Grace MicroFiber™
Synthetic fiber for concrete

Product Description

Grace MicroFiber™ is a synthetic fiber for concrete, manufactured from 100% virgin polypropylene in a monofilament form. Grace MicroFiber is produced on a state-of-the-art production line which is specifically designed to yield an ultra thin concrete reinforcing fibre. 600g of Grace MicroFiber contains approximately 135 million individual fibres. Engineered specifically for use in concrete, it is alkali-resistant, non-absorptive and completely non-corrosive. Grace MicroFiber provides secondary reinforcement and protects concrete from stresses which cause cracking while the concrete is most vulnerable — during the first 24 hours after placement. Grace MicroFiber complies with European Standard BS EN 14889-2:2006 and ASTM Designation C 1116 Standard Specification for Fibre-Reinforced Concrete and Shotcrete, Type III Synthetic Fiber-Reinforced Concrete or Shotcrete. Grace MicroFiber is available in 12mm or 19mm in length. It is also available in 6mm length for mortar mixes, to be used in plastering, screeding and patching.

Applications

Grace MicroFiber may be used in any application where the following benefits are desired:

• Decreased plastic shrinkage and cracking
• Improved concrete durability
• Increased fire resistance to explosive spalling
• As secondary reinforcement for crack protection and control
• Where extended finishing operations are required
• Where reduced use/ non-use of welded wire fabric is needed

Specifically applications include, but are not limited to, slabs on grade, elevated slabs, pavements, overlays, sloped walls, pools, shotcrete, stucco, precast and prestressed concrete products. Grace MicroFiber is not recommended to increase joint spacing or as a substitute for any reinforcement required by the Model Building Codes and Standards.

Advantages

Grace MicroFiber uniformly distributes multi-dimensionally throughout the concrete mixture. The extremely high number of fibers in the fresh concrete matrix provides a high degree of secondary reinforcement. This reinforcement reduces the formation of all types of early cracking, protecting the concrete when its tensile strength is lowest. This cracking caused by plastic shrinkage, settlement, and other internal stresses would otherwise permanently weaken the resulting concrete. The concrete permeability is decreased, while surface characteristics, impact, and toughness properties are improved.

Typical Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific Gravity</td>
<td>0.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Absorption</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modulus of Elasticity</td>
<td>500 ksi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melt Point</td>
<td>160°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ignition Point</td>
<td>590°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alkali, Acid and Salt Resistance</td>
<td>High</td>
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Technically advanced production techniques make Grace MicroFiber a highly durable fiber that is virtually invisible in fresh and hardened concrete. This minimises fiber-reinforced concrete finishing concerns while providing the highest level of crack protection available.

**Mixing Requirements and Addition Rates**

Grace MicroFiber may be added to concrete at any point during the batching or mixing process. Grace MicroFiber may be added to the aggregate during weighing or charging, or to the central mixer or truck before, during, or after charging. The concrete must be mixed at high speed for 5 minutes, or 70 revolutions, after the addition of Grace MicroFiber to ensure uniform distribution.

The standard range of addition for Grace MicroFiber is 300 to 1,800g / m³ of concrete. Typically 600g / m³ of Grace MicroFiber provides excellent results. Higher addition rates may be used when special properties are required.

**Compatibility with Other Admixtures**

Grace MicroFiber is compatible with all GCP admixtures. Its action in concrete is purely mechanical and will not affect the hydration process. Each admixture should be added separately.

**Packaging**

Grace MicroFiber is available in convenient biodegradable Concrete-Ready™ Bags which are added to the truck drum or central mixer. The specially designed cellulose fiber bags disintegrate and disperse the fibers throughout the mix.

**Health and Safety**

See Grace MicroFiber Material Safety Data Sheet or consult GCP Applied Technologies.

**References**

**American Concrete Institute (ACI):**

ACI 544.1 R “State of the Art Report of Fiber Reinforced Concrete”

ACI 302 “Guide for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction”

**American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM):**

ASTM C 1116 “Standard Specification for Fiber-Reinforced Concrete and Shotcrete”

ASTM C 94 “Standard Specification for Ready-Mixed Concrete”

**European Standard:**

BS EN 14889-2:2006 Fibers for Concrete – Part 2: Polymer fibers – Definitions, specifications and conformity