



INSTALLATION BULLETIN #7

SURFACE PREPARATION – CONCRETE SLABS

Concrete surfaces must be sound, even, dry and free of grease, oil, paint, curing compounds or sealers, hydrostatic pressure, or other foreign matter. New concrete slabs must be cured for a minimum of 28 days (up to 90 days in cold, damp or exterior conditions). Flextile does not recommend the installation of ceramic tile or stone on slabs cured less than 28 days, unless an uncoupling system is used (follow manufacturers recommendations), or a calcium chloride test shows a vapor emission of less than 1.36 kg/92.9m² (3 lbs/1000 Ft²) per 24 hours.

Concrete slabs must be true to a tolerance of 6mm (1/8") in 3 meters (10') for thin-set applications, and the structural design shall not allow a deflection greater than 1/360 of span under either live or dead loads. New concrete shall have a wood float or steel trowel with light broom finish. Roughen smooth concrete surfaces. Use Flextile 59 Flex Flo Self-Levelling Underlayment for levelling up to 12 mm (1/2").

Structural cracks in new or existing concrete slabs must be addressed prior to installation of tile. Pre-treat all control joints and gaps in corners and coves that are greater than 1 mm (1/32") with proper filler material and allow to cure.

For shrinkage or stress cracks up to 3 mm (1/8") in thickness, treat with **Flextile WP900 or WP980 Waterproof & Crack Isolation Membranes** before installing tile, using Flexilastic Reinforcing Fabric. For shrinkage or stress cracks up to 10 mm (3/8"), use **Flexilastic 1000 or 2000SC Crack Isolation and Sound Reduction Membranes**.

Refer to current edition of TTMAC 09300 Tile Installation Manual regarding placement of expansion or control joints, or for further substrate acceptability information.

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For job specific installation systems, recommendations, project warranty information, or for assistance with installation specifications, please contact Flextile's technical department.

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