

The "thin bed" method refers to installations of tile with adhesives, dry-set mortars, multipurpose thin-set mortars, latex modified Portland cement mortars and epoxy mortars. Each of these materials is applied with a notched trowel and the adhesive or mortar thickness is approximately 1/8"-1/2" (3 mm-12 mm).

The installation of ceramic and stone tile by the "thin bed" method has certain requirements that should be pointed out to Architects and Builders. The finished tile work will reflect the surface conditions over which it was set. Wavy or irregular walls, or uneven surfaces will produce similar surfaces in the finished tile work. If the tile has a glossy or reflective surface, any waves or irregularities will be highlighted.

It is imperative that the Tile Contractor, before commencing work, examines the surfaces to be covered and report to the Architect and/or Owners whether they are acceptable or not. All surfaces which are to receive tile must be structurally sound, rigid (maximum deflection under all loads is $L/360$ where L = span length for ceramic tile and $L/480$ for stone installations) true and flat/plumb within 1/8" in 10' (3 mm in 3 m).

If the surfaces to be covered are not satisfactory, then it will be necessary to apply an "underlayment" or a leveling coat consisting of Portland cement/sand and a latex additive, such as LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Additive mixed with LATICRETE 226 Thick Bed Mortar Mix. *Never use gypsum based or fast patch leveling materials under ceramic or stone tile.*

The application of the leveling coat or underlayment should be done as a separate application prior to the start of tile work. It is an additional item for which the tile contractor typically receives compensation as an "extra." It is less costly to prepare surfaces properly with a leveling coat or underlayment, than to install tile in "mud" or traditional thick bed Portland cement/sand mortar.

Although the General Contractor can arrange to prepare surfaces to receive tile, the Tile Contractor is usually better able to ensure fully compatible materials and procedures are used and to accept full responsibility for the finished work.

Technical Data Sheets are subject to change without notice. For latest revision, check our website @ www.laticrete.com TDS 105.doc R 3 January 2005

LATICRETE, LATAPOXY and the  logo are Registered Trademarks of LATICRETE International, Inc.

