

## PLANNING FAQ's

### TILE INSTALLATIONS IN GENERAL

#### 1. What underlayments are acceptable to receive ceramic tile or stone?

There are many acceptable substrates for ceramic tile or stone. Among them are concrete, masonry surfaces, brick, block, cement plaster, cement backer board, exterior grade plywood (interior only), gypsum wallboard (interior non-wet areas). It is even possible under some circumstances to install tile over other existing finishes including terrazzo, ceramic tile, vinyl and hardwood or painted surfaces. Please refer to other questions in this list for more information on specific substrates or existing finishes.

#### 2. Can I install tile directly over Luan, particleboard or oriented strand board (O.S.B.)?

No. Exterior grade plywood is the only suitable wood underlayment for installation of ceramic tile by the direct bond method (interior applications only). Masonite, hardwood floors, strip wood floors, "yellow pitch pine" plywood, pressure treated plywood, marine treated plywood fire treated plywood, composite panels, luan, waferboard, particleboard, oriented strandboard, or similar reconstructed wood panels are not suitable subsurfaces for *direct* installation of ceramic tile.

**Related Documents:**

*Wood Floor Requirements for Ceramic Tile TDS 152, FOD Code#0152*

#### 3. What do I use to install tile over plywood and what is the proper construction of plywood floors?

For best performance, use LATICRETE(r) Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive for installing tile directly over plywood. LATICRETE Technical Data Sheet 152, Requirements for Installation of Ceramic Tile over Wood Floors gives an overview on the proper construction of plywood floors

**Related Documents:**

*Wood Floor Requirements for Ceramic Tile TDS 152, FOD Code #0152*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1006*

#### 4. How do I prepare a plywood floor to receive ceramic tile?

The following is the criteria for the proper construction of plywood floors:

The total plywood thickness must be a minimum of 1 1/4" (32mm) thick. The subfloor (bottom layer) must be tongue and groove. Either 3/4" (19mm) thick or 5/8" (17mm). For the 3/4" (19mm) subfloor, use a minimum of 1/2" (12mm) underlayment. For the 5/8" (16mm) subfloor, use a minimum of 5/8" (16mm) underlayment. The underlayment sheets must be installed perpendicular to the subfloor. Leave an 1/8" (3mm) gap between the sheets. You must use exterior grade type of plywood (CDX) for the underlayment. Douglas fir will provide the best results. See question A-2 for more information other types of underlayments. The plywood must be fastened every 6" (150mm) at the perimeter and every 8" (200mm) in the field. Wafer head galvanized screws provide the best results. The floor joists must be no farther apart than 16" (400mm) on center. They must be a minimum of 2" x 10" in size (50mm X 250mm). Verify that the wood floor does not exceed the minimum standard for deflection of  $l/360$  under combined live and dead loads. Simply put, if the floor bounces too much, the tiles will crack and come loose. For best results, use LATICRETE(r) Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive to install tile directly over plywood. LATICRETE

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Technical Data Sheet 152, Requirements for Installation of Ceramic Tile over Wood Floors gives an overview on the proper construction of plywood floors.

**Related Documents:**

*Wood Floor Requirements for Ceramic Tile TDS 152, FOD Code #0152*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1006*

**5. Can I install tile over existing vinyl or ceramic tile, or cut back adhesive?**

Yes. However, make sure of the following for each specific type of existing condition:

**Vinyl flooring (Interior Only)** - The vinyl floor must be well bonded and free from any waxes, sealers, oils, dirt or other contaminants. It must be a full spread adhered system (not perimeter tacked). The flooring structure below the vinyl must be the proper thickness. (E.g. If the vinyl is installed over plywood - see question (1) for the proper subfloor and underlayment thickness.) Use LATICRETE Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive for the best bond and performance to install the tile.

**Existing Ceramic Tile** - The ceramic tile must be well bonded and free from any waxes, sealers, oils, dirt or other contaminants. The flooring structure below the ceramic must be the proper thickness. (E.g. If the existing ceramic tile is installed over plywood - see question # 1 for the proper subfloor and underlayment thickness.) Use LATICRETE Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix for the best bond and performance to install the tile for interior applications. Use LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex-Thin Set Mortar Additive or LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin-Set mixed with LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix or LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar for exterior or interior applications.

**Non - water-soluble cut back adhesive (Interior Only).** Verify that the cut back adhesive is not water-soluble by placing soapy water on the adhesive and agitate. If the cut back adhesive starts to dissolve, then it must all be removed. The flooring structure below the cutback adhesive must be the proper thickness. (E.g. If the cutback adhesive is installed over plywood - see question # 1 for the proper subfloor and underlayment thickness.) Use LATICRETE Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive to install the tile.

**Related Documents:**

*Installation of Ceramic Tile over existing Vinyl & Ceramic Tile TDS 135, FOD Code #0135*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1016*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1013*

**6. Can I install tile over a painted surface?**

For the best results, the paint should be completely removed. There is no way to determine the long-term results of a new tile finish over a painted surface. The paint can peel, break down or otherwise come loose from the substrate and the tiles will also come loose. The best way to remove the paint is by mechanical abrasion. The use of chemicals to remove paint can result in a contaminated substrate.

**Related Documents:**

*Installation of Ceramic Tile over painted wall surfaces TDS 131, FOD Code #0131*

**7. What is the procedure to install tiles over cement backer board?**

Follow the cement backer board manufacturer's instructions for the installation of the cement backer board. Once the cement board is installed, fastened and taped properly, use the following procedure. Dampen the board with a damp sponge to clean the surface and to slow down the porosity rate of the cement backer board. There are several products that you can use to install the tiles. For the best results, use a LATICRETE Latex Fortified Thin Set Mortar

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System (e.g. LATICRETE Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive or, LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive or, LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar or, LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin-Set mixed with LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix).

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2007, for Walls*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1009, for Floors*

**8. When do I need to install a mortar bed?**

For years, the best installations have been done with full mortar beds. Recent developments in technology have allowed thin-set application of ceramic tile and stone in many areas, but there are still applications when only a mortar bed will do. A mortar bed is required when you encounter the following conditions on a project.

1. Slope must be created to a drain, trench, gutter, etc.
2. The installation of unguaged tiles or stones require that they be beaten in flat into a mortar bed.
3. When a surface is contaminated or damaged and thus cannot be directly bonded to (e.g. spider web cracks, painted or oil soaked concrete), is uneven, or is not capable of being bonded to for other reasons.

There are two types of mortar beds:

- a. Bonded System
- b. Non-Bonded System

Which type to use depends on many factors. Typically, the bonded system is used when the underlying substrate is solid and bondable. Non-bonded system is used when the substrate is likely to be subject to movement, or is not bondable.

