

## DESCRIPTION

TAL FLEX is a thin-bed polymer-based paste adhesive for fixing lightweight tiles to flexible surfaces, such as partition walling. TAL FLEX has immediate tile-grip characteristics, thus minimising the possibility of tile slump. As TAL FLEX gives immediate grip, it is ideal for fixing lightweight tiles in upside-down tiling situations such as window and doorway arches. TAL FLEX should **not** be used in extreme wet conditions, or on floors.

TAL FLEX can be applied to a maximum of 4mm thick when used in a notched or solid bed application.

## Classification According to SANS 52004:2013 / EN12004:2007

TAL FLEX is classified as a D2T adhesive (dispersion adhesive with improved characteristics (D2), slip resistant (T), adhesive).

## SURFACE PREPARATION

### Render

All new renders must be allowed to cure for at least 14 days. The render 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. The surface must be clean and dry and free from dust, loose particles and surface contaminants.

Steelfloated (smooth / dense) surfaces must be primed 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 must be left to dry before TAL FLEX is applied.

### Partition Walling

Partition walling must be erected and sealed strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and must be thoroughly braced at maximum 300mm centres in both directions (**screwed, not nailed**). The surface must be primed with a coat of TAL KEYCOAT, which must be left to dry before TAL FLEX is applied.

### Wooden Panels

Wooden panels must be in good condition, firm and sound, and must be thoroughly braced at maximum 300mm centres in both directions (**screwed, not nailed**). The surface must be sanded down to remove all traces of existing varnish, sealant or coatings. Prime the surface (front, back and sides) with TAL SUPERPRIME. TAL FLEX must be applied between 6 – 30 hours after the SUPERPRIME application. (The SUPERPRIME must be **slightly tacky** to the touch, but there must not be any visible transfer when wiped or rubbed.)

### Paint or Gypsum Skimcoats

The paint/gypsum skimcoat must be in good condition and firmly bonded to the substrate, ie not loose, flaking or peeling, and all traces of grease, grime, soap residues and other contaminants must be removed. The surface must be thoroughly chipped to remove at least 80% of the paint or gypsum skimcoat, to expose the underlying rendered substrate. After chipping, the background must be clean, dry, firm and sound and free from dust, loose particles and surface contaminants. The surface must be primed with a coat of TAL KEYCOAT, which must be left to dry before TAL FLEX is applied.

### Existing Tiles

Existing wall tiles must be in good condition and firmly attached to the substrate, and must be clean and dry. Prime the existing tiles 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 must be left to dry before TAL FLEX is applied.

**Please contact the TAL TECHNICAL ADVICE CENTRE for correct preparation of other substrates.**

#### Important Notice:

TAL believes the information on this sheet to be correct – but does not guarantee its accuracy or completeness. Conduct your own tests of this product to determine its suitability for intended use. User assumes all risks and liability during testing and use of this product. In special cases, obtain professional advice. The only obligation of TAL shall be to replace any of this product proved to be defective in material. TAL shall not be liable for any injury, loss or damage, direct or consequential, relating to the use or inability to use this product. Except as expressly provided above, all products sold and samples furnished without any warranty of merchantability or any other warranty, express or implied. TAL reserves the right to change the information on this datasheet. Please contact the TAL Technical Advice Centre on [taltech@norcrossa.com](mailto:taltech@norcrossa.com) or 0860 000 825 to ensure you have the latest version.

**APPLICATION**

Ensure that the tiles are dry and the backs are free of dust and contaminants.

The adhesive should be thoroughly stirred before use to ensure uniform dispersion of product. TAL FLEX should be applied onto the substrate using a NOTCHED WALL TROWEL.

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.

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.

Clean off any surplus adhesive remaining on the face of tiles and between the joints with a damp sponge before the adhesive dries. 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.

Do not tile over structural, expansion or cold joints in the background. The joints must be extended through the various layers to the surface.

**GROUTING**

Allow at least 24 hours after completing the tiling before grouting, depending on atmospheric conditions. Use TAL Grout according to the instructions. Grout should be mixed with TAL BOND as a total water replacement when tiling onto flexible substrates or in 'wet' applications (ie splackbacks). **Do not grout with neat cement.**

**MOVEMENT JOINTS**

Tile panel movement joints should be located in both directions at maximum 3 metre centres in areas where movement is expected (ie partition walling), and maximum 5 metre centres for other interior wall applications.

Movement joints should also be located in all horizontal and 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.

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. Where practical, the bulk of the depth of the movement joint can be filled with TAL SEALMASTER CORD. Seal the joint using TAL GOLDSTAR SEALMASTER 1000 polyurethane joint sealant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**COVERAGE**

Coverage is approximately 1kg/m<sup>2</sup> when applied using a Notched Wall Trowel. (Actual coverages will be determined by site conditions, workmanship, etc)

**PACKAGING**

TAL FLEX is available in 1kg and 5kg buckets.

**CLEANING**

Wipe the area with a damp cloth before the adhesive has dried. Clean tools with warm water.

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**STORAGE & SHELF LIFE**

When stored in dry internal conditions between 10°C and 30°C and out of direct sunlight the product has a shelf life of 6 months from date of manufacture. Never store directly on a concrete floor. Keep lid tightly sealed when not in use to avoid product skinning.

**WARNING**

**DO NOT INGEST. USE ONLY AS DIRECTED. PROTECT SENSITIVE SKIN WITH RUBBER GLOVES. USE IN WELL VENTILATED AREAS. DISPOSE OF THIS PRODUCT IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL REGULATIONS. CONTACT TAL FOR FURTHER HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION.**

**PRODUCT GUARANTEE**

TAL products are manufactured and tested in accordance with TAL procedures, which are maintained in line with Quality Control System Standard ISO 9001 : 2008. TAL products are guaranteed to be free from manufacturing defects and fit for design purposes.

This guarantee is subject to the performance of TAL products when used strictly in accordance with their materials and methods specifications for the particular project, and where good workmanship is followed. However, we have no influence over specific site conditions and therefore, if in doubt, the user must always carry out sufficient tests to satisfy himself/herself that the product is suitable for the intended purpose. In special cases, obtain professional advice.

TAL cannot be held responsible for the standard of workmanship on site, or any problems caused by unsound structures or foundations, cracking of the substrate, deflections of slabs or backgrounds, vibration, creep movement of the structure, etc, or any products which have been adulterated, contaminated or misused in any way. The aforementioned list is not exhaustive.

**NOTE :** we require timeous notification, in writing, of an alleged defect and the opportunity to assess and investigate the problem to our satisfaction prior to any remedial work whatsoever being carried out.

**TAL TECHNICAL ADVICE CENTRE**

For a detailed Materials and Methods Specification contact the TAL Technical Advice Centre on 0860 000 TAL(825), or e-mail [taltech@norcrossa.com](mailto:taltech@norcrossa.com)

Branches : Gauteng (011) 206-9700; Cape (021) 386-1810; Natal (031) 579-2263

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