brick
- Unpainted, untreated wood and plywood (special treatment may be required for joints)
- Fiber reinforced cement or calcium silicate boards
- Nonferrous metals
- Glazed or unglazed tile (special preparation may be required as noted on pages 5-6)
- Previously primed or painted surfaces where the existing surface paint is sound, dry, clean and firmly adhered. This would include all the wall structures listed above. Existing paint can be acrylic, urethane, epoxy, or alkyd material. The Triarch Primer must bond to the painted surface².

SUBSTRATES REQUIRING TRIARCH REVIEW FOR APPROVAL

NOTE: Many Triarch materials have high adhesion capabilities and will adhere satisfactorily to many different substrates. With adequate preparatory steps, Triarch materials have been satisfactorily applied to the following substrates. However due to the wide variations in these types of substrates, request specific review from a Triarch field services manager (FSM) to confirm if a product warranty will apply for these substrates:

- Vinyl Wall Covering
- Water damaged drywall – with or without mold
- Pre-finished Wood Paneling – may require a sealer prior to Triarch products
- Pre-painted Surfaces of Unknown Composition
- Plastic Laminate
- Plastics and Fiberglass

Three of the most common interior substrates are reviewed below. Contact Triarch for additional information.

⇒ **Substrate: Drywall/wallboard** – conventional and high performance wallboard. On a square footage basis, wallboard represents a majority of the wall area that Triarch products are typically applied to. Generally speaking, wall board should be prepared to a LEVEL 4 drywall finish. Shown below is the industry standard definition³ for a LEVEL 4 preparation of wallboard:

1. All joints and interior angles shall have tape embedded in joint compound and two separate coats of joint compound applied over all flat joints and one separate coat of joint compound applied over interior angles. Fastener heads and accessories shall be covered

¹ This document is only intended to provide a general understanding of installing Triarch materials on various substrates. All Triarch technical data, including product data sheets, specifications and installation guides supersede this document.

² There are several quick field tests to confirm adhesion of our primers.

³ According to the Gypsum Association Standard GA-214-10, *Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish*.

with three separate coats of joint compound. All joint compounds shall be smooth and free of tool marks and ridges. Note: It is recommended that the prepared surface be coated with a drywall primer prior to the application of final finishes.

2. This level should be specified where flat paints, light textures, or wall coverings are to be applied. In critical lighting areas, flat paints applied over light textures tend to reduce joint photographing. Gloss, semi-gloss, and enamel paints are not recommended over this level of finish.

Level 4 is the typical substrate standard in terms of “smooth and flat” to which substrates should be prepared to receive Triarch products. All Plexture finishes, Duroplex finishes, Venetian Plaster, Klondike and Collection of Joy are typically installed onto a level 4 finish. After the wallboard is prepared to an acceptable level, application of Triarch products to wallboard is simple and direct:

1. Apply Triarch recommended primer.
2. Apply finish material per our instructions.

Example wall board substrate projects are shown in Figures 1 and 2.



Figure 1: University of Houston, Student Union Building. Duroplex installed over traditional 5/8" Type X wall board.



Figure 2: University of Tampa, Athletic Center. Duroplex installed over 5/8" Type X wallboard from 48" above floor, and over abuse resistant (AR) board from floor level to 48" above floor.

⇒ **Substrate: Concrete Masonry Units (CMU)** is another typical substrate that receives Triarch materials. Often times it is desirable to have the appearance of block disappear so that it is visually indistinguishable between a CMU wall and a drywall partition. Some of the important detail questions that should be considered are:

- New or previously painted block?
- Tooled (concave) or floated flush grout lines?
- The condition of the block. Is there any damage to the block that may require some "rebuilding" of selected areas?
- How much "hiding power" will the final finish contribute? Thin film products and products with higher sheen levels contribute less hiding power.

The number of labor passes to float CMU will vary with the roughness of the substrate and the depth of the grout lines. It is not unreasonable to expect three (3) labor passes to level some CMU walls.

