

Wednesday, 12 December 2018

## **GENERAL SPECIFICATION FOR FIXING GLAZED CERAMIC FLOOR TILES OR PORCELAIN TILES ONTO EXISTING FLOOR TILES ON 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 all traces of dust and contaminants which could impair adhesion**

Please note that any "wet" areas, such as showers or balconies, should be waterproofed using TAL SUPERFLEX 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

### **THE TAL PRODUCTS REQUIRED FOR THIS INSTALLATION ARE AS FOLLOWS :**

TAL KEYCOAT  
TAL KEYMIX  
TAL GOLDSTAR 6  
TAL BOND / TAL BOND POWDER  
TAL WALL & FLOOR GROUT  
TAL SEALMASTER CORD  
TAL GOLDSTAR SEALMASTER 1000

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

**Tile on Tile Installations :**

The feasibility of this application will be subject to factors such as the soundness/integrity of the existing tile installation, the additional loading on the slab, and whether the additional height (adhesive and tile) will not interfere with levels to Line/Anchor Shops, Elevator and Escalator Landings, etc.

Should it be established that the existing tile installation is sound and suitable to be tiled over, installing new tiles over the existing tiles in the Mall Walkway areas will create a variance in height (thickness of new tile and adhesive bed) at the thresholds/entrances to the Line/Anchor Shops.

It is recommended that a section of tiles (approximately 1m radius) at the entrances to the Line/Anchor Shops be removed, as well as underlying fixative. The adhesive and tiles from the Walkways can then be sloped down to accommodate the existing levels in the Line/Anchor Shops.

**Adhesive System :**

We have specified TAL GOLDSTAR 6 **rapid-setting** high-strength adhesive for these installation areas.

However, if timing on this project allows for a **quick-setting** adhesive option, then TAL GOLDSTAR 12 can be considered.

The advantages of using TAL GOLDSTAR 12 are as follows :

- TAL GOLDSTAR 12 has a longer pot life (pot life of 4 hours, grout after 6 – 8 hours, and traffic after 12 hours)
- TAL GOLDSTAR 12 is more cost effective than TAL GOLDSTAR 6

**It is important that newly installed tiles are protected from traffic (other trades, etc) while the adhesive sets. This is especially important in fast-track installations.**

**Too early trafficking of newly installed tiles before the adhesive has set sufficiently may result in an impaired bond (hollow-sounding and/or loose tiles).**

**Suspended Slab 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 must be incorporated in the adhesive and grout mix, in accordance with the product instructions, to allow for the increased movement.

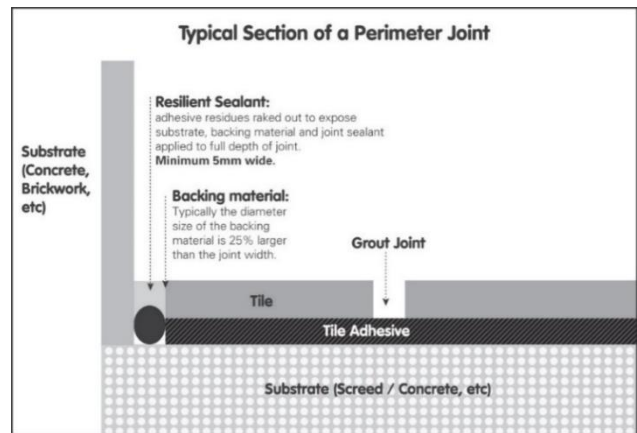
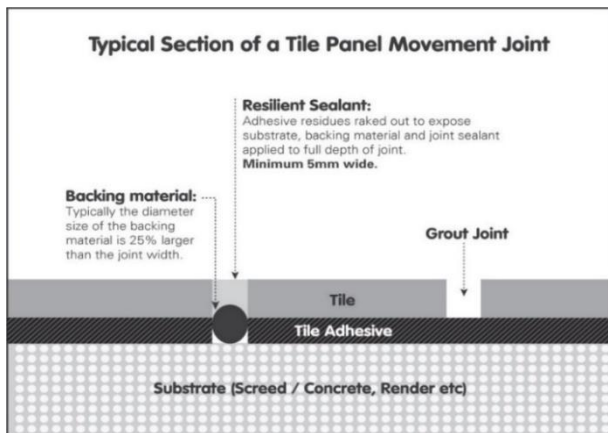
Correctly constructed tile panel movement joints must also be located at closer centres.

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

It should be noted that the lack of, or poorly constructed, intermediate tile panel movement joints and perimeter joints in a tile installation 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 SEALMASTER CORD and TAL GOLDSTAR SEALMASTER 1000 Polyurethane Joint Sealant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.



## 1. BACKGROUND PREPARATION

- 1.1 **For this application it is imperative that the existing tiles are in good condition and firmly attached to the background, ie are not loose, damaged or hollow-sounding.**
- 1.2 The existing tiles should be acid washed and neutralised in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to remove all traces of dirt, grime, polishes and sealants etc. The tiles should be inspected and any residual polish, sealant, grease or grime residues should be removed using a degreasing compound in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. **The background must be clean, dry, firm and sound and free from dust, loose particles and all traces of surface contaminants before proceeding.**
- 1.3 All damaged, cracked, loose or hollow-sounding tiles must be removed, as well as the existing fixative, to expose the underlying substrate, which must be firm and sound. These areas can then be filled so that they are flush with the adjacent tiles using TAL RAPIDFIX\*. The remedial work must be allowed to cure completely (approximately 12 – 24 hours, depending on application thickness and ambient conditions) before proceeding.
- 1.4 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 GOLDSTAR 6 rapid-setting adhesive to the background using a notched trowel.

### 2.2 **Suspended Slabs**

- 2.2.1 Apply TAL GOLDSTAR 6 rapid-setting adhesive 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 GOLDSTAR 6, or TAL GOLDFLEX single-part flexible rapid-setting adhesive may be used. When using TAL GOLDFLEX no additives are required, simply mix with clean water, alleviating possible mixing errors on site.

### 2.3 **General – Surface Beds & Suspended Slabs**

- 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 or THICK-BED 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 Clean off any surplus adhesive remaining on the face of tiles and between the joints with a damp sponge before the adhesive dries.
- 2.3.5 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 porcelain tiles must be a minimum of 3mm wide.
- 2.3.6 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.
- 2.3.7 Do not tile over structural, expansion or cold joints in the background. These joints must be extended through the various layers to the surface.

### 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. **Allow a minimum of 4 hours before trafficking or grouting.**
- 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 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 **Surface Beds**
  - 4.2.1 **Movement joints should be located in both directions at maximum 5 metre centres for interior Surface Bed applications.**
- 4.3 **Suspended Slabs**
  - 4.3.1 **Movement joints should be located in both directions at maximum 3 metre centres for Suspended Slab applications.**
- 4.4 **General – Surface Beds & Suspended Slabs**
  - 4.4.1 **Movement joints should also be located around the perimeter of all floors, in all vertical and internal corners / 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 such as columns or stairs.
  - 4.4.2 **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.
  - 4.4.3 Where practical, the bulk of the depth of the movement joint can be filled with TAL SEALMASTER CORD.
  - 4.4.4 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.
  - 4.4.5 For the key requirements common to all tiling situations please refer to SANS 10107–2011, Code of Practise for the 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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