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing FOD Code #1002, over concrete*

*Detail Drawing FOD Code #1008, Bonded with wire over plywood*

*Detail Drawing FOD Code #1003, over concrete*

*Detail Drawing FOD Code #1007 Non-Bonded over Plywood*

*Detail Drawing FOD Code # 5002 Non-Bonded over a roof deck*

**9. How do I install tile in a Steam Room?**

There are two options:

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #3008, for a thin set method of installation over cement backer board*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #3009, for a thick bed method of installation over a float and scratch coat*

**10. How do I install tile on exterior walls?**

Walls to receive tile or stone must also be made smooth and plumb. If the wall needs a leveling coat refer to one of the applications listed below:

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2002, for a thin set installation over concrete walls with waterproofing*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2003, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over concrete*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2004, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over*

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*masonry*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2005, for a thinset installation over masonry with waterproofing*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2007, for a thin set installation over cement backer board with waterproofing*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2008, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over metal framing with waterproofing*

**11. How do I determine which size notch trowel to use for my tile or stone installation?**

Check your bond to verify the appropriate continuous thin set mortar coverage. Interior applications of tile should achieve a minimum coverage of 80%. Exterior and wet area installations should achieve a minimum coverage of 95%. Back buttering the tile or stone will help achieve a greater percentage of coverage.

**Wall Tiles up to 6" x 6"** (150mm x 150mm) over gypsum board - using an organic adhesive (mastic)- use a 3/16" (4mm) V- Notch Trowel.

**All tiles or stones (wall or floor) using a thin set mortar - up to 4" x 4"** (100mm x 100mm) use a 1/4" x 1/4" (6mm x 6mm) square or loop notch trowel.

**All tiles or stones (wall or floor) using a thin set mortar - up to 16" x 16"** (400mm x 400mm) use a 1/4" x 3/8" (6mm x 9mm) square or loop notch trowel.

**All tiles or stones (wall or floor) using a thin set mortar greater than 16" x 16"** (400mm x 400mm) use a 1/2" x 1/2" (12mm x 12mm) square notch or a 3/4" (19mm) loop notch trowel

**12. How do I lay out and install ceramic tile?**

There are many factors that go into laying floors and walls in preparation to install ceramic tile. Please request the Tiling Tips Brochure from our Web Site at [www.laticrete.com](http://www.laticrete.com).

**13. Which adhesive should I use for porcelain bodied tiles?**

Use a high strength latex fortified thin set mortar to install porcelain tiles. (E.g. LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive or, LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar or, LATICRETE Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive, etc.) Porcelain tiles are very dense. They have a porosity rate of 0.5%. These tiles require the high bond strength that latex fortified thin set mortars provide. The Tile Council of America requires the use of latex fortified thin set mortars for the installation of porcelain tiles.

**14. Which adhesive should I use to install Saltillo tiles?**

Use a high strength latex fortified thin set mortar to install Saltillo tiles. (E.g. LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive or, LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar or, LATICRETE Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive, etc.) Saltillo tiles are very porous and can suction out the moisture in conventional water mixed only thin set mortars. The high strength latex thin set mortars provide a longer working time, and adjustability time. Additionally, the moisture will not be suctioned out of the thin set mortar - this will result in higher bond strength and make the Saltillo installation very durable.

**15. Are rapid setting adhesives available from LATICRETE?**

There are several options when fast open to traffic times are required. Use either LATICRETE 253Au Gold Rapid Multipurpose Thin-set, LATICRETE Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 101 Rapid-Set Latex Admix (ideal for cold weather or very fast traffic times)

**Related Documents:**

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*LATICRETE 253Au Gold Rapid Multipurpose Thin-set DS 296.3 FOD #2963*  
*LATICRETE 101 Rapid-Set Latex Admix DS 264.0, FOD Code #2640*

**16. How much LATICRETE Material do I need for my project?**

Each project will require different materials and different quantities.

**Related Documents:**

*Product Coverage Guide, FOD Code #1246*

**17. Where would flexible sealants be used in place of grout?**

Over all movement joints, control joints, cold joints, changes of plane (e.g. in joint between countertop and backsplash), changes of surface type, corners, coves, etc.. Refer To Tile Council of America Expansion Joint Detail EJ171- Current Year. Use LATICRETE LATASIL Silicone Sealants.

**Related Documents:**

*LATASIL NS Natural Stone Sealant DS 6200.0 FOD Code 9502*

*LATASIL SP Swimming Pool Sealant DS 6300.0 FOD Code 9503*

*LATASIL HD Heavy Duty Sealant DS 6400.0 FOD Code 9504*

**18. How long must I wait before installing LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane, LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing?**

Most surfaces can be covered with no wait time. Some exceptions are:

New Concrete -minimum 14 days at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C

Latex mortar beds -next day at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C

Leveling or patching materials- see instructions for cure times of those products. Refer to How to Install LATICRETE Membranes document WPAF.5 for additional information.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*

*LATICRETE How to Install LATICRETE Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**19. How soon can I install tile over LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane, LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing?**

When membrane is dry to the touch. Usually 4-6 hours at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C after last coat of liquid. Refer to How to Install LATICRETE Membranes document WPAF.5 for additional information.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*

*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*

*LATICRETE How to Install LATICRETE Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**20. Can I install vinyl tile over LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing?**

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Yes - after the LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing is installed, use a latex based vinyl adhesive to adhere the vinyl tile to the membranes. Ensure that the adhesive contains no solvents. If there is a question as to the compatibility of the vinyl adhesive and the membrane, apply a continuous 1/8" (3mm) thick coating of a LATICRETE Liquid Latex Thin Set Mortar to the membrane and allow to harden. Then install the vinyl flooring.

**21. Can I install LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing over plywood in exterior applications?**

NO – LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane is not intended for this application. You must use the LATICRETE Plaza & Deck System for these applications.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Plaza & Deck System DS 290.0, FOD Code #8510*  
*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #5002*

**22. When can I install tile over LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane, LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing?**

When membrane is dry to the touch. Usually 4-6 hours at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C after last coat of liquid. For flood testing - allow a 7-day cure period at 70 degrees F (21 degrees C). Refer to How to Install LATICRETE Membranes document WPAF.5 for additional information.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*  
*LATICRETE How to Install LATICRETE Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**23. How soon can I install tile over LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane or LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane when used as an Anti-Fracture Membrane?**

Tiling can commence as soon as the membrane is dry to the touch. Usually 4-6 hours at 70 F/ 21 C after last coat of liquid. Refer to How to Install LATICRETE Membranes document WPAF.5 for additional information.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*  
*LATICRETE How to Install LATICRETE Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**24. How do I select the best LATICRETE Materials for my project?**

Making the right choice for your installation depends on many factors. One of the best ways is to consult the LATICRETE Product Selection Guide, available on LATICRETE Fax-on-Demand and at [www.laticrete.com](http://www.laticrete.com).

