DURATRAX
(96M Series – Bulk)

User Guide

FIRMFOOT®



FORREST
Technical Coatings

FIRMfoot® DuraTrax (96M Series) is a **water-reducible epoxy ester coating with integrated grit**, designed to provide a durable, slip-resistant surface for foot traffic.

DuraTrax is the **water-based / low-VOC version of Grit Tough**, offering:

- **Slip resistance with added grit**
- **Water clean-up**
- **Low VOC (<200 g/L)**

Suitable for properly prepared substrates including steel, concrete, wood, fiberglass, and aluminum.

3 Basic Steps for Best Results

1 **Prepare the Surface**

2 **Mix & Apply the Coating**

3 **Allow Proper Dry & Cure Time**

Following these steps in order will help ensure proper adhesion, consistent traction, and overall coating performance.

1 Surface Preparation (CRITICAL STEP)

Proper surface preparation is essential for adhesion and long-term performance.



General Requirements

- Surface must be clean, dry, and free of contaminants
- Remove all:
  - » Dirt, dust, grease, oil
  - » Rust or failing coatings

Recommended Prep by Substrate

- **Steel (Ferrous Metals):** Clean thoroughly; primer recommended for corrosion resistance
- **Aluminum / Non-Ferrous:** Acid etch for adhesion
- **Fiberglass:** Light sanding or acetone wipe
- **Concrete:** Clean with TSP and allow to fully dry
- **Wood:** Clean and dry (no primer required)

Best Practices

To help ensure consistent results, follow these additional guidelines.

- Ensure surface is **fully dry before application**
- Avoid residue-leaving cleaners

If prep is done incorrectly:

- Coating may peel, blister, or fail prematurely

2 Mixing & Thinning

Once the surface is properly prepared and completely dry, the next step is to mix the coating thoroughly to ensure even grit distribution and consistent performance.

Mixing (CRITICAL FOR GRIT PRODUCTS)

- Stir thoroughly before use
- Continue mixing regularly during application

Important:

- Grit will settle quickly
- Inconsistent mixing = uneven traction and appearance

Thinning (If Needed)

After thoroughly mixing the product, determine if thinning is necessary based on your application method and conditions.

- Product is **ready-to-use**
- May be thinned up to **10% maximum with water**

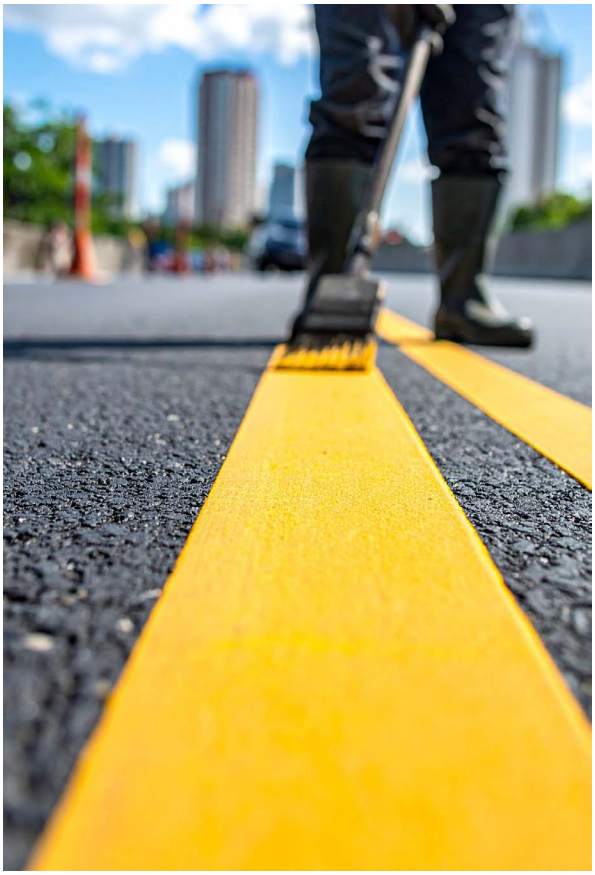
CAUTION: Do NOT over-thin

- Reduces film build and durability
- Affects film build and durability



3 Application Instructions

Once the coating is properly mixed (and adjusted if needed), proceed with application.



Application Methods

Brush	Roll

Environmental Conditions

Before beginning application, confirm that environmental conditions are within the recommended range.

- Temperature: 40°F – 85°F
- Humidity: < 70%
- Surface temperature must be ≥5°F above dew point

How to Apply

After selecting your application method and confirming conditions, apply the coating as follows.

- Apply in 2 coats for best performance
  - » First coat: thin / tack coat
  - » Second coat: full coverage coat

Film Thickness Targets

Apply the coating within the following thickness ranges to achieve proper performance.

Wet Film Thickness: **6–8 mils**	Dry Film Thickness: **2–3 mils**

Recoat Window

To ensure proper adhesion between coats, follow the recommended recoat timing.

- Recoat within 1–2 hours

4 Dry & Cure Time

After application is complete, allow the coating to properly dry and cure before placing into service. Dry and cure times may vary based on environmental conditions.

