

Tuesday, 12 January 2016

## **GENERAL SPECIFICATION FOR FIXING GLAZED CERAMIC TILES ONTO INTERIOR RENDERED WALLS, AND FIXING GLAZED CERAMIC FLOOR TILES ONTO INTERIOR SURFACE BEDS AND SUSPENDED SLABS**

Please note that 'general' specifications are issued for information purposes, and should not be used as project specifications.

As each and every project needs to be assessed individually on its own merits and characteristics please contact the TAL Technical Advice Centre for a project-specific detailed materials and methods specification for specific projects.

It is important that the tile selected is suitable for the application, preferably against a written Supplier's specification. Factors such as water absorption, irreversible moisture expansion, MOR and PEI ratings, chemical resistance and overall stability of the product need to meet the requirements of the service conditions.

**The backs of all tiles must be clean and free from dust and contaminants.**

Please note that any "wet" areas, such as showers or balconies, should be waterproofed using TAL SUPERFLEX I or TAL SUREPROOF waterproofing compounds prior to commencing tiling. Please feel free to contact us for a specification for waterproofing and tiling these areas, as well as for technical literature on any of our products.

### **TAL PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS**

The TAL products required for this installation are as follows :

TAL KEYCOAT \*  
TAL PROFESSIONAL  
TAL BOND / TAL BOND POWDER  
TAL WALL & FLOOR GROUT  
NOTCHED TROWELS  
SPACERS  
TAL SEALMASTER CORD  
TAL GOLDSTAR SEALMASTER 1000

**Special note must be taken of the following :**

**Adhesive System :**

We have specified TAL Professional conventional (standard-setting) cementitious adhesive for the installation of the ceramic tiles. It must be noted that, when using conventional adhesives, it is imperative that newly installed tiles are not trafficked or grouted for a minimum of 24 hours after installation. If the tiles are disturbed (trafficked) before the adhesive has set sufficiently the adhesive bond may be broken, resulting in the tiles being loose or hollow sounding. If quicker access is required we recommend that TAL GOLDSTAR 12 quick-setting high strength adhesive (grout after 6 – 8 hours, trafficable after 12 hours) be used.

**Surface Beds:**

All surface beds should have a damp proof membrane (DPM / DPC). Should there be no damp proof membrane below a surface bed or if prevailing moisture levels do not attain 5% (75% RH) or less, it is recommended that TAL X-CALIBUR X-SHIELD VAPORSTOP HB (vapour barrier) be applied prior to tiling to eliminate potential problems associated with excessive moisture in the substrate (such as slow- or non-curing of the adhesive, efflorescence on grout and porous tiles, etc).

TAL X-CALIBUR X-SHIELD VAPORSTOP HB is a moisture tolerant, 100% solids epoxy barrier coat that prevents the passage of water vapour and moisture through concrete slabs.

Please contact TAL for more information on the application of VAPORSTOP HB.

**Suspended Applications :**

Tiling onto SUSPENDED concrete slabs require special precautions to be taken as the installation is prone to increased movement caused by slab deflection and creep, loading on the slab, etc. TAL BOND or TAL BOND POWDER needs to be incorporated in the adhesive and grout mix, or a single part flexible adhesive such as TAL PROFLEX needs to be used to allow for the increased movement.

**NOTE : All Ground Floor levels with Basement / Parking levels below should be construed as SUSPENDED slabs.**

**Tile Panel Movement Joints & Perimeter Joints :**

It should be noted that the lack of movement joints in a tile panel, or poorly constructed joints, is a major cause of tile failure. Joints must be created at the required spacing and must be well raked out to remove all traces of adhesive residues, debris, contamination, etc, ie the joint must extend through the tile and tile adhesive layers. These joints must be filled with TAL GOLDSTAR SEALMASTER 1000 Polyurethane Joint Sealant (and suitable backing cord where applicable) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(See later detail of correctly constructed tile panel movement joint and perimeter joint.)

**GENERAL SPECIFICATION FOR FIXING GLAZED CERAMIC TILES ONTO INTERIOR RENDERED WALLS**

**1. BACKGROUND PREPARATION**

- 1.1 Allow all new wall rendering to cure for at least 14 days. The rendering must be firmly attached to the substrate, must be integrally sound (no crumbling, cracking, etc) and must be of a quality and consistency suitable for tiling. All damaged, defective, deteriorated or hollow sounding areas must be removed and made good before proceeding. Renders should be left with a woodfloat finish and should not be skimcoated with gypsum plaster. The surface must be clean, dry, firm and sound and free from all traces of dust, loose particles and surface contaminants.