**Related Documents:**

*Product Selection Guide, FOD Code #3020 for the USA and Canada*  
*Product Selection Guide, FOD Code #3021 for All other Countries*

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## 25. What types of Warranties does LATICRETE offer?

The types of warranties are: Residential (Lifetime), Builder (1 and 10 Year), and Commercial (10 Year).

### Related Documents:

*LATICRETE Hassle-Free Residential Warranty DS 700.12, FOD Code #3017*

*LATICRETE 1 Year Builder Warranty DS 700.13, FOD Code # 3014*

*LATICRETE 10 Year Builder Warranty DS 700.14, FOD Code # 3015*

*LATICRETE 10 Year System Warranty DS 230.12, FOD Code #3012*

## SURFACE PREPARATION

### General Surface Preparation Questions

## 26. How do I prepare a plywood floor to receive ceramic tile?

The following is the criteria for the proper construction of plywood floors:

The total plywood thickness must be a minimum of 1 1/4" (32mm) thick. The subfloor (bottom layer) must be tongue and groove. Either 3/4" (19mm) thick or 5/8" (17mm). For the 3/4" (19mm) subfloor, use a minimum of 1/2" (12mm) underlayment. For the 5/8" (16mm) subfloor, use a minimum of 5/8" (16mm) underlayment.

The underlayment sheets must be installed perpendicular to the subfloor. Leave an 1/8" (3mm) gap between the sheets. You must use an exterior grade type of plywood (CDX) for the underlayment. Douglas fir will provide the best results. See question A-2 for more information other types of underlayments. The plywood must be fastened every 6" (150mm) at the perimeter and every 8" (200mm) in the field. Wafer head galvanized screws provide the best results. The floor joists must be no farther apart than 16" (400mm) on center. They must be a minimum of 2" x 10" in size (50mm X 250mm).

Verify that the wood floor does not exceed the minimum standard for deflection of  $l/360$  under combined live and dead loads. Simply put, if the floor bounces too much, the tiles will crack and come loose.

For best results, use LATICRETE(r) Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive to install tile directly over plywood. LATICRETE Technical Data Sheet 152, Requirements for Installation of Ceramic Tile over Wood Floors gives an overview on the proper construction of plywood floors.

### Related Documents:

*Wood Floor Requirements for Ceramic Tile TDS 152, FOD Code #0152*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1006*

## 27. Can I install tile over existing vinyl or ceramic tile, or cut back adhesive?

Yes. However, make sure of the following for each specific type of existing condition:

**Vinyl flooring (Interior Only)** - The vinyl floor must be well bonded and free from any waxes, sealers, oils, dirt or other contaminants. It must be a full spread adhered system (not perimeter tacked). The flooring structure below the vinyl must be the proper thickness. (E.g. If the vinyl is installed over plywood - see question 1 for the proper subfloor and underlayment thickness.) Use LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive for the best bond and performance to install the tile.

**Existing Ceramic Tile** - The ceramic tile must be well bonded and free from any waxes, sealers, oils, dirt or other contaminants. The flooring structure below the ceramic must be the

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proper thickness. (E.g. If the existing ceramic tile is installed over plywood - see question # 1 for the proper subfloor and underlayment thickness.) Use LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive for the best bond and performance to install the tile for interior applications. Use LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin Set Mortar Additive or, LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar or, LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin Set mixed with LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix for exterior or interior applications.

**Non - water-soluble cut back adhesive (Interior Only).** Verify that the cut back adhesive is not water-soluble by placing soapy water on the adhesive and agitate. If the cut back adhesive starts to dissolve, then it must all be removed. The flooring structure below the cutback adhesive must be the proper thickness. (E.g. If the cutback adhesive is installed over plywood - see question # 1 for the proper subfloor and underlayment thickness.) Use LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive to install the tile.

**Related Documents:**

*Installation of Ceramic Tile over existing Vinyl & Ceramic Tile TDS 135, FOD Code #0135*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1016*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1013*

**28. Can I install tile over a painted surface?**

For the best results, the paint should be completely removed. There is no way to determine the long-term results of a new tile finish over a painted surface. The paint can peel, break down or otherwise come loose from the substrate and the tiles will also come loose. The best way to remove the paint is by mechanical abrasion. The use of chemicals to remove paint can result in a contaminated substrate.

**Related Documents:**

*Installation of Ceramic Tile over painted wall surfaces TDS 131, FOD Code #0131*

**29. How do I prepare a concrete floor to receive ceramic tile?**

Make sure that the existing concrete is clean, dry, structurally sound and free from any bond breaking or bond inhibiting materials. Bond inhibiting materials can include, but are not limited to, sealers, waxes, oils, curing compounds, dirt, grease, form releases, paint, old adhesives, laitence from over-troweling, etc. If these materials are present on the concrete, they must be completely removed prior to any direct bond installations of tile or stone. Additionally, the industry tolerance for substrate flatness is to have no variance greater than 1/8" (3mm) in 10-ft. (3m). Use a LATICRETE Latex Fortified Underlayment/ Patching material to accomplish this. (E.g. LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin Set Mortar Additive, or LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar for patching depths of a featheredge to 1/2" (0 -12mm).

**Related Documents:**

*Preparation of Concrete Slabs TDS 118, FOD Code #0118*

**30. How do I prepare walls and floors for a thin set application?**

Make sure that the existing surface is clean, dry, structurally sound and free from any bond breaking or bond inhibiting materials. Bond inhibiting materials can include, but are not limited to, sealers, waxes, oils, curing compounds, dirt, grease, form releases, paint, old adhesives, laitence from over-troweling, etc. If these materials are present on the concrete, they must be completely removed prior to any direct bond installations of tile or stone. Additionally, the industry tolerance for substrate flatness is to have no variance greater than 1/8" (3mm) in 10-ft. (3m). Use a suitable LATICRETE Latex Fortified Underlayment/ Patching material to accomplish this. (E.g. For masonry surfaces, use LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with

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LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin Set Mortar Additive, or LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar for patching depths of a feather edge to 3/8" (0 -9mm), for wood surface use LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Superflexible Mortar Additive).