- Dry to handle: 45 minutes – 1 hour
- Full cure depends on:
  - » Temperature
  - » Humidity
  - » Airflow



Use the following information for planning, cleanup, and proper storage

Coverage

- Approx. **481–625 sq ft per gallon @ 1 mil**

Clean-Up

- Clean tools and equipment with water

Storage

- Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area
- Keep containers tightly sealed
- **DO NOT FREEZE**
- Shelf life: ~12 months (unopened)

Safety Information

Although this is a low-VOC product, proper safety practices should always be followed.

- Use in well-ventilated areas
- Wear appropriate PPE
- Review SDS before use

Troubleshooting

If issues occur during or after application, refer to the guide below to identify common causes and corrective actions.

Uneven Texture / Inconsistent Grip

- Cause: Poor or inconsistent mixing
- Fix: Maintain regular agitation during use

Poor Adhesion / Peeling

- Cause: Improper surface prep or moisture present
- Fix: Clean thoroughly, ensure surface is dry, reapply

Slow Dry Time

- Cause: High humidity or heavy application
- Fix: Apply thinner coats and improve airflow

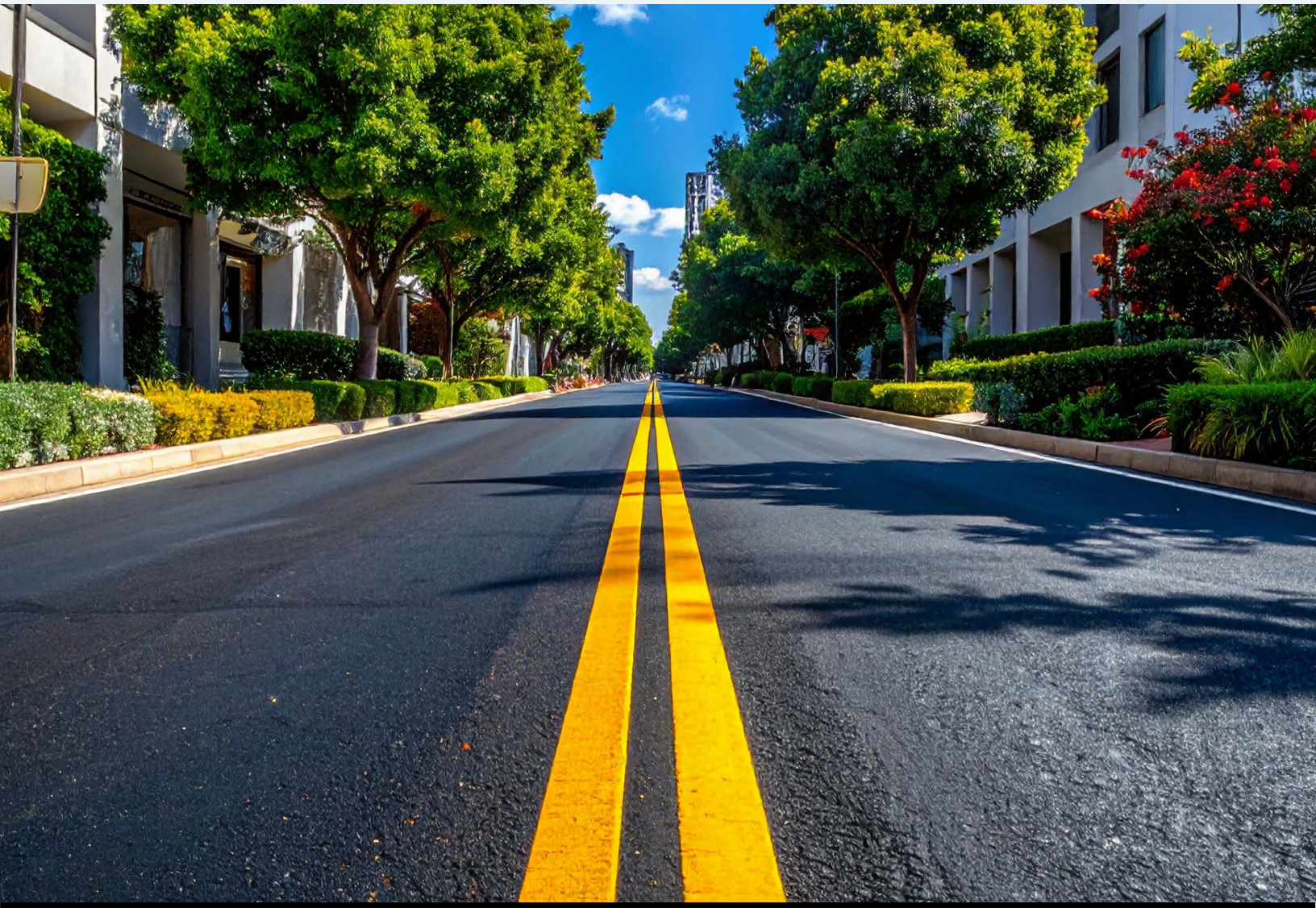
Low Traction

- Cause: Over-thinning or insufficient film build
- Fix: Apply proper thickness and avoid over-thinning

Pro Tips

For best results, especially in indoor or VOC-sensitive environments, keep the following tips in mind.

- This is our **water-based traction system**—best for indoor or VOC-sensitive environments
- Mixing is everything—**grit products require attention during application**
- Ideal where:
  - » Slip resistance is needed
  - » Solvent systems are not preferred
- Always test a small area before full application



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