- 1.2 If the surface has been woodfloated (rough) it is possible to commence tiling. However, if the surface has been steelfloated (smooth, dense) it will be necessary to first key the surface with a slurry consisting of 1 part TAL KEYCOAT to 2 parts TAL KEYMIX powder or 2 parts TAL GOLDSTAR 6 or 12 powder (by volume), which is applied by block brush. Allow this slurry coat to dry for 4 – 6 hours before applying the adhesive. \*

## 2. **ADHESIVE SYSTEM**

- 2.1 Apply PROFESSIONAL adhesive to the background using a notched trowel.

### 2.2 **Lightweight Ceramic Wall Tiles**

- 2.2.1 To ensure optimum adhesive contact as well as maximum coverage per unit of adhesive, we would recommend the use of a notched WALL TROWEL.

### 2.3 **Large Format Wall Tiles / Ceramic Floor Tiles**

- 2.3.1 In this tiling situation it is imperative that there is a solid bed of adhesive at least 5mm thick behind each tile. We would recommend the use of a notched FLOOR TROWEL.

### 2.4 **General**

- 2.4.1 At no time spread more adhesive than can be tiled onto in 10 – 15 minutes. Depending on atmospheric conditions, this will normally be around 1 square metre. This prevents the adhesive from drying or “skinning” before the tiles are applied.
- 2.4.2 Bed dry tiles (do not soak) firmly into the wet adhesive with a twisting action to ensure full contact between the background, tiles and adhesive. Tiles should be well tapped home with a rubber mallet or the wooden handle of a trowel. It is sound practice to remove the occasional tile to ensure that good contact has been achieved.
- 2.4.3 When using heavily lugged tiles, or tiles with a very irregular back profile, it is good practice to butter the back of each tile, ensuring that the grooves or dovetails are completely filled with adhesive.
- 2.4.4 Clean off any surplus adhesive remaining on the face of tiles and between the joints with a damp sponge before the adhesive dries.
- 2.4.5 Never butt joint tiles. Joints are required to allow the individual tiles to move with respect to each other and thus avoid a compressive stress build-up. They are also required as vents for the tile adhesive to cure. The joints between ceramic wall tiles must be a minimum of 2mm wide, and a minimum of 5mm wide between ceramic floor tiles.
- 2.4.6 Pot life of the adhesive will vary with climatic conditions. Under no circumstances should adhesive which has been left standing for too long be reconstituted by adding more liquid.
- 2.4.7 Do not tile over structural, expansion or cold joints in the background. These joints must be extended through the various layers to the surface.
- 2.4.8 **NOTE :** Ensure that heavy and/or large format wall tiles are well supported by means of a batten or some type of mechanical device until such time that the adhesive has set sufficiently. In this situation it will be 24 hours.

## 3. **GROUTING**

- 3.1 Grouting must not be carried out until sufficient bond has developed between the bedding mix and the tiles to preclude disturbance of the tiles during the grouting operation. Grouting should therefore not be carried out for 1 – 3 DAYS after completion of laying, depending on atmospheric conditions and different tiling situations.

### 3.2 'Dry' Areas

3.2.1 Use Super White or coloured TAL WALL & FLOOR GROUT for filling wall tile joints up to 8mm wide.

**\* NOTE : TAL Super White Grout is only suitable for wall tile joints up to 3mm wide.**

### 3.3 'Wet' Areas, ie Splashbacks

3.3.1 Use Super White or coloured TAL WALL & FLOOR GROUT mixed 20kg with 8 litres of TAL BOND (Super White Grout)(**replacing the water in the mix**) or 6 litres of TAL BOND (all other colours)(**replacing the water in the mix**) for filling wall tile joints up to 8mm wide.

**\* NOTE : TAL Super White Grout is only suitable for wall tile joints up to 3mm wide.**

**Alternatively,** TAL BOND POWDER may be added to the grout mixing water, at a ratio of 1 x 1kg sachet per 20kg TAL WALL & FLOOR GROUT.

### 3.4 General / WARNING :

3.4.1 Particular care must be taken to clean the grout off the tile face before it hardens completely. This is especially important when an additive such as TAL BOND or TAL BOND POWDER has been used.

3.4.2 A sample of the tiles to be used should be tested beforehand to ensure that no grout is absorbed through the glaze, or into the tile body, causing permanent staining of the tiles.