**Related Documents:**

*Preparation of Wall & Floor Mortars for Thin Bed Installations TDS 146, FOD Code #0146*

**31. How do I prepare an exterior wall to receive ceramic tile?**

Walls to receive tile or stone must also be made smooth and plumb. If the wall needs a leveling coat refer to one of the applications listed below:

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2002, for a thin set installation over concrete walls with waterproofing*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2003, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over concrete.*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2004, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over masonry*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2005, for a thinset installation over masonry with waterproofing.*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2007, for a thin set installation over cement backer board with waterproofing.*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2008, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over metal framing with waterproofing*

**Questions about Self-Leveling Underlayment**

**32. When should I use LATICRETE LatiLevel 86 Thin-Pour Underlayment or LATICRETE LatiLevel 88 Thick Pour Underlayment to prepare a floor?**

Use LATICRETE LatiLevel 86 Thin Pour Underlayment (and LATICRETE Admix and Primer for Underlayments) to level existing, clean concrete or plywood floors to depths up to 1/2" (12mm) in thickness. Use LATICRETE 88 Thick Pour Underlayment (and LATICRETE Admix and Primer for Underlayments) for applications up to 1 1/2" (38 mm) thick.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE LatiLevel 86 Thin-Pour Underlayment DS 238.5, FOD Code #2385*

*LATICRETE LatiLevel 88 Thick -Pour Underlayment DS238.4 FOD Code #2382*

*LATICRETE Admix and Primer for Underlayments DS 662.0, FOD Code #2384*

**Questions about Sound Control Underlayment**

**33. What can I use reduce sound transmissions through my tile floor installations?**

LATICRETE Provides a Sound Control Underlayment System called LATICRETE 18 Sound Control Underlayment. That offers high performance, economical installation and flattening of surface to receive tile or stone.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 18 Sound Control Underlayment DS 253.0, FOD Code #2530.*

*Detail Drawing FOD Code #1017 (for the installation of the LATICRETE 18 Sound Control Underlayment over a concrete slab with a suspended acoustical ceiling / insulation configuration below the floor that is receiving the tile or stone finish.)*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1018 (for the installation of the LATICRETE 18 Sound Control Underlayment with the LATICRETE 18 Sound Control "Plus" Package over a*

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*concrete slab that has no suspended acoustical ceiling / insulation configuration below the floor that is receiving the tile or stone finish.)*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1019 (for the optimum installation of the LATICRETE 18 Sound Control Underlayment with the LATICRETE 18 Sound Control "Plus" Package over a concrete slab that has a suspended acoustical ceiling / insulation configuration below the floor that is receiving the tile or stone finish.)*

#### **34. How is LATICRETE 18 Sound Control Underlayment packaged?**

The LATICRETE 18 Sound Control Underlayment comes packaged in a 220 lb. (100kg) fiber drum. Inside the drum you find a 5-gallon (19-liter) pail of latex. The LATICRETE 18 Sound Control "Plus" Package is a separate component that must be purchased separately. This package consists of a 2-gallon (7.6-liter) pail of Sound Control Mat adhesive and 100 square foot (9m<sup>2</sup>) roll of Sound Control Mat.

NOTE : Both Components must be purchased when using the LATICRETE 18 Sound Control "Plus" Package Configuration.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 18 Sound Control Underlayment Data Sheet DS 253.0, FOD Code #2530*

### **Questions about Waterproof Membranes**

#### **35. How do I install LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing?**

LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane and LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing are liquids that are used with a reinforcing fabric. The liquid is applied with a paint roller or paintbrush. The fabric is embedded in the liquid. A topcoat is immediately applied. (Seams and joints receive a double application of fabric.) When dry to the touch, an additional coat is applied. 100% silicone or urethane caulk is applied at adjoining surfaces, drains connections and pipe penetrations.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane How To Install DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*

#### **36. What is the coverage of LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane?**

One full unit consists of 6 gallons (23 liters) of liquid and fabric and will cover approximately 300 Square Feet (27m<sup>2</sup>).

One mini unit consists of 1 gallon (3.78 liters) of liquid and fabric to cover approximately 50 square feet (4.5m<sup>2</sup>).

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

#### **37. What substrates can LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane be directly applied to?**

Clean, structurally sound concrete, exterior grade plywood (interior only), masonry surfaces, gypsum wallboard (interior only), cement boards and cement plasters. For applications in exterior conditions over occupied areas - see LATICRETE Plaza & Deck System datasheet 290.0

**Related Documents:**

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*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE Plaza & Deck System DS 290.0, FOD Code #8510*  
*Detail Drawing LATICRETE Plaza & Deck, FOD Code #5002*

**38. How soon can I install LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing over:**

**New Concrete** -minimum 14 days at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C

**Latex mortar beds** -next day at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C

**Leveling or patching materials**- see instructions for cure times of those products.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*

*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**39. How soon can I flood test LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane?**

Seven days after installation at 70 degrees F/21 degrees C.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**40. What adhesives are acceptable for installing tile over LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing?**

Some options are:

LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive

LATAPOXY 210 Modified Epoxy Adhesive

LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thinset Mortar Additive mixed with LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder

LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar

LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix mixed with LATICRETE 272 Premium Floor N' Wall Thin-set Mortar

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*

*LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive DS 633.0, FOD Code #6330*

*LATAPOXY 210 Modified Epoxy Adhesive DS 630.0, FOD Code #6300*

*LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder DS 239.0, FOD Code #2390*

*LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin Set Mortar Additive DS 230.1, FOD Code #2301*

*LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar DS 660.0, FOD Code #6660*

*LATICRETE 272 Premium Floor N Wall Thin Set Mortar DS 259.0, FOD Code #2590*

*LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix DS 231.0, FOD Code #2310*

*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**41. Where is the LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane placed in the tile system?**

**Application:**

**Detail Drawing FOD Code**

Concrete-Thin Bed Method (Commercial)	3001
Concrete-Thin Bed Method (Commercial Kitchen)	3002
Concrete-Thin Bed Method (Residential)	3003
Concrete-Thick Bed Bonded to Slab	3004

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Concrete-Interior Chemical Resistant Thick Mortar	4007
Concrete-Interior Chemical Resistant Thin Mortar Bed	4008
Plywood-Thin Bed	3005
Shower Receptor	3006
Bathtub/Shower Wall	3007
Steamroom Thin Bed	3008
Steamroom Full Mortar Bed	3009
Typical Pipe Penetration	3010
Typical Drain Detail	3011
Swimming Pool-Gutter	7001
Swimming Pool Roll Out Rim	7002
Swimming Pool Deck/Trench Drain	7003

**42. What approvals are available for LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane?**

**Related Documents:**

*IAPMO Waterproof Membrane Approval For Shower Pan/Waterproof Membrane, FOD Code #4001*

*ICBO ES Evaluation Report for LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane - Shower Pan / Waterproof Membrane. FOD Code 34011*

*City of Los Angeles Approval for 9235 Shower Pan / Waterproof Membrane, FOD Code #4012*

*Allegheny County Plumbing Advisory Board Approval, FOD Code #4013*

**43. What is the warranty on LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane?**

Labor & materials replacement for 10 years from date of installation when using the full LATICRETE System as outlined in the LATICRETE Systems Warranty Data Sheet 230.12

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

*LATICRETE System Warranty DS 230.12, FOD Code #3012*

**44. Will LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing control moisture or water from entering the underside of the tile system due to negative hydrostatic pressure or excessive moisture content?**

No! LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane and LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing are both designed to contain water from the positive side only. Not recommended where negative hydrostatic pressure or excessive vapor transmissions exists.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*

*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**45. How soon can I fill a pool or fountain for use after installing LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane?**

Minimum 14 days at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C. Fill and drain water-features and pools at a rate of 1" (25mm) per hour.

