# GRIT-TOUGH

## (29E Series – Bulk)

User Guide

FIRMFOOT®



FORREST Technical Coatings

FIRMfoot® Grit-Tough (29E Series) is a solvent-borne epoxy ester coating with integrated grit, designed to provide a durable, slip-resistant surface for foot traffic on properly prepared substrates including steel, concrete, wood, fiberglass, and aluminum.

Meets ADA recommendations for coatings.

## 3 Basic Steps for Best Results

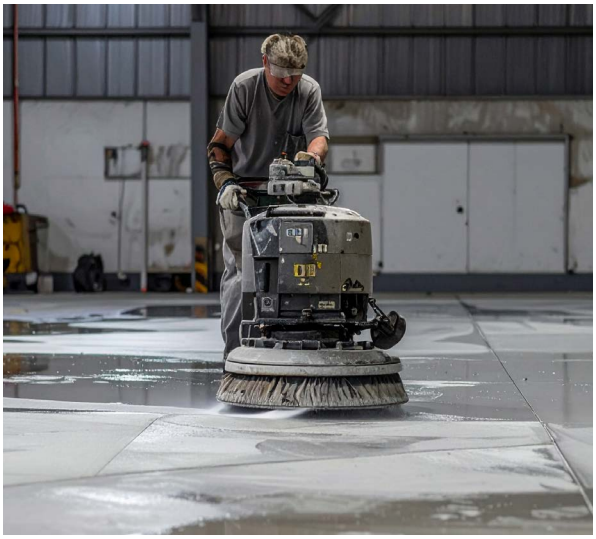



**Prepare the Surface** | **Mix & Apply the Coating** | **Allow Proper Dry & Cure Time**

Each step plays a critical role in overall performance. Following the process in order ensures proper adhesion, consistent texture, and long-term durability. Begin with surface preparation, as it directly impacts coating success.

### 1 Surface Preparation (CRITICAL STEP)

Surface preparation is the most important factor in coating 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; use primer for rust 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)

**Important Notes:**

- Use clean white rags only, colored rags can leave contaminants (per industrial guide best practice)
- Avoid
  - » Mineral spirits / paint thinner
  - » Tack cloths (leave residue and reduce adhesion)

**If prep is done incorrectly:**

- Coating may peel, blister, or fail prematurely

## 2 Mixing & Thinning

Once the surface is properly prepared, the next step is to ensure the coating is correctly mixed and conditioned for application. Proper mixing is essential to achieve uniform texture and performance.

**Mixing**

- Stir thoroughly before use and continue mixing during application
- Bulk product will settle quickly, consistent agitation is critical for:
  - » Even texture
  - » Proper grit distribution
  - » Consistent finish

**Best Practice (Industrial Insight):**

- Scrape sides and bottom when mixing
- Use air-powered agitation if available (avoid spark-producing tools)



**Thinning (If Needed)**

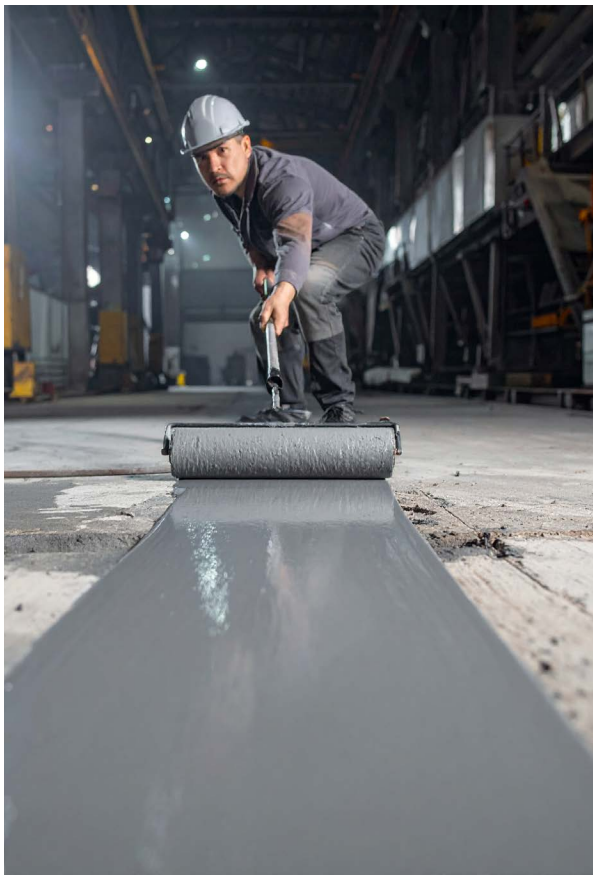
After thoroughly mixing the product, evaluate whether thinning is necessary based on your application method and conditions.

- Product is **ready-to-use**
- If required, thin up to **10% maximum** with:
  - » Xylene
  - » Toluene

**CAUTION: Do NOT over-thin**

- Reduces performance and may cause paint failure
- Affects texture and coverage

## 3 Application Instructions



Once the coating is properly mixed (and thinned if required), you are ready to begin application.

### Application Methods

| Brush | Roll |
|---|---|

### Environmental Conditions

- Temperature: 40°F – 85°F
- Humidity: < 80%
- Surface temperature must be ≥5°F above dew point

After confirming that environmental conditions are within the recommended range, proceed with application as follows

### How to Apply

- 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 protection and finish quality.

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

### Why this matters

Proper film thickness is critical to coating performance.

- Too thick -> cracking / failure
- Too thin -> poor traction and durability

### Recoat Window

To ensure proper intercoat adhesion, follow the recommended recoating times.

- Within 2 hours, **OR** after 24 hours

## 4 Dry & Cure Time

After application is complete, allow the coating to properly dry and cure before placing into service.

- Dry to handle: ~20 minutes
- Avoid traffic for at least 24 hours.
- Full cure depends on conditions :
  - » Temperature
  - » Airflow
  - » Humidity



## Use the following information for planning and proper storage

### Coverage

- Approx. **529–625 sq ft per gallon @ 1 mil**

### Storage

- Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area
- Keep containers tightly sealed
- Shelf life: ~12 months (unopened)

## Safety Information

Always follow appropriate safety precautions when handling and applying this product.

- **Flammable product** – keep away from heat, sparks, and flame
- Use in **well-ventilated areas**
- Follow PPE guidelines
- Review SDS before use

## Troubleshooting

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

### Peeling / Flaking

- Cause: Poor surface prep or excessive film thickness
- Fix: Remove coating, re-prep, reapply

### Uneven Texture / Blotchy Finish

- Cause: Poor mixing or settling
- Fix: Maintain constant agitation

### Poor Coverage

- Cause: Under-mixed product or thin film build
- Fix: Stir thoroughly and apply proper thickness

### Rough / Dry Finish

- Cause: Application issues or environment
- Fix: Adjust technique and conditions

**Pro Tips**

For improved consistency and performance, consider the following best practices.

- This is a performance coating, not a decorative paint, focus on function first
- Agitation/mixing is important, this product will not forgive poor mixing
- Always test on a small area before full application
- Dial in your process before scaling (especially for larger jobs)



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