



## 121 Optimum

Premium Base Coat & Adhesive



### DESCRIPTION:

- Base Coat for Parex EIFS
- Adhesive to laminate EPS to listed substrates
- Applied without the addition of cement
- Mixed on site with water
- Best in class workability
- Extended pot life
- Color: Light gray

### USES:

EPS adhesive for the following substrates:

- Exterior grade gypsum sheathing
- Glass mat gypsum sheathing
- Masonry, concrete, and cement board
- EPS
- Parex KeyGuard and KeyCoat Water Resistive Barrier Coatings

Base coat for Parex EIFS, NuTech Stucco, and other architectural coatings and finishes (ACF).

Leveler and filler for masonry, concrete, stucco surfaces. For this application only, 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive can be built up to 1/4 in. (6mm) thick in a single pass.

### COMPOSITION:

- Binder base: Copolymer compatible with portland cement
- Water base: VOC-Compliant

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## COVERAGE:

Depending on the condition of the substrate and method of application, approximate coverages per bag are:

- As an adhesive:
  - Parex 5/16 in. (8mm) notched trowel: 130-140 sq. ft. (12-13 sq. m.)
  - 5/8 in. (16mm) notched trowel: 92-100 sq. ft. (8-9 sq. m.)
- WaterMaster 1/2 in. (12.7mm) U notched trowel: 113-120 sq. ft. (10.5 - 11.2 sq. m.)
- As a base coat to embed 355 Parex Standard Mesh: 75-95 sq. ft. (7-9 sq. m.) per bag
- As a leveler, coverage depends upon the thickness applied.

## CONTAINER:

- 50 lb (22.7kg) net weight in multiwall water resistant bags.
- Storage: Store off the ground and protect from direct sunlight and moisture.
  - Shelf life: 12 months if properly stored in the original unopened container.

## WORKING TIME:

Pot life is 1–2 hours after water has been added. Open time is affected by humidity and temperature.

## DRYING TIME:

Full adhesive bond strength is reached after 1–4 days, depending on humidity and temperature.

## CLEAN-UP:

Water-soluble prior to drying. Clean tools and containers with water before polymer/cement mixture sets.

## SURFACE PREPARATION:

- Planar irregularities are limited to 1/4 in. (6mm) or less in a 4 ft. (1.22m) radius. Surface irregularities are limited to 1/4 in. (6mm) or less for masonry and concrete and 1/8 in. (3mm) or less for sheathing.
- Irregular and uneven surface should be filled with Parex 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive.
- Remove surface contaminants such as dust or dirt without damaging the substrate.

- Painted substrates must have the paint removed with methods that result in no more than 10% of the remaining surface having paint.
- For additional options for surface preparation, contact Parex USA Technical Services Department.

## MIXING:

- Use clean equipment for mixing and preparation.
- Add 6-7 quarts (5.7 - 6.7 L) of cool clean potable water. Add half 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive and mix to a homogenous consistency using a heavy-duty 1/2 in. (13 mm) drill with a rust-free paddle at 400-500 rpm. Add the remaining bag of material and mix thoroughly.
- Let the mixture stand for five to ten minutes after initial mixing, then remix material.
- Small amounts of clean potable water may be added to adjust workability after the initial mixing of the material, up to 8 oz of water (0.25 L).
- Half batches may be mixed for convenience.
- Only Parex USA approved additives can be added to this product.

## APPLICATION:

- Read the entire label before using this product.
- Adhesive Application: Apply the 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive to the entire surface on one face of the insulation board, using a 5/8 in. (16 mm) notched trowel for masonry and concrete, or a 1/2-in. notched trowel for the Optimum WaterMaster System, or a 5/16 in. (8 mm) notched trowel for sheathing.

The ribbons should be of uniform thickness, run vertically when positioned on the wall (parallel to the 2 ft. [61 cm] board dimension) and reach the perimeter of the insulation board. To ensure high initial grab and uniform adhesive contact, apply insulation board to the wall with firm pressure to the entire surface. Apply sufficient

pressure to flatten adhesive ridges. Glass mat sheathing requires extra pressure.

- Base Coat Application: Rasp EPS board after 24 hours and when adhesive has fully cured and bonded (70°F (21°C), 50% RH). Using a stainless steel trowel, apply the 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive mixture to the rasped surface of the insulation board to a uniform thickness of 1/16 - 3/32 in. (1.5 - 2.4 mm). Embed the Parex reinforcing mesh immediately in the wet 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive mixture. Smooth the surface of the 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive mixture with a trowel until the reinforcing mesh is fully embedded and the base coat thickness is approximately 1/16 in. (1.5 mm). The color of the reinforcing mesh should not be visible at the surface of the 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive material. A slight pattern of the mesh is acceptable, due to shrinkage of the cementitious Base Coat upon drying.
- As a leveler or filler: Apply Parex 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive and trowel to a smooth, uniform surface. Maximum thickness in a single application should be no more than 1/4 in. (6mm).

## LIMITATIONS:

- Ambient and surface temperature must be 40°F (4.4°C) or higher during application and curing time. Provide supplemental heat and protection from precipitation as needed.
- Use only on surfaces that are sound, clean, dry, unpainted, and free from any residue which may affect the ability of the 121 Optimum Base Coat & Adhesive to bond to the surface.
- Application in direct sunlight in hot weather will significantly reduce open time for embedding Parex reinforcing mesh and smoothing the surface.
- Do not use as a leveler for EPS. Rasp EPS level.
- Dries within 24 hours under normal drying conditions [70°F (21°C), 50% RH]. Cold and/or humid weather may extend drying time.

**PAREX®**  
www.parex.com

## Corporate Office

Parex USA, Inc.  
4125 E. La Palma Ave., Suite 250  
Anaheim, CA 92807  
(866) 516-0061  
Tech Support: (800) 226-2424

## Facilities

Redan, GA  
Riverside, CA  
French Camp, CA  
Colorado Springs, CO  
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