*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**46. What types of sealant are compatible with LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing?**

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Use LATICRETE LATASIL NS Natural Stone Sealant, LATICRETE LATASIL SP Swimming Pool Sealant or LATICRETE LATASIL HD Heavy Duty Sealant.

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #3010*  
*LATASIL NS Natural Stone Sealant DS 6200.0 FOD Code 9502*  
*LATASIL SP Swimming Pool Sealant DS 6300.0 FOD Code 9503*  
*LATASIL HD Heavy Duty Sealant DS 6400.0 FOD Code 9504*  
*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**47. How do I treat the drains when using LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane?**

You must use a 2-part clamping ring style drain. The LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane must be installed down into the drain assembly and clamped down.

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #3011*  
*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**48. Can you install vinyl tile over LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing?**

Yes - after the LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing is installed, use a latex based vinyl adhesive to adhere the vinyl tile to the membranes. Ensure that the adhesive contains no solvents. If there is a question as to the compatibility of the vinyl adhesive and the membrane, apply a continuous 1/8" (3mm) thick coating of a LATICRETE Liquid Latex Thin Set Mortar to the membrane and allow to harden. Then install the vinyl flooring.

**49. Can you install LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane over plywood in exterior applications?**

NO – LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane is not intended for this application. You must use the LATICRETE Plaza & Deck System for these applications.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Plaza & Deck System DS 290.0, FOD Code #8510 Detail Drawing, FOD Code #5002*  
*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**50. When can I install tile over LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing?**

When membrane is dry to the touch. Usually 4-6 hours at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C after last coat of liquid. For flood testing - allow a 7-day cure period at 70 degrees F (21 degrees C).

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*  
*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**Questions about Anti-Fracture and Crack Isolation Membranes**

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**51. How is LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing installed when used as an anti-fracture membrane?**

LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane or LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing are two component liquid and reinforcing fabric systems. The liquid is applied with a paint roller or paintbrush. The fabric is embedded in the liquid. A topcoat is immediately applied. Seams and joints receive a double application of fabric. (LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane receives an additional coat when dry to the touch when waterproofing is also desired. 100% silicone or urethane caulk is applied at adjoining surfaces, drains connections and pipe penetrations.)

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*  
*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane How To Install DS 236.5, FOD Code #2365*  
*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*  
*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**52. What is the coverage per unit of LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane?**

One full unit of the Blue 92 covers 250 (23m<sup>2</sup>) square feet

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*

**53. What substrates can LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane be directly applied to?**

Clean, structurally sound concrete, exterior grade plywood (interior only), masonry surfaces, gypsum wallboard (interior only), cement boards and cement plasters.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*  
*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

**54. How soon can I install LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane when used as an Anti-Fracture Membrane over :**

New Concrete -minimum 14 days at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C  
Latex mortar beds -next day at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C  
Leveling or patching materials- see instructions for cure times for those specific materials.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*  
*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE Crack Isolation Kit DS 648.0, FOD Code #6480*  
*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**55. When can I install tile over LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane when used as an Anti-Fracture Membrane?**

When membrane is dry to the touch. Usually 4-6 hours at 70 degrees F/ 21 degrees C after last coat of liquid.

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**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*  
*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**56. What adhesives are acceptable for installing tile over LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane, LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane?**

Some options are:

LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive  
LATAPOXY 210 Modified Epoxy Adhesive  
LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive mixed with LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder  
LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar  
LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix mixed with LATICRETE 272 Premium Floor N' Wall Thin-set Mortar  
LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive mixed with LATICRETE Floor N' Wall Thin-set Mortar

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*  
*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive DS 633.0, FOD Code #6330*  
*LATAPOXY 210 Modified Epoxy Adhesive DS 630.0, FOD Code #6300*  
*LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder DS 239.0, FOD Code #2390*  
*LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive DS 230.1, FOD Code #2301*  
*LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar DS 660.0, FOD Code #6600*  
*LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix DS 231.0, FOD Code #2310*  
*LATICRETE 317 Floor N' Wall Thin Set Mortar DS 317.0, FOD Code #3170*  
*LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive DS 266.0, FOD Code #2660*  
*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**57. What is the warranty on LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane or LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane?**

Labor & materials replacement for 10 years from date of installation when used as part of the complete LATICRETE System as outlined in Data Sheet 230.12

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*  
*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE System Warranty DS 230.12, FOD Code #3012*

**58. Will LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane or LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane control moisture or water from entering the underside of the tile system due to negative hydrostatic pressure or excessive moisture content?**

No! Not recommended where negative hydrostatic pressure or excessive vapor transmissions exists.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*  
*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

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### 59. Can I use LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane over Control Joints and Cold Joints?

Bringing the existing cold and control joints directly up through the tile layer is the best method of treating these joints. However, treating these joints with the following method can have some success:

Apply a liberal coat of LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane liquid over the joint and imbed the 6" (150mm) wide fabric. Immediately top coat the fabric with additional LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane liquid. Next, apply more LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane liquid 3 times the width of the tile or stone and imbed the fabric which is also 3 times the width of the tile or stone (E. g. 12" x 12" - 300mm x 300mm tiles would require a liquid and fabric width of 36" - 900mm). Immediately top coat the entire LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane treatment with an additional coat of LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane liquid. Next, install the tiles using a LATICRETE 2-part liquid latex fortified thin set mortar. Treat the next available grout joint with a silicone sealant (e.g. LATICRETE Latasil Silicone Sealant) in lieu of grout.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*

*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

## THIN SET INSTALLATION

### Questions about Portland Cement Based Thin-set Installations

#### 60. How do I prepare walls and floors for a thin set application?

Make sure that the existing surface is clean, dry, structurally sound and free from any bond breaking or bond inhibiting materials. Bond inhibiting materials can include, but are not limited to, sealers, waxes, oils, curing compounds, dirt, grease, form releases, paint, old adhesives, laitence from over-troweling, etc. If these materials are present on the concrete, they must be completely removed prior to any direct bond installations of tile or stone. Additionally, the industry tolerance for substrate flatness is to have no variance greater than 1/8" (3mm) in 10-ft. (3m). Use a suitable LATICRETE Latex Fortified Underlayment/ Patching material to accomplish this. (E.g. For masonry surfaces, use LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive or, LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar for patching depths of a feather edge to 3/8" (0-9)mm, for wood surface use LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive).