3.4.3 It is important to use the stipulated amount of liquid in the TAL Grout mixture. When cleaning, a **damp, not wet**, sponge must be used. Over hydration (too much water) of the mix, or in cleaning, causes colour variations in the grout joints, and also affects the integrity of the grout, resulting in a friable product.

## 4. MOVEMENT JOINTS

4.1 It should be noted that the lack of movement joints in a tile panel is a major cause of tile failure. They should be specified at the design stage to avoid placing them in heavy traffic areas and spoiling the visual effect of the tiles.

4.2 **Movement joints should be located in both directions at maximum 5 metre centres for interior applications.**

4.3 **Movement joints should also be located in all internal corners and interfaces,** against obstructions fixed to the structural background and over all discontinuities in building materials, e.g. at interfaces of concrete and brickwork. In addition, movement joints should be located around any fixtures protruding through the tiled surface.

4.4 **The joints should be at least 5mm wide and extend through the adhesive and tile layers.** All construction / cold joints and structural joints in the background must be extended through the adhesive and tile layers to the surface in the form of tile panel movement joints. With regards to structural joints, the full width of the structural joints must be respected and extended through the adhesive and tile layers to the surface.

4.5 Where practical, the bulk of the depth of the movement joint can be filled with TAL SEALMASTER CORD.

4.6 Seal the joint using TAL GOLDSTAR SEALMASTER 1000 Polyurethane joint sealant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. It is important that the joint sealant bonds only to the sides of the movement joint.

- 4.7 For the key requirements common to all tiling situations please refer to SANS 10107-2011, Code of Practice for the Design and Installation of Ceramic Tiling.

## **GENERAL SPECIFICATION FOR FIXING GLAZED CERAMIC FLOOR TILES ONTO INTERIOR SURFACE BEDS AND SUSPENDED SLABS**

### **1 BACKGROUND PREPARATION**

- 1.1 Allow all new concrete work and screeds to cure for at least 6 weeks and 4 weeks respectively before proceeding. All new concrete work and screeds must have a moisture content of 5% or less before tiling can be commenced. When tiling directly onto concrete, ensure that the surfaces are clean and free of all traces of curing agents, laitance and any other surface contaminants, preferably by scarifying.
- 1.2 Any screeding must be firmly attached to the underlying concrete, must be integrally sound (no crumbling, cracking, etc) and must be of a quality and consistency suitable for tiling. All damaged, defective, deteriorated or hollow sounding areas must be removed and the floor made good before proceeding. The surface must be clean and dry and free of all traces of dust, debris, loose particles and surface contaminants.
- 1.3 If the surface has been woodfloated (rough) it is possible to commence tiling. However, if the surface has been powerfloated or steelfloated (smooth, dense) it will be necessary to first key the surface with a slurry consisting of 1 part TAL KEYCOAT to 2 parts TAL KEYMIX powder or 2 parts TAL GOLDSTAR 6 or 12 powder (by volume), which is applied by block brush. Allow this slurry coat to dry for 4 – 6 hours before applying the adhesive. \*

### **2. ADHESIVE SYSTEM**

#### **2.1 Surface Beds**

- 2.1.1 Apply TAL PROFESSIONAL to the background using a notched trowel.

#### **2.2 Suspended Slabs**

- 2.2.1 Apply TAL PROFESSIONAL mixed 20kg with 5 litres of TAL BOND (**replacing the water in the mix**) to the background using a notched trowel.

**Alternatively**, TAL BOND POWDER may be added to the adhesive mixing water at a ratio of 1 x 1kg sachet per 20kg TAL PROFESSIONAL.

#### **2.3 General**

- 2.3.1 **In this tiling situation it is imperative that there is a solid bed of adhesive at least 6mm thick beneath each tile.** We would recommend the use of a notched FLOOR TROWEL.

