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## Technical Data Sheet

### Unitex® Tanami

**Unitex® Tanami** is a product that gives a motley coloured effect – much like a desert. In a tribute to the Australian Indigenous people, this product is named after one of the most important land masses to the Aboriginal people, as 10,000,000 hectares (25,000,000 acres) of the Tanami Desert area (38% of the total bioregion) was declared an Indigenous protected area. It is also the Northern Territory’s “final frontier” as it was not even explored until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This highlights the rugged, unknown, exciting, moving, uniquely Australian nature of the product – uniquely Australian and so uniquely Unitex®. It also adds a very Australian feel, and a tribute to the land owned by the Australian Indigenous population.

#### Description

**Unitex® Tanami**, when trowel applied onto a wall, provides a strong, durable, lightly polished finish with a motley appearance. Available in a range of standard shades, this product is best applied by experienced Applicators as finishing with a steel trowel produces patterns and mottles worthy of accomplished artists.

**Unitex® Tanami** is the final surface coating of a more complete Unitex® Applied Finish System. As trowel polished finishes carry through the contours of the underlying substrate, **Unitex® Tanami** requires an even and smooth substrate for best results. It is necessary to prepare the substrate surface with the appropriate Unitex® Render and Substrate Primer (see Application Instructions).

**Unitex® Tanami** is a product from the Unitex® Professional Product Range and is only to be applied by those experienced in its application. The acrylic bound **Unitex® Tanami** must only be applied to well-prepared, smooth surfaces. This product must be trowel-applied in a thin layers until complete substrate coverage is achieved. The coating is then thoroughly worked with a steel trowel to produce a uniformly mottled and tightly bound, smooth, even surface.

**Unitex® Tanami** can either remain as the outer surface or, for a glossy finish, can be over-coated with a clear sealer.

#### Grades

**Unitex® Tanami** is available in a standard range of shades based on the natural features of the Tanami Desert. These colours are listed below with a description of their colour palette:

<b>Night Sky</b>	Black reminds us of the night sky
<b>Sunset</b>	Varied and inspiring yellow to reflect the enchanting spectacle of the desert setting sun
<b>Desert Plains</b>	Red reflects the oxides seen in the forever moving desert plains
<b>Storm Cloud</b>	Off-white clouds seen only in the wet season are the inspiration for Storm Cloud
<b>Rock Face</b>	In the long shadows, the grey of eroded cliffs inspire
<b>Ocean</b>	The moving ocean creates as many shades of blue as can be imagined
<b>Oasis</b>	Known only to the locals, green pockets exist as an oasis

#### Purpose

Unitex® Tanami complements the established product, Uni-Rock, as decorative effect trowelled coatings for feature walls. Whereas Uni-Rock is a cement based powder formulation and is available in typical concrete shades, Unitex® Tanami uses acrylate polymer technology that allows vibrant shades to be made. Unitex® Tanami benefits from its polymeric backbone with the result being a formulated, highly structured rheological product with good adhesion to the substrate, high durability and the ability to be worked with a steel trowel to produce mottled effects in vibrant colours.

A complete Unitex® Applied Surface Finish that includes Unitex® Renders and **Unitex® Tanami** both protects and decorates new surfaces and restores old surfaces such as interior and exterior walls and in-fill panels as well as entrances and lobbies. The substrates such as Brick, Cement Blocks, Fibre Reinforced Cement Sheeting, Autoclaved

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Aerated Cement panels, Pre-cast and in situ formed concrete must be dust-free, dry and solid to allow the Unitex® Applied Finish to adhere and bond with the substrate.

The use of **Unitex® Tanami**, when properly applied by experienced applicators and finished using artistic techniques, provides a smooth, mottled or patterned, polished effect. Both the protective and decorative functions of **Unitex® Tanami** are long term and will normally remain so for many years to come. Hence, the Specifier is provided with a virtually maintenance free coating for the life of the warranty period.

### Performance

**Unitex® Tanami** exhibits excellent durability and vibrant shades with a mottled or patterned appearance under most climatic conditions. A protective and decorative service life of 7 years would be expected, provided that mechanical abrading does not occur.

Please note that all acrylate based polymeric surface finishes will show some degree of fading and discolouration due to the impact of weather and airborne pollutants. Some water whitening of the surface finish may occur in both hot and humid or cold and damp situations but this effect lessens as the weather improves.

When applying renders and Applied Surface Finishes to walls, Unitex® recommends the use of regular expansion joints to cope with normal substrate movement. The location of expansion joints is the responsibility of the Builder and their Engineers.

### Composition

**Unitex® Tanami** is a formulated product containing both organic and inorganic non-toxic components held together by an acrylate based polymeric backbone. This product is Non-Hazardous according to the criteria of the NOHSC, has not been tested on animals, is not subject to Poisons labelling and is not classed as a Dangerous Goods.

### Biological Resistance

Resistance is provided against attack from bacteria and fungi by the incorporation of fungicides and bactericides in the formulation. This product is a water-based acrylic system which offers safer handling compared to solvent-based systems.