**Related Documents:**

*Preparation of Wall & Floor Mortars for Thin Bed Installations TDS 146, FOD Code #0146*

#### 61. What is the procedure to install tiles over cement backer board?

Follow the cement backer board manufacturer's instructions for the installation of the cement backer board. Once the cement board is installed, fastened and taped properly, use the following procedure. Dampen the board with a damp sponge to clean the surface and to slow down the porosity rate of the cement backer board. There are several products that you can use to install the tiles. For the best results, use a LATICRETE Latex Fortified Thin Set Mortar System (e.g. LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive, LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex

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Thin-Set Mortar Additive or, LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar or, LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin Set mixed with LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix.

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2007 for Walls*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1009 for Floors*

**62. How do I prepare an exterior wall to receive ceramic tile?**

Walls to receive tile or stone must also be made smooth and plumb. If the wall needs a leveling coat refer to one of the applications listed below:

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2002, for a thin set installation over concrete walls with waterproofing*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2003, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over concrete.*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2004, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over masonry*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2005, for a thinset installation over masonry with waterproofing.*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2007, for a thin set installation over cement backer board with waterproofing.*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2008, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over metal framing with waterproofing*

**63. What do I use to install tile over plywood and what is the proper construction of plywood floors?**

For best performance, use LATICRETE(r) 317 Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive for installing tile directly over plywood. LATICRETE Technical Data Sheet 152, Requirements for Installation of Ceramic Tile over Wood Floors, gives an overview on the proper construction of plywood floors.

**Related Documents:**

*Wood Floor Requirements for Ceramic Tile TDS 152, FOD Code #0152*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1006*

**64. Which thin set mortar do I use for exterior use?**

Use either LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive or, LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar or, LATICRETE 272 Premium Floor N' Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix.

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1001*

**65. Which Thin Set Mortar do I use in Swimming Pools?**

Use either LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive or, LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar or, LATICRETE 272 Premium Floor N' Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 3701 mortar Admix.

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #7001*

**66. Which Thin Set can I use to Install Glass Mosaics over masonry surfaces?**

For the conventional two-step process of thin-setting and grouting, use LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive or LATICRETE 4211

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Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar. Another option would be to use the one-step method of installation and grouting, using LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Sanded Grout (1500 Series) - (select finish grout choice) mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive.

**Related Documents:**

*Fixing Glass Mosaics, Thin Bed Method DS 230.311, FOD Code #3031*

**67. How do I install tile in a Steam Room?**

There are two options – a thin-bed or a thick method – request the following detail drawings:

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #3008, for a thin set method of installation over cement backer board*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #3009, for a thick bed method of installation over a float and scratch coat*

**68. How do I install tile on exterior walls?**

Walls to receive tile or stone must also be made smooth and plumb. If the wall needs a leveling coat refer to one of the applications listed below:

Related Documents:

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2002, for a thin set installation over concrete walls with waterproofing*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2003, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over concrete*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2004, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over masonry*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2005, for a thinset installation over masonry with waterproofing*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2007, for a thin set installation over cement backer board with waterproofing*

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2008, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over metal framing with waterproofing*

**69. What are the advantages of using a 2 part liquid latex and powder thin set mortar as opposed to a one-part water mixed only thin set mortar?**

The 2 part liquid latex and powder thin set mortars provide higher bond strength and improve all the physical characteristics of the thin set. These mortars are freeze-thaw, thermal and shock resistant, can be used in constant wet areas including underwater submersion in pools, fountains, steam rooms, spas, etc. These mortars are also ideal for demanding installations of ceramic tile (e.g. façade installations, exterior paving, over radiant heat floors, etc.)

**70. Which adhesive should I use for porcelain bodied tiles?**

Use a high strength latex fortified thin set mortar to install porcelain tiles. (E.g. LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive or, LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar or, LATICRETE Floor N Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive, etc.) Porcelain tiles are very dense. They have a porosity rate of 0.5%. These tiles require the high bond strength that latex fortified thin set mortar provide. The Tile Council of America requires the use of latex fortified thin set mortars for the installation of porcelain tiles.

**71. Which adhesive should I use to install Saltillo tiles?**

Use a high strength latex fortified thin set mortar to install Saltillo tiles. (E.g. LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive or,

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LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar or, LATICRETE Floor N' Wall Thin Set Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 333 Super Flexible Additive, etc.) Saltillo tiles are very porous and can suction out the moisture in conventional water mixed only thin set mortars. The latex fortified thin set mortars provide a longer working time, and adjustability time. Additionally, the moisture will not be suctioned out of the thin set mortar - this will result in higher bond strength and make the Saltillo installation very durable.

**72. What adhesives are acceptable for installing tile over LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane, LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing or LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane?**

Some options are:

LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive

LATAPOXY 210 Modified Epoxy Adhesive

LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin-Set Mortar Additive mixed with LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder

LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar

LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix mixed with LATICRETE 272 Premium Floor N' Wall Thin-Set Mortar

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*

*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*

*LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive DS 633.0, FOD Code #6330*

*LATAPOXY 210 Modified Epoxy Adhesive DS 630.0, FOD Code #6300*

*LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder DS 239.0, FOD Code #2390*

*LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin Set Mortar Additive DS 230.1, FOD Code #2301*

*LATICRETE 4211 Mega-Flex Thin Set Mortar DS 660.0, FOD Code # 6600*

*LATICRETE 272 Premium Floor N' Wall Thin Set Mortar DS 259.0, FOD Code #2590*

*LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix DS 231.0, FOD Code #2310*

*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**Questions about Mastic Adhesive Thin-set Installations**

**73. Where can I use a Mastic Adhesive for ceramic tile installations?**

Use Mastic Adhesives in non-wet interior areas only. Do not use Mastic in stand up shower stalls. Do not use Mastic Adhesives for shower floors. Mastic adhesives are generally used over gypsum wallboard or cement backer board walls on countertops and bathroom walls. Reference the specific product data sheet for other limitations including tile size.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 15 Premium Multi-Mastic Adhesive DS 286.0, FOD Code # 2860*

*LATICRETE 9 Ceramic Tile Adhesive DS 284.0, FOD Code # 2517*

*LATICRETE Quick Trowel DS 248.0, FOD Code # 2653*

**74. Can I use Mastic Adhesive on floors?**

Yes – you can. However, there are size limitations. Maximum tile size for floors when using LATICRETE 9 Ceramic Tile Adhesive and LATICRETE 15 Premium Multi-Mastic Adhesive is 6" x 6" (150mm x 150 mm). Maximum tile size for floors when using LATICRETE Quick Trowel is 8" x 8" (200mm x 200mm).

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**75. How big a tile can I install on walls when using Mastic Adhesives?**

Maximum wall tile size when using LATICRETE 9 Ceramic Tile Adhesive and LATICRETE 15 Premium Multi-Mastic Adhesive is 10" x 10" (250mm x 250 mm). Maximum wall tile size when using LATICRETE Quick Trowel is 12" x 12" (300mm x 300mm).

**76. How soon can I grout after installing tile with a mastic adhesive?**

Grout installation after a minimum of 24 hours curing at 70 degrees F (21 degrees C). Colder temperatures will require a longer cure time.

