



Surface Preparation Checklist

Substrate readiness for a durable, crack-free microcement finish

Proper surface preparation is the single most critical factor for achieving a durable, crack-free premixed microcement finish. Complete every item below before troweling the first base coat.

1 SUBSTRATE STABILITY & SURFACE CONDITION

- ☐ **Structural soundness** — substrate (concrete, ceramic tile, drywall, or cement board) is completely rigid with zero flex or movement.
- ☐ **Deep cleaning** — thoroughly degrease and remove all dust, wax, oil, sealers, loose paint, and drywall compound residue.
- ☐ **Surface repairs** — fill deep grout lines, repair cracks, and patch holes with a high-strength repair mortar or rigid filler; allow full cure before proceeding.
- ☐ **Mechanical key** — scuff smooth or glossy surfaces (e.g., glazed tile) to improve the bonding profile.

2 MOISTURE & CLIMATE CONTROL

- ☐ **Moisture testing** — confirm concrete or masonry substrates are fully cured and within safe moisture limits (typically under 3–4% relative moisture).
- ☐ **Temperature window** — maintain ambient and substrate temperatures between 50°F–75°F (10°C–24°C) throughout application and curing.
- ☐ **Airflow management** — disable radiant floor heating, direct heat sources, and heavy fans to prevent premature surface drying and skinning.

3 PRIMING & REINFORCEMENT

- ☐ **Primer selection** — apply the correct promoter (quartz-aggregate primer for non-porous tile/metal; porous primer for drywall/concrete).
- ☐ **Fiberglass mesh** — embed alkali-resistant mesh over tile joints, drywall seams, floor-to-wall transitions, and high-stress zones to prevent telegraphing cracks.
- ☐ **Drying verification** — confirm primer is fully dry to the touch before troweling the first base coat.

4 SITE SETUP & MASKING

- ☐ **Surface protection** — mask off adjacent walls, cabinets, fixtures, and trim with high-tack painter's tape and protective plastic or paper.
- ☐ **Drain & trim alignment** — confirm shower drains, transition strips, and wall plates are set to accommodate total microcement buildup (typically 2–3 mm).

5 TOOLS & STAGING

- ☐ **Trowels** — stainless steel rounded-edge trowel, flexible finishing blade, and specialized corner tools on hand.
- ☐ **Sanding gear** — sanding discs (80, 120, and 180 grit) paired with a vacuum or dust extractor.
- ☐ **PPE** — dust mask/respirator (essential for sanding), safety glasses, and nitrile gloves staged and ready.
- ☐ **Product prep** — stir premixed microcement thoroughly with a low-speed mixer for smooth consistency and uniform color dispersal.

Skipping any step above is the leading cause of cracking, delamination, and warranty claims. When in doubt, contact your MyCROCEMENT™ rep before proceeding.

JOB SITE VERIFICATION & SIGN-OFF

☐ Substrate inspected & sound☐ Moisture / temp verified☐ Primer & mesh applied

JOB SITE / ADDRESS

SUBSTRATE TYPE

APPLICATOR NAME

DATE

SIGNATURE
