

MEDIDA

MF-CP-01
REVISION A

SPECIFIER GUIDE ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES APPLIED BY HAND

Choosing a microcement system

QUESTIONS FOR ANY SUPPLIER · MICROCEMENT · LIME PLASTER · CORK

Questions to put to any microcement, lime plaster or cork supplier, with our own answers beside them. Products that look alike on a sample board can differ in chemistry, in where the waterproofing comes from and in how compliance is shown. This guide names no brands and makes no claims about any other product.

18 NOVEMBER 2026

TYPES · WATERPROOFING · COMPLIANCE · JOINTS · EXPOSURE

FORMA

01 SCOPE

How to use this guide

Microcement is sold in Australia in several forms, and the differences rarely show in a sample. They show later: in a shower, at a joint, in afternoon sun. The questions below are the ones worth asking before a system goes into the finishes schedule, whichever supplier or installer is involved.

Each row gives the reason for asking and Medida Forma's answer for the system we install. Where another type of system may suit a project better, we say so.

02 TYPES

The broad types

TYPE	WHAT IT IS	WORTH ASKING
Cement-based, polymer-modified	A cement and aggregate powder mixed on site with a liquid polymer, usually two components	How mixing ratios are controlled from batch to batch, and how colour is kept consistent
Ready-to-use resin-based	Aggregates in a resin emulsion, supplied mixed and tinted, single component	What the resin is, and what the primer and sealer system is
Epoxy-based	A reactive resin system, typically two components with a hardener	How it behaves in UV and outdoors, and what topcoat it relies on

Any of these can be a sound choice. The build-up around them, the substrate and the detailing decide most outcomes.

03 MICROCEMENT

Questions for any microcement system

QUESTION	WHY IT MATTERS	OUR ANSWER
What is it made of, and is it mixed on site?	Site mixing adds a variable to colour and performance. The chemistry decides the primer, sealer and repair method.	Decora Diamond Floor is a ready-to-use, single-component decorative plaster based on modified PU resins in aqueous emulsion, with controlled-grain aggregates. [1]
In a wet area, where does the waterproofing come from?	A finish that resists water is not necessarily a waterproofing membrane. The membrane is what the wet-area provisions are written around.	A separate Gripset 2P membrane, compliant with AS/NZS 4858, installed and certified by qualified waterproofers, floor and walls to the ceiling. Microcement is the finish over it. [3, 4]

QUESTION	WHY IT MATTERS	OUR ANSWER
How is compliance shown?	A CodeMark Certificate of Conformity is one of several accepted ways to show evidence of suitability under the NCC. Ask which route applies and what paperwork you receive. [5]	For each wet area: the membrane's data sheet and standards, and a signed waterproofing certificate. The finish is documented in MF-SG-01 and MF-DT-01.
How are movement joints handled?	Thin rigid finishes crack where they are made to bridge movement.	Designed joints are carried through every layer and sealed; never bridged. Mesh at corners, substrate changes and grout lines. See MF-DT-01.
Is it rated for exterior or strong sun?	Some resin chemistries, notably common aromatic epoxies, yellow under UV unless protected by a UV-stable topcoat. Exterior use should be in the data sheet, not assumed. [6]	The Diamond Floor data sheet describes interior walls and floors. We install it indoors and refer exterior work for a system documented for that exposure. [1]
How thick is it, and what does that mean?	A thin finish shows its substrate. Thickness also affects door clearances and junctions.	0.80 to 1.00 mm for the decorative coats; 2 to 3 mm with preparation. Flatness and cracks are resolved below the finish. [1]
What slip and fire values apply?	Values belong to the finished, sealed surface, not the base product.	We obtain test evidence for the sealed assembly the project specifies, rather than quoting a generic rating.
What is warranted, and by whom?	Product and workmanship warranties are different promises from different parties.	A 7-year Medida Forma workmanship warranty against delamination and installation defects when care instructions are followed. Structural movement is excluded; product warranties sit with the manufacturers.
What documents come with it?	Without them, the specification rests on a sample and a conversation.	Specification guide MF-SG-01, detailing reference MF-DT-01, manufacturer data sheets, the waterproofing certificate and written care instructions.