**Questions about Epoxy Adhesive Thin-set Installations**

**77. Which epoxy can be used as a setting material?**

LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive -

**Related Documents:**

*LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive DS 633.0, FOD Code #6330*

**78. Which adhesive should I use for green marble and agglomerates?**

Use LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive

**Related Documents:**

*LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive DS 633.0, FOD Code #6330*

**79. Which epoxy adhesives are acceptable for installing tile over LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane, LATICRETE Watertight Floor N' Wall Waterproofing or LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane?**

Some options are:

LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive  
LATAPOXY 210 Modified Epoxy Adhesive

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE 9235 Waterproof Membrane DS 236.0, FOD Code #2360*  
*LATICRETE Watertight Floor n' Wall Waterproofing DS 649.0, FOD Code #6490*  
*LATAPOXY 300 Epoxy Adhesive DS 633.0, FOD Code #6330*  
*LATAPOXY 210 Modified Epoxy Adhesive DS 630.0, FOD Code #6300*  
*LATICRETE Blue 92 Anti-Fracture Membrane DS 647.0, FOD Code #6470*

*LATICRETE Installation Instructions for Membranes DS WPAF.5, FOD Code #2365*

**THICK BED INSTALLATION**

**80. When do I need to install a mortar bed?**

A mortar bed is required when you encounter any of the following conditions on a project.

1. Slope must be created to a drain, trench, gutter, etc. and if slope can not be established with an underlayment.
2. The installation of unguaged (varying thickness) tiles or stones requiring that they be beaten in flat into an uncured mortar bed.
3. When a surface is contaminated and cannot be directly bonded to (e.g. spider web cracks, painted or oil soaked concrete)
4. There are two types of mortar beds:

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- a) Bonded System
- b) Unbonded System -

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1002 over concrete*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1008 Bonded with wire over plywood*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1003 over concrete*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1007 Non-Bonded over Plywood*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #5002 Non-Bonded over a roof deck*

**81. How do I prepare an exterior wall to receive ceramic tile?**

Walls to receive tile or stone must also be made smooth and plumb. If the wall needs a leveling coat refer to one of the applications listed below:

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2002, for a thin set installation over concrete walls with waterproofing*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2003, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over concrete*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2004, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over masonry*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2005, for a thinset installation over masonry with waterproofing.*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2007, for a thin set installation over cement backer board with waterproofing.*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #2008, for an unbonded wire reinforced installation over metal framing with waterproofing*

**82. How do I install a tile over a Mortar Bed?**

There are two options.

**“Cured” Mortar Bed** - Allow the mortar bed to harden and then thin set the tiles to the mortar bed using a LATICRETE Liquid Latex Fortified Thin Set Mortar System.

**“Green” Mortar Bed** - beat the tiles into the fresh mortar bed by applying a slurry bond coat consisting of LATICRETE 211 Crete Filler Powder mixed with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Thin Set Mortar Additive directly to the mortar bed and to the backs of the tiles. Place the tiles into the wet slurry bond coat and beat / level into the mortar bed with a beating block or rubber mallet.

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1002 for a bonded mortar bed*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #1003 for an unbonded mortar bed*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #5002 for an unbonded mortar bed in a roof deck Plaza & Deck System configuration*

**83. How do I install tile in a Steam Room?**

There are two options:

**Related Documents:**

*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #3008 for a thin set method of installation over cement backer board*  
*Detail Drawing, FOD Code #3009 for a thick bed method of installation over a float and scratch coat*

## GROUTING

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## General Questions about Grouting

### 84. What are the most common grout problems, and how do I avoid them?

Poor installation technique can lead to many types of problems (e.g. shading, blotching, shrinkage cracks, powdering and efflorescence).

The best way to avoid these problems is to use LATICRETE SpectraLock Grout or LATAPOXY SP100 Stainless Grout for Floors and Walls.

For more information on how to prevent grout problems, check out the LATICRETE Grout Troubleshooting Guide.

#### Related Documents:

*LATICRETE Grout Troubleshooting Guide FOD Code # 1248*

*LATICRETE SpectraLock Grout DS 638.0 FOD Code #8080*

*LATAPOXY SP-100 Stainless Grout for Floors and Walls DS 637.0, FOD Code #6370*

### 85. How much grout do I need for my project?

This will vary depending on the tile size, thickness and joint width.

#### Related Documents:

*LATICRETE Grout Coverage Chart FOD Code #1247*

### 86. What do I need to do if I want to re-grout my existing tile installation?

Carefully remove ½ the depth of the existing grout joint down to sound and firm grout. The use of dustless grinders with a diamond-cutting blade works well for this purpose. Use caution so tiles are not damaged. Vacuum all the dust and debris wash with clean water and allow to dry. Proceed with the grout installation using one of the following grouts:

LATICRETE SpectraLock Grout

LATAPOXY SP-100 Stainless Grout for Floors and Walls

LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Grout (1500 Series Sanded or 1600 Series Unsanded) mixed with LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban

#### Related Documents:

*LATICRETE SpectraLock Grout DS 638.0, FOD Code 8080*

*LATAPOXY SP-100 Stainless Grout for Floors and Walls DS 637.0, FOD Code #6370*

*LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Unsanded Grout (1600 Series) DS258.0, FOD Code #2560*

*LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Sanded Grout (1500 Series), DS 256.0 FOD Code #2560*

*LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban DS 265.0, FOD Code #2650*

### 87. Should I use a sanded or unsanded grout on Marble?

Sanded grouts can sometimes scratch some marbles and soft glazed tiles. Use LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Unsanded Grout (1600 Series) mixed with LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban for marble and soft glazed ceramic tiles.

#### Related Documents:

*LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Unsanded Grout (1600 Series) DS258.0, FOD Code #2560*

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*LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban DS 265.0, FOD Code #2650*

**88. Where would flexible sealants be used in place of grout?**

Over all movement joints, control joints, cold joints, changes of plane, changes of surface type, corners, coves, etc.. Refer To Tile Council of America Expansion Joint Detail EJ171- Current Year. Use LATICRETE LATASIL Silicone Sealant.