Relevant Triarch substrate preparation products you may want to explore:

- SKIMM...data page T101
- REFORMIT....data page T116
- Durofloat....data page T101
- Block Filler (new/raw block)...data page T123
- RAC Mesh...data page T126

An example CMU substrate project is shown in Figures 3 and 4.

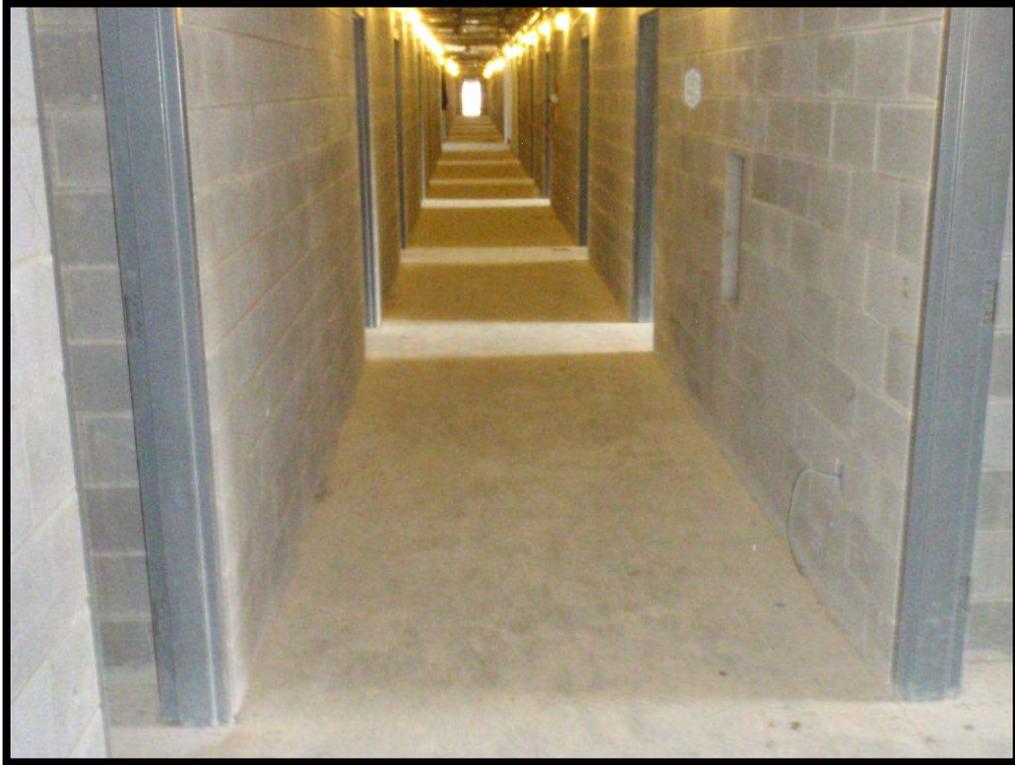


Figure 3: Typical CMU corridor with tooled grout lines. Mason provided block walls with up to ¼" tolerance.



Figure 4: The same corridor from Figure 3 is shown in an almost finished stage. SKIMM was used to float and level the block. Plexture was then applied over SKIMM to finish the walls.

⇒ **Substrate: Glazed Tile** can present challenges for many projects wanting to eliminate the glazed tile appearance. It is typically a slick surface that provides poor bonding. Triarch's PRIMER will provide the necessary bond when applied properly. Two coats of PRIMER are often required, prior to the application of SKIMM or Durofloat to fill the grout lines. It is recommended that an on-site mock up be performed prior to job commencement to confirm bonding.

Relevant substrate preparation products you may want to explore include:

- SKIMM...data page T101
- Durofloat....data page T101

A glazed tile substrate project is shown in Figures 5 and 6.



Figure 5: The corridor shown above is a typical glazed tile substrate. This is a hard fired glazed surface that will not allow many materials to bond to it.



Figure 6: Shown above is the same corridor almost completed. The sequence of application was: PRIMER (X2), SKIMM, and Duroplex.

End of Section