04 LIME PLASTER

Venetian and lime plaster

QUESTION	WHY IT MATTERS	OUR ANSWER
Is it lime, or an acrylic texture?	Lime plaster gets its depth from mineral layers and burnishing. An acrylic or paint-effect coating forms a surface film, which looks, ages and repairs differently.	Decora Incanto, Carrara, Teseo and Tatto: lime plasters made with marble dust, trowelled and burnished by hand. [7]
Where can it go?	Lime finishes are not waterproofing and are not floor finishes.	Walls, ceilings and interior detail. Not showers or floors; there we specify microcement over a membrane. Teseo can be used outside, subject to the project system. [7]
How is the finish approved?	Lime changes markedly with light.	A physical sample, approved in the room's own light for feature walls and large areas.

QUESTION	WHY IT MATTERS	OUR ANSWER
Can it be repaired?	Local repairs to any hand finish can show.	Repairs are possible but may be visible, so we plan to finish whole walls.

05 CORK

Cork flooring

QUESTION	WHY IT MATTERS	OUR ANSWER
Prefinished or finished on site?	Site coatings add a step, a smell and a variable.	New Generation tiles arrive with a factory finish: a PU hot-coat under three coats of waterborne lacquer. [8]
Glued or floating, and with what?	The adhesive system is often a condition of the product warranty.	Glued down tile by tile with the supplier's primer and contact adhesive. [9]
What has been tested?	Marketing words such as acoustic or slip-resistant are not values.	Published: use class 23 and 32, slip P2 (P4 with an anti-slip sealer), fire Cfl-s1, impact-sound reduction of 14 dB. [8]
Where should it not go?	Cork is water-resistant, not waterproof.	Dry interior floors only. Bathrooms and showers are microcement over a membrane.

06 BY THE JOB

Choosing by the job

THE JOB	WHAT WE WOULD SPECIFY	WHEN ANOTHER TYPE MAY SUIT BETTER
Interior floors, walls and joinery	Decora Diamond Floor microcement	A project needing a CodeMark-certified finish system specifically
Showers, bathrooms and laundries	Gripset 2P membrane, certified, with microcement over it	None in our range; we do not offer lime or cork here
Feature walls and ceilings	Decora Venetian plaster	Where wipe-down or water exposure governs, microcement
Warm, quiet interior floors	New Generation cork tiles	Wet or high-moisture rooms
Exteriors, pools, chemical exposure	Not from our range	A system whose data sheet covers that exposure

This guide is general. It does not assess any particular product, and every project still needs evidence for the assembly actually built.

07 SOURCES

Sources

[1] Decora Diamond Floor D021 technical data sheet, MTDS 021ENG.

[2] Decora Diamond system: components and system overview.

[3] Gripset 2P technical data sheet, Gripset Industries, October 2020.

[4] RLA Polymers / Gripset, Waterproofing Specification, Internal Wet Areas (microcement finish), version 1.0, November 2025.

[5] National Construction Code Board / ABCB, CodeMark frequently asked questions: Certificates of Conformity as evidence of suitability.

[6] Coatings industry literature on UV resistance of epoxy systems (CoatingsTech, September/October 2024).

[7] Decora Incanto D001, Carrara D004, Teseo D005 and Tatto D006 technical data sheets, issued 9 November 2018.

[8] Cork Imports catalogue, Technical Specifications and Certifications: New Generation Cork.

[9] NG Installation and Maintenance Guide, Cork Imports.

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Talk to us about the specification.

Request physical samples, a showroom visit, a studio presentation or support with substrates, junctions and budget pricing for your project.

EMAIL	sales@medidaforma.com.au
PHONE	1300 209 483
SHOWROOM	254 Plenty Road, Preston VIC 3072 · by appointment
WEB	medidaforma.com.au/professionals

MF-CP-01 Revision A, 18 November 2026. This reference is not manufacturer certification or a project construction specification. Confirm current manufacturer instructions, and obtain evidence for the actual assembly, before tender or construction issue.

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