

CERAMIC TILE ESSENTIALS

QUICK-CARDS® A DIAGNOSE QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDE

Builder's Book, Inc.

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TILE - THE BASICS

LOOSE & SHEET-MOUNTED TILE



FACE-MOUNTED & BACK-MOUNTED TILE

Face-mounted tiles come with paper. They are set and then the paper is removed before grouting. Back-mounted tiles have either perforated paper, fiber mesh or resin that becomes part of the tile installation system.

CATEGORIES OF CERAMIC TILES

TILE TYPE	POROSITY	USE	ADDITIONAL INFO.
Impervious Tile	Absorbs less than 0.05% of its own weight in moisture.	Exterior applications such as walk-in patios.	• Grout is not available. • Needs to be special ordered.
Vitreous Tile	Absorbs less than 3% of its own weight in moisture.	For both exterior and interior applications. Typically used for using pools and fountains.	• Least porous of the common tiles.
Semi-vitreous Tile	Absorbs 3% to 6% of its own weight in moisture.	For both exterior and interior applications. Interior, both of interior walls. Exterior, walk-in patios.	• Can tolerate freezing and thawing conditions.
Non-vitreous Tile	Absorbs over 7% of its own weight in moisture.	Interior applications such as walls, floors and countertops.	• Most porous of tiles. • Unsuitable for exterior use.

SIZE & SHAPE

Size: Tiles range from mosaic (1 in²) to pavers (12 in²). Smaller tiles come attached to a sheet of paper, or come, usually in 1' squares.
Shape: Squares and rectangular are the most common tile shapes.

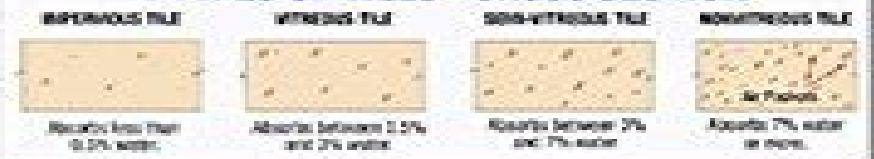
FOUR WEAIR RATING SYSTEM

GROUP	USAGE
Group I	Tile suitable for residential bathrooms where soft footwear is worn.
Group II	Tile suitable for general residential areas, except kitchens, entrance halls and other areas subjected to continuous heavy use.
Group III	Tile suitable for all residential and light commercial areas.
Group IV	Tile suitable for medium commercial and light institutional applications, such as restaurants, hotels and hospital corridors.
Group V	Tile suitable for heavy traffic and wet areas where safety and resistance to wear and tear are required, such as airports, walkways, food service areas, banking entrances and shopping centers.

INFO YOU MUST KNOW!

Keep in mind that all tile is porous. Water can seep through the grout and cause problems in the building even in tiles that have low porosity. For kitchen and bath applications, use a water-resistant backing like greenboard, a cement-based backerboard finished with a water-resistant joint compound, or a water proof membrane.

4 TYPES OF TILES - CROSS-SECTION



MORTARS & MASTICS

MORTARS & MASTICS

- Mortars and mastics are bonding/setting materials used to secure tile in place.
- Application Temperatures:** 70° to 85° min. temperature 50°

MORTARS

- Requires mixing and have a short pot life.
- Stronger than mastics and hold up better to prolonged exposure to water or heat.

PORTLAND CEMENT MORTAR

- Portland cement mortar is typically used to lay tile.
- Consists Portland cement in a thick bed, 1/2" to 3/4" deep.
- Apply thinned mortar in 1/32" to 1/8" thick.
- Portland cement is composed of cement, sand and lime.
- Portland Cement Floor Mix Ratio: 1:3
- Portland Cement Wall Mix Ratio: 1:3 1/2 to 1:2 1/2
- Note: Lime makes mortar easier to work with and thicker but it makes mortar weaker.

INFO YOU MUST KNOW!

- Put life refers to the length of time a material is usable after mixing.

MASTICS

- Solvent- or latex-based.
- Pre-mixed
- Not water resistant
- Organic

MORTARS & MASTICS

TYPE	Minimum Uses	Suitable Substrates	Method	Advantages	Disadvantages
Portland Cement Mortar	Floors and walls	Masonry, concrete, wood or steel stud frame, rough wood floors, plywood form, foam insulation board, drywall, plaster	Thin bed (1/4") Thick bed (3/8" to 1")	• Waterproof • Thin bed allows for plumbing and irregular surfaces • High structural strength.	• More difficult to apply
Dry Set Mortar (Thin-bed)	Floors and walls	Masonry, drywall, glass mesh mortar units, cured Portland cement mortar beds, ceramic tile, dimensional stone	Thin bed (1/4")	• Lightweight, but doesn't form a water barrier • Easy to use • Water resistant • Non-toxic • Good for exterior work	• Does not allow for plumbing • Does not allow for repairing of surfaces.
Latex Portland Cement Mortar	Floors and walls	Masonry, drywall, glass mesh mortar units, cured Portland cement mortar beds, ceramic tile, dimensional stone	Thin bed	• Less rigid than Portland cement mortar	• For areas exposed to constant moisture (swimming pools, showers, etc.) • Needs to dry 14 to 60 days, depending on climate and whether tile is indoors or outdoors.
Epoxy Mortar	Floors	Concrete, wood, plywood, steel plate, ceramic tile	Thin bed	• High bond strength • High impact resistance • High chemical	• Expensive • Difficult • Longer cure time.
Epoxy Mortar	Floors	Concrete, wood, plywood, steel plate, ceramic tile	Thin bed	• High chemical resistance • Quick setting	• High cost • Difficult to use
Epoxy Mastic (Epoxy Adhesive)	Floors, walls & counters	Plywood, drywall	Thin bed	• Easy to apply • High bond strength	• Not as resistant to chemicals or solvents as epoxy mortar
Organic Mastic (Organic Adhesive)	Floors, walls & counters	Dry board, drywall, plaster, Portland cement mortar, concrete, masonry Not used: Portland cement mortar, concrete, masonry, and for walls, greenboard	Thin bed	• Flexibility	• Bond strength varies from one manufacturer to another, some are flammable • Not suitable for exterior use or swimming pools • Low chemical and solvent resistance

Ceramic Tile Essentials

Rachel S Tattersall



Ceramic Tile Essentials:

Whispering the Techniques of Language: An Psychological Journey through **Ceramic Tile Essentials**

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