**NOTE : Back buttering with a thin coat of adhesive may also be required when using large format tiles to ensure full contact and a solid bed of adhesive behind each tile.**

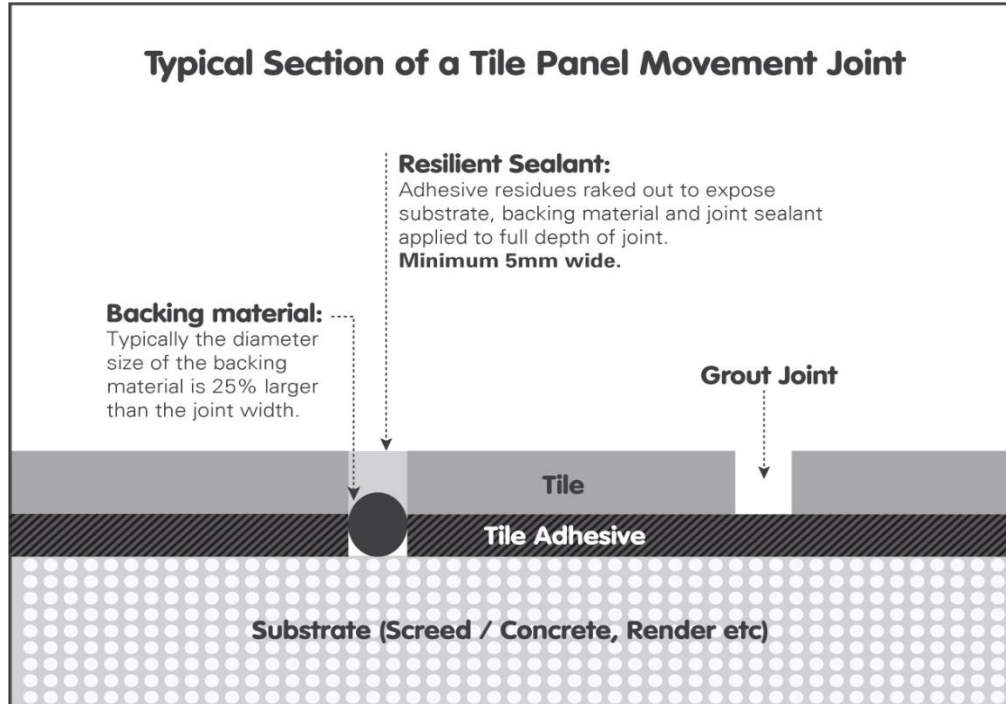
- 2.3.2 At no time spread more adhesive than can be tiled onto in 10 – 15 minutes. Depending on atmospheric conditions, this will normally be around 1 square metre. This prevents the adhesive from drying or “skinning” before the tiles are applied.
- 2.3.3 Bed dry tiles (do not soak) firmly into the wet adhesive with a twisting action to ensure full contact between the background, tiles and adhesive. Tiles should be well tapped home with a rubber mallet or the wooden handle of a trowel. It is sound practice to remove the occasional tile to ensure that good contact has been achieved.
- 2.3.4 When using heavily lugged tiles, or tiles with a very irregular back profile, it is good practice to butter the back of each tile, ensuring that the grooves or dovetails are completely filled with adhesive.
- 2.3.5 Clean off any surplus adhesive remaining on the face of tiles and between the joints with a damp sponge before the adhesive dries.
- 2.3.6 Never butt joint tiles. Joints are required to allow the individual tiles to move with respect to each other and thus avoid a compressive stress build-up. They are also required as vents for the tile adhesive to cure. The joints between ceramic floor tiles must be a minimum of 5mm wide.
- 2.3.7 Pot life of the adhesive will vary with climatic conditions. Under no circumstances should adhesive which has been left standing for too long be reconstituted by adding more liquid.
- 2.3.8 Do not tile over structural, expansion or cold joints in the background. These joints must be extended through the various layers to the surface.