### Fire Resistance

Applied Finishes based on **Unitex® Tanami** are expected to meet strict standards such as AS/NZS 1530:3:1999 Simultaneous Determination of Ignitability, Flame Propagation, Heat Release and Smoke Release.

### Water Resistance

The coating is formulated to provide an acceptable vapour permeability factor to allow for migration of water vapour from the substrate, but the coating film forms a high barrier to external rain and moisture penetration. Some occasional water whitening of the film can occur in hot, humid and cold, damp situations but leaves the film as weather improves.

### Application Details

**Unitex® Tanami** is a product from the Unitex® Professional Applicator Range and these Application Details are required to be followed for the Building Owners Coating Warranty, Coating Longevity and Appearance.

Application should not be carried out under excessively cold conditions (below 10 °C), wet and/or humid conditions or in hot, windy conditions (above 30 °C).

**Substrate Preparation:** To ensure full performance is achieved, surface preparation is most important. Any crumbling, loose or damaged substrate, including render, must be removed or patched and made good prior to applying **Unitex® Tanami**. Ensure all surfaces are dry and free of grease, oils, dirt and dust. Pre-painted surfaces must have flaking paint wire brushed back to sound substrate prior to Unitex® Render application.



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Please contact Unitex® to recommend the appropriate Render for the masonry substrate. Generally, these will be either Uni Dry Cote Redi Render, Uni Dry Coat HiLite Render, Uni Dry Cote Fast-R Render or Uni Dry Cote Base

Board Render for brickwork and concrete blockwork or Uni Dry Cote Base Board Render for coated EPS sheets (Unitex® Base Board). These renders are available as dry powders and are prepared by adding water and drill mixing to a workable slurry. The slurry is applied to the suitable substrate by trowel or spray and floated to a smooth and even finish. After thorough drying to a Wood Moisture Equivalent of less than 12 %, measured by Protimeter or equivalent moisture meter, the surface is ready for the next stage.

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All these substrate preparing renders must be top-coated with Unitex® Polymer Render with 5 % added cement. Unitex® Tanami is only applied over Unitex® Polymer Render, a paste product, as the direct substrate surface. Unitex recommends trowelling two coats of at least 1 mm of Unitex® Polymer Render to fill any surface pores, etc. Again, thorough drying to a Wood Moisture Equivalent of less than 12 %, measured by Protimeter or equivalent moisture meter must occur before the surface is ready for the next stage.

**Applying Unitex® Tanami:** Unitex® recommends **applying Unitex® Tanami by trowel only over Unitex® Polymer Render (plus 5% added cement)**. The Unitex® Polymer Render, when thoroughly dry, provides a continuous, even, low absorbency surface upon which the overlying **Unitex® Tanami** can cure in a uniform manner.

Upon opening each pail of **Unitex® Tanami**, it must be drill mixed to a whipped, fluffed, mixture (1 minute drilling). **Unitex® Tanami** is trowel applied in thin, multiple layers until adequate hiding or coverage is achieved. It is recommended that **Unitex® Tanami** is applied by experienced teams of Applicators using steel trowels to apply the product in single or multiple coats depending on desired effects, followed by Finishing Applicators who work the **Unitex® Tanami** with steel trowels to achieve a closed, tight surface with mottled patterns before smooth finishing. **Unitex® Tanami** dries from the surface first, while the substrate interface remains wet, so the wet coating must be worked tightly with nil tearing and smooth finished rapidly. Then protect and leave to dry.

NOTE: Once surface skinning occurs, do not touch as delamination and irreparable damage will result.

The **Unitex® Tanami** coating, when applied to a dry surface, is usually touch dry in 2-4 hours under standard conditions of 25 °C and 50% Relative Humidity, and is serviceable in these standard conditions after 7 days drying.

**Unitex® Tanami**, when applied by trowel but not worked into mottles has a low-gloss sheen but when worked with a steel trowel, a glossy, polished finish forms, which makes it even more important that it is coated over a true, level and uniform properly prepared surface. If the Applicator of **Unitex® Tanami** be other than the team that prepared the surface, then prior to applying **Unitex® Tanami**, a Straight Edge should be used to check suitability and the Builder/Project Manager must be informed of the suitability or otherwise of the substrate.

Please note that prior to the contract, the Builder must be provided by the Applicator with a Site Applied Reference Sample on the wall of the Unitex® complete system. It is recommended that the Site Applied Reference Sample be of a minimum size of 2 m<sup>2</sup>.

#### Supply

**Unitex® Tanami** is supplied ready mixed in 10 litre sealed pails. The product must be protected from excessive heat and cold during transit and storage.

Unitex® offers a full range of specialty substrate renders and applied finishes for use in the Building Industry. Data Sheets and panel samples for the full range of **Unitex® Tanami** and other Unitex® products are available on request.

Unitex® renders and Applied Effect Finishes have been chosen on many projects throughout Australia for more than 30 years. Addresses of completed projects can be supplied on request.

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**Specifier's Clause.**

The Unitex® system of Unitex® Render, Uni-Substrate Primer and Unitex® Tanami shall be applied as per the relevant Unitex® Specifications. These products are manufactured in Australia by Unitex Granular Marble Pty Ltd.

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