LATASIL NS Natural Stone Sealant

LATASIL HD Heavy Duty Sealant

LATASIL SP Swimming Pool Sealant

**Questions about Grouting with Portland Cement Based Grout**

**89. Can I use LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban with LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Sanded Grout (1500 Series) or Unsanded Grout (1600 Series) ?**

Yes. Adding LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Mircoban will enhance all the physical properties of the grout and it will guard against mold and mildew growth. Adding the 1776 will intensify color - test a small area first to determine acceptability.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Unsanded Grout (1600 Series) DS258.0, FOD Code #2560*

*LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Sanded Grout (1500 Series), DS 256.0 FOD Code #2560*

*LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban DS 265.0, FOD Code #2650*

**90. Should I use a sanded or unsanded grout on Marble?**

Sanded grouts can sometimes scratch some marbles and soft glazed tiles. Use LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Unsanded Grout (1600 Series) mixed with LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban for marble and soft glazed ceramic tiles.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Unsanded Grout (1600 Series) DS 258.0, FOD Code #2560*

*LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban DS 265.0, FOD Code #2650*

**91. How much mixing liquid do I add to the Portland Cement Grouts?**

1500 Series - 2 quarts (2 liters) of water or LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban per 25lbs. ( 11.3 kg)

1600 Series - 5 quarts (4.7 liters) of water or LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban per 25 lbs. (11.3 kg)

524 Series Natural Grey - 2 quarts (2 liters) of LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban per 25 lbs. (11.3 kg)

644 Series Bright White - 5 quarts (4.7 liters) of LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban per 25 lbs. (11.3 kg)

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**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Sanded Grout (1500 Series), FOD Code #2560*  
*LATICRETE Tri-Poly Fortified Non-Sanded Grout (1600 Series), DS 258.0, FOD Code #2560*  
*LATICRETE Sanded Grout (500 Series) DS 254.0, FOD Code #2540*  
*LATICRETE Unsanded Grout (600 Series) DS 254.03, FOD Code #2540*  
*LATICRETE 1776 Grout Admix Plus Microban DS 265.0, FOD Code #2650*

**92. When do I use a Sanded Grout or an Unsanded Grout?**

Use unsanded grouts for polished marble or soft glazed tiles.

Use Sanded Grouts for all other types of tiles.

For grout joint widths 1/8" (3mm) or greater, use Sanded Grout.

For grout joint widths 1/8" (3mm) or less, use Unsanded Grout.

**93. What tips should I keep in mind when grouting with portland cement based grouts?**

Make sure when using multiple bags or cartons of grout, that all the batch numbers match. Slight shade variations can occur from batch to batch. If you are using grout from multiple batches, dry mix all of the grout powder prior to adding the gauging liquid.

Use the same grouting technique over the entire installation to insure a consistent finish.

Final grout color is dependent on many job site conditions, including temperature, porosity of the tile, humidity and technique used.

Verify grout color appearance with test area and allow to dry, prior to grouting the entire installation.

Grout color swatches are to be used as approximate guides only.

Mix the grout as stiff as possible without losing workability. Use a sharp rubber grout float to spread and compact the grout into the joints. Allow the grout to firm in the joints approximately 15 to 30 minutes at 70 degrees (21 degrees C). This time can vary depending on job site conditions (E.g. porosity of tile, temperature, humidity, etc.) Use a damp sponge to clean up the grout. **DO NOT USE EXCESS WATER IN THE CLEAN UP.** The use of excess water can wash out the pigments in the grout and a lighter shade can result.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Grout Troubleshooting Guide FOD Code #1248*

**Questions about Grouting with Epoxy Grout (non-Industrial Applications)**

**94. When should I use LATAPOXY 2000 Industrial Epoxy Grout in lieu of LATAPOXY SP-100 Stainless Grout for Floors and Walls ?**

SP100 is an ideal choice where consistent color and high stain resistance are required. For best chemical, stain and heat resistance, use LATAPOXY 2000 Industrial Epoxy Grout. Ideal projects include; Dairies, Breweries, Bakeries and all other types of food processing areas, commercial and industrial kitchens, etc.

**Related Documents:**

*LATAPOXY 2000 Industrial Epoxy Grout DS 634.0, FOD Code #6340*

*LATAPOXY SP-100 Stainless Grout for Floors and Walls DS 637.0, FOD Code #6370*

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**95. How much epoxy grout do I need for my project?**

The tile size, joint depth and width will determine how much grout you will consume.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Grout Coverage Guide, FOD Code #1247*

**96. Do I need a grout release when grouting with epoxy?**

Generally NO. However, porous tiles and stones will be easier to clean when the tiles are treated with a grout release or a pre-sealer. Always conduct a test area to verify results.

**97. Do I have to use all of LATAPOXY Part "C" filler powder when mixing LATAPOXY Grouts?**

One of the key advantages of LATAPOXY SP100 is that its consistency is adjustable during mixing. You must add at least 3/4 of the Part C filler powder to the fully blended Part A and B resins. Joint size and depth, temperature and other site conditions will dictate exactly how much powder will be used. For maximum coverage out of a unit, use all of the Part C Powder. For narrow joints or for better workability, use 10% less powder.

**Related Documents:**

*How to Grout with LATAPOXY Epoxy Grouts DS 631.5, FOD Code #6315*

**98. Can I use a sealer on Epoxy Grouts?**

LATAPOXY Epoxy Grouts never needs sealing. Its low absorption rate makes it easy to clean and maintain.

**Related Documents:**

*Technical Communiqué LATAPOXY SP-100: The Stainless Grout, FOD Code #9126*

**99. Can I use LATAPOXY SP100 Stainless Grout for Floors and Walls to grout Marble?**

Some high polished or soft marbles can be scratched by the epoxy grout. Conduct a test area to verify results.

**100. Do I need a grout release when grouting with epoxy?**

Generally NO. However, porous tiles and stones will be easier to clean when the tiles are treated with a grout release or a pre-sealer. Conduct a test area to verify results.

**101. How do I remove cured epoxy grout film from the face of tiles?**

Use a Neutral pH Detergent and water with a scrub pad within the first 24 hours. If older than 24 hours, use of the following cleaners:

The Miracle Company – Epoxy Grout Film Remover (800) 350 - 1901

Aqua Mix - Sealer & Adhesive Remover (800) 366-6877

Dominion Restoration - Petra 7 (800) 835-4456

**102. Can I use epoxy grout and adhesive in exterior applications?**

Yes, for all horizontal work and all work in swimming pools. However, do not use epoxy grout and adhesive for vertical exterior work outside of swimming pools.

**Related Documents:**

*Technical Communiqué Inside or Out. It's LATAPOXY Mortars and Grouts, FOD Code #9108*

**Questions about Grouting with Industrial Epoxy Grout**

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**103. When should I use LATAPOXY 2000 Industrial Epoxy Grout in lieu of LATAPOXY SP-100 Stainless Grout for Floors and Walls?**

SP100 is an ideal choice where consistent color and high stain resistance are required. For best chemical, stain and heat resistance, use LATAPOXY 2000 Industrial Epoxy Grout. Ideal projects include; Dairies, Breweries, Bakeries and all other types of food processing areas, commercial and industrial kitchens, etc. Related Documents:

*LATAPOXY 2000 Industrial Epoxy Grout DS 634.0, FOD Code #6340*

**104. How much epoxy grout do I need for my project?**

The tile size, joint depth and width will determine how much grout you will consume.

**Related Documents:**

*LATICRETE Grout Coverage Guide, FOD Code #1247*

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