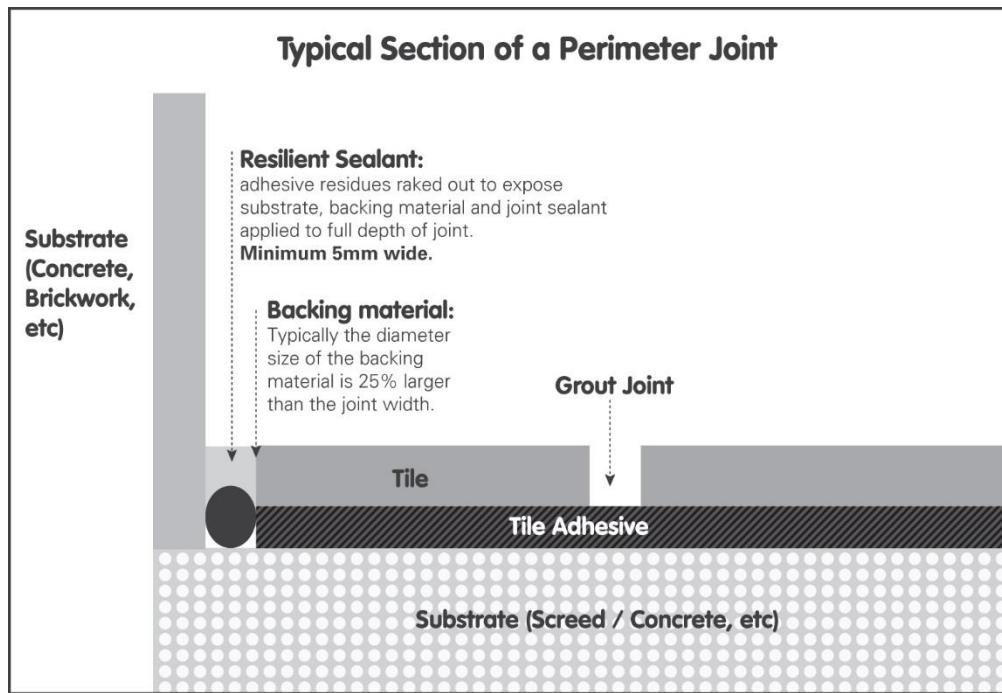
### 3. **GROUTING**

- 3.1 Grouting must not be carried out until sufficient bond has developed between the bedding mix and the tiles to preclude disturbance of the tiles during the grouting operation. Grouting should therefore not be carried out for 1 – 3 DAYS after completion of laying, depending on atmospheric conditions and different tiling situations.
- 3.2 **Surface Beds**
  - 3.2.1 Use grey or coloured TAL WALL & FLOOR GROUT for filling tile joints up to 8mm wide.
- 3.3 **Suspended Slabs**
  - 3.3.1 Use grey or coloured TAL WALL & FLOOR GROUT mixed 20kg with 6 litres of TAL BOND (**replacing the water in the mix**) for filling tile joints up to 8mm wide.  
**Alternatively**, TAL BOND POWDER may be added to the grout mixing water, at a ratio of 1 x 1kg sachet per 20kg TAL WALL & FLOOR GROUT.
- 3.4 **General / WARNING :**
  - 3.4.1 Particular care must be taken to clean the grout off the tile face before it hardens completely. This is especially important when an additive such as TAL BOND or TAL BOND POWDER has been used.
  - 3.4.2 A sample of the tiles to be used should be tested beforehand to ensure that no grout is absorbed through the glaze, or into the tile body, causing permanent staining of the tiles.
  - 3.4.3 It is important to use the stipulated amount of water in the TAL Grout mixture. When cleaning, a **damp, not wet**, sponge must be used. Over hydration (too much water) of the mix, or in cleaning, causes colour variations in the grout joints, and also affects the integrity of the grout, resulting in a friable product.

#### 4. **MOVEMENT JOINTS**

- 4.1 It should be noted that the lack of movement joints in a tile panel is a major cause of tile failure. They should be specified at the design stage to avoid placing them in heavy traffic areas and spoiling the visual effect of the tiles.
- 4.2 **Movement joints should be located in both directions at maximum 5 metre centres for interior surface bed applications, and at maximum 3 metre centres for suspended applications.**
- 4.3 **Movement joints should also be located around the perimeter of all floors**, in all vertical corners, against obstructions fixed to the structural background and over all discontinuities in building materials, e.g. at interfaces of concrete and brickwork. In addition, movement joints should be located around any fixtures protruding through the tiled surface such as columns or stairs.
- 4.4 **The joints should be at least 5mm wide and extend through the adhesive and tile layers.** All construction / cold joints and structural joints in the background must be extended through the adhesive and tile layers to the surface in the form of tile panel movement joints. With regards to structural joints, the full width of the structural joints must be respected and extended through the adhesive and tile layers to the surface.
- 4.5 Where practical, the bulk of the depth of the movement joint can be filled with TAL SEALMASTER CORD.
- 4.6 Seal the joint using TAL GOLDSTAR SEALMASTER 1000 polyurethane joint sealant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. It is important that the joint sealant bonds only to the sides of the movement joint.
- 4.7 For the key requirements common to all tiling situations please refer to SANS 10107 – 2011, Code of Practise for Design and Installation of Ceramic Tiling.





Should you require any further assistance or have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact us. Assuring you of our best attention at all times.

Yours faithfully

**SHARON MARGON**  
**TECHNICAL ADVICE SUPERVISOR**

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