

# SELF-LEVELING FLOOR UNDERLAYMENT TIP SHEET

FOR USE WHEN POURING CERAMIC TILE MORTAR BEDS

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	TIP	WHY
<b>FLOOR PREP</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean floor of contaminants, dirt, dust, wax, gypsum, etc. Scrape &amp; sweep. Vacuuming is best.</li> <li>2. Plug all holes, seams, pipes and vents. Use caulk, fiberglass, rigid foam &amp; duct tape for cabinet toe kick &amp; base board trim.</li> <li>3. Dam doorways and any area you do not want material to flow into. Use 1x2's, sheetrock strips or peel and stick foam insulation.</li> <li>4. If sheetrock mud is on floor, agitate with water and stiff broom - sponge up excess water.</li> <li>5. Prime floor: Broom is best on rough concrete. Use a long nap roller for plywood. Allow primer to dry for 30 minutes or until it turns clear.</li> <li>6. Butt joint lath and staple every 2" on seam &amp; 4" in the field, no gaps. Be sure to offset lath joints. Minimum 3/8" staple.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensures bond, removes bond breakers - prevents job failure</li> <li>2. Cement is in a very liquid state; it will run through the smallest hole or crack.</li> <li>3. Material needs a boundary to push up against, or it will continue to flow.</li> <li>4. Must get sheetrock residue off the floor, it is a bond breaker.</li> <li>5. Primer seals substrate &amp; acts as a bonding agent. If primer is not allowed to dry, it will float on top of the cement, not allowing it to perform.</li> <li>6. Keeps lath flat &amp; mechanically bonded to substrate (lath not needed for pours over concrete substrate).</li> </ol>
<b>SET UP</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Calculate material coverage for chosen depth of liquid cement bed; (e.g. 1/8" = 50 SF/bag, 1/4" = 25 SF/bag, 3/8" = 16.67/bag, 1/2" = 12.5 SF/bag)</li> <li>2. 4 1/2 quarts of water per bag. Have more water on site than you need for mixing.</li> <li>3. 2 to 6 (5 gallon) buckets needed for mixing.</li> <li>4. Start with 4 1/2 quarts of water pre-measured in each bucket. (best to have a small window cut out to measure precisely 4 1/2 quarts.</li> <li>5. Cut tops of bags side to side.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan ahead, saves time. Accuracy of material needed, always bring a few more bags for contingencies.</li> <li>2. Don't get caught short, you will need water for clean up also.</li> <li>3. 5 gallon buckets work well, 6 gallon are better.</li> <li>4. Saves time, maintains consistency of mixture between buckets helps material flow. Once you start mixing you don't stop until you are finished with a section.</li> <li>5. Saves time.</li> </ol>
<b>MIXING / SPREADING</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mix to a lump free consistency (time varies with drill, paddle &amp; water temperature). Do not splash water out while mixing. Hold paddle vertical and clean all sides of bucket.</li> <li>2. Pour liquid cement across floor (not in a pile) turn bucket upside down to drain material out.</li> <li>3. Use spreading tool to measure out proper depth of material. Hold spreading tool in a vertical position. Do not rock it forward or backward.</li> <li>4. After cement has been poured, put 4 1/2 quarts of water in the bucket, use gong brush or very long handled utility scrub brush to clean sides of bucket - turn water over with the paddle - pour in next 50 lb. bag.</li> <li>5. Repeat mixing procedure until finished.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leave no unmixed material on sides or bottom of the bucket. Splashing changes the consistency of the mix &amp; inhibits flow.</li> <li>2. Makes material easier to move around.</li> <li>3. Ensures confidence &amp; proper depth of cement, actually speeds up spreading process.</li> <li>4. Material will harden on sides of bucket if not cleared &amp; mixed into the water of the next batch. Turning the water over ensures no unmixed material is left on the bottom, this avoids problems &amp; longer clean-up time at completion of job.</li> <li>5. Ensures consistency.</li> </ol>
<b>TROUBLE SHOOTING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If material is flowing down a crack or hole - sprinkle some dry powder on top of the hole, material will thicken &amp; stop the leak.</li> <li>● After initial set &amp; before final set (approximately 1 to 2 hours depending on temperature) material can be shaped with a margin trowel at thresholds, etc. If job will not be finished for a day or more, leave dams in place where damage to edges could occur by construction traffic.</li> </ul>	
<b>SUGGESTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have a back-up drill; 2 to 3 drills may be needed for larger jobs.</li> <li>● Use expansion foam at perimeter &amp; restraining surfaces.</li> <li>● Larger jobs may need to be poured in sections. Keep 1x2's on hand to use as dams for sections.</li> </ul>	
<b>NOTE</b>	<p><i>These tips have been provided from experienced contractors, please refer to the product information sheet for additional assistance and specifications. Finishing practices/techniques vary by installation, therefore these tips are offered as helpful hints that may be appropriate in your installation project.</i></p>	