



intelligent interior product
solutions for boundless design

333 7th Avenue
New York, New York 1000

169 Midland Avenue
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7 Neshaminy Interplex
Trevose, PA 19053

WBE Technical Note: What type of adhesive should I use to set my tile?

Synopsis: There are different choices for selection of tile and stone adhesives. Many of them can be selected by determining either the tile type or the use.

- Never use adhesives to "true" or level or plumb an area, it's not their purpose. There are other materials that should be used in these conditions. Contact your WBE representative to determine the best course to achieve the most level surface. This is especially important with large format and thin-technology tile.
- **Dry-set Mortar** – Single layer, 3/32-1/4" thickness. Using a tile that is impervious over an impervious membrane? – dry-set mortar may be useful.
- **Latex/Polymer Modified Portland Cement Mortar** – Single layer, 3/32-1/4" thickness. Used over surfaces similar to dry-set. This product will include a latex or polymer additive to increase strength of adhesion and reduce water absorption. Are you using a tile that is difficult to bond? Latex/Polymer mortar may be your solution. Hint: Make sure you allow ample dry time (14-60 days) before grouting as this type of mortar requires abundant air exposure to properly set. Also – not all Latex/Polymer mortars are suitable for wet areas so always consult your WBE representative.
- **EGP or Exterior Glue Plywood Latex Portland Cement Mortar** – Used specifically for bonding to exterior glue plywood. Consult ANI A118.11 and ISO C and P Categories for specifications.
- **Medium Bed Mortar** – Bond coat 3/16-3/4". If you are setting heavier tile, tile with one any side longer than 15" or non-gauged thickness tile you should use a medium bed mortar. These types of mortars are used to minimize slump.
- **Epoxy Mortar** – Epoxy mortar is ideal for the installation of moisture sensitive stone or tile. They are ideal for resin backed mosaics, stone or other. They offer very high bond strengths but are notorious with installers for lack of workability. Some epoxy mortars also offer chemical resistance.
- **Organic Adhesive** – Ready to use adhesive, no need to add powder or water. Where properly prepared surfaces are present this may be a good product to use.



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Want to know more?

Consult your WBE representative for in depth technical expertise. You can also consult:

ANSI A108.5, ANSI A108.4, ANSI A108.12, ANSI A118.1, ANSI A118.4, ISO "C", ANSI A118.11 and ANSI A136.1 and ISO "C", "P" and "D" sections.

<http://www.tile-magazine.com/articles/86756-selecting-and-applying-adhesives>