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Acoustiblok® Acoustic Underlayment System:

Acoustiblok® Sound Isolation Material & Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 Acoustic Underlayment

When installed correctly, Acoustiblok® and Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 performs as designed for use as an impact sound reducer, small crack suppressant for tile floors and as a thermal insulator. Situations that arise concerning floor quality can invariably be traced to one or more shortcomings in the installation process. Conditions or practices that may affect the viability of a ceramic installation are:

- The lack of properly designed, specified, and installed expansion joints.
- The use of improper setting materials.
- The use of over (or under) hydrated setting materials.
- Not allowing setting material to slake.
- The use of over (or under) aerated setting materials.
- Installation over an unsuitable substrate.
- Uneven concrete substrate.
- Excessive deflection in the substrate.
- Foreign materials, sealants, adhesives, or chemicals present on the substrate.
- Improper trowel size
- Applying inadequate amounts of setting materials.
- Traffic on tiles prior to a full set of the setting materials.
- Improper grout joint width.

The Following Must Be Verified During Installation:

1. The preparation, conditions and installation of the product in accordance with industry standards as outlined by the Tile Council of America for ceramic and porcelain applications.
2. The sub-floor is within tolerances of vapor emissions per industry standards.
3. Defective tile, grout, or adhesive is not used in the installation.
4. No use of non-approved patching or leveling materials.
5. No improper installation materials or methods used.

Acoustiblok® Acoustic Underlayment System Installation Instructions

1. Conditioning: The Acoustiwool™-TF0.11, Acoustiblok® and adhesives must be conditioned at 70 degrees Fahrenheit with the relative humidity between 25 and 65% for at least 24 hrs before and 72 hrs after installation.

2. Approved Surfaces for Applications:

A. For Ceramic Tile: Exterior Glue or Exposure 1 Plywood, concrete backer board, concrete in the absence of excess moisture and/or excessive alkali. All sub-floor structures must meet or exceed the American National Standard Specifications (ANSI) standards for quality, thickness, and maximum deflection. The sub-floor must also comply with any local building code standards.

B. Unsuitable Substrates for Ceramic Tile: The following is a partial list of *sub-floor surfaces not suitable* for ceramic tile installations as published by The National Tile Contractors Association: masonite, all grades of lauan plywood, expanded polystyrene (styrofoam) insulation board, particle board, paneling, stripwood floors, grease-saturated concrete, sheathing and/or other oriented strand board, pressure treated plywood, fire-resistant plywood, curing compounds, felt paper and scribing felt.

Note: Wood sub-floors that are structurally suitable for a vinyl floor finish, may not be suitable for ceramic tile or wood floors. Double-check the sub-floor requirements.

3. Surface Preparation: Floor must be clean, smooth, dry and free of foreign matter that would interfere with a good bond. Fill all cracks and depressions with a suitable floor patch. If adhesive removal chemicals have been used, make sure the floor has been properly rinsed and all chemical residues are removed. All existing cracks in excess of 1/16 inch must be properly repaired in accordance with ANSI standards for ceramic.

4. Moisture: All sub-floor assemblies should be tested for moisture vapor emission rates by utilizing anhydrous calcium chloride test kits for concrete or a certified moisture meter for wood. Do not install flooring material when in excess of flooring manufacturers' recommendations for moisture vapor emissions.

5. Sealing: All seams in Acoustiblok® must be sealed using Acoustigrip™ tape and all perimeter gaps must be filled with Acoustiblok® Acoustical Sound Sealant

Tile (8" or larger) on Concrete Sub-floor

Setting Materials:

- Use Laticrete 254 Thin-set Mortar. Conforms to ANSI A-118.4.
- Hydrate (mix with water) according to the bag recommendations.
- Use a slow mixer (300rpm or less) or mix by hand.
- Allow mixture to slake (sit undisturbed for 15 Minutes) and then lightly remix.
- Mix epoxy grout as per manufacturers' instructions.
- Use epoxy grout as per ANSI A-4.6.3. We recommend Laticrete SpectraLOCK Pro epoxy with Laticrete LA-PFU Epoxy Hardener grout series.

Trowel Size:

- Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 to sub-floor: 1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" Square or "U" notch
- Acoustiblok® to Acoustiwool™-TF0.11: 1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" Square or "U" notch
- Tile to Acoustiblok® - Use a square or "U" notch trowel with notch size appropriate for the size and type of tile installed. (Minimum 1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4")

Concrete Requirements:

- Maximum variation of 1/4" in 10'-0". Deflection is not to exceed 1/360 of span.
- All cracks in excess of 1/16" must be filled as per ANSI specifications.
- Surface must be clean, dry and free of contaminants and sealers.
- Lightweight concrete surfaces must comply with manufacturers' specifications for ceramic tile installations.

Installing Acoustiwool™-TF0.11:

1. Insure a clean, swept, flat surface with no high spots or debris.
2. Roll the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 out (The direction of the roll should be 90° to the direction of the Acoustiblok® material going on top of the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 and trim to fit the floor using a sharp utility knife and a straight edge.
3. Be sure to run and size the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 leaving an 1/8" gap along the perimeter edges.
4. Pull back the pre-cut pieces.
5. Dampen, but do not saturate, the concrete floor and the bottom side of the pre-cut Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 with a sponge or a mist sprayer.
6. Mix & use Laticrete 254 Thin-set Mortar per manufacturers instructions. Conforming to ANSI A-118.4.
7. Key the thin-set mixture into the sub-floor with the flat side of the trowel then comb it with the notched side using a left to right motion.
8. Apply the thin-set mixture only as far ahead as will allow installation of the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 prior to the mortar beginning to set or "skin over".
9. Unroll the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 into the thin-set.
10. Immediately (within 10 mins.) roll the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 with a 75lb roller in diagonal directions.
11. Do not walk on the rolled areas. Allowing traffic on the installed Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 prior to full set may cause indentations resulting in weak areas and hollow spots.
12. Make sure no trowel notch ridges remain under the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11.
13. Seams should be butted together, leaving no gaps or overlaps.
14. Allow Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 to set for at least 16hrs.

Installing Acoustiblok®:

1. Clean surface of Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 of any debris or high spots. Tape all joints with Acoustigrip™ tape.
2. Roll out Acoustiblok® 90° to the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11. Leave a 1/8" expansion joint every 10', and leave a 1/8" gap between edges of runs and edge of wall.
3. Pull back the pre-cut pieces.
4. Dampen, but do not saturate, the surface of the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 with a sponge or a mist sprayer.
5. Mix & Use Laticrete 254 Thin-set Mortar per manufacturers instructions. Conforming to ANSI A-118.4.
6. Key the thin-set mixture into the sub-floor with the flat side of the trowel then comb it with the notched side using a left to right motion.
7. Apply the thin-set mixture only as far ahead as will allow installation of the Acoustiblok® prior to the mortar beginning to set or "skin over".
8. Unroll the Acoustiblok® into the thin-set.
9. Immediately (within 10 mins.) roll the Acoustiwool™-TF0.11 with a 75lb roller in diagonal directions.
10. Ensure that there are no high spots. Acoustiblok® must be laying flat with no waves, ripples or high spots. Verify that you still have a minimum of 1/8" expansion joints on all Acoustiblok® edges.
11. Tape all Acoustiblok® seams with Acoustigrip™ tape. Do not use substitutes as virtually all other tapes will lose bond with Acoustiblok® in a few days.
12. Allow Acoustiblok® to set for at least 16hrs
13. Fill 1/8" perimeter gaps with Acoustiblok® Acoustical Sound Sealant

Setting Tile :

1. The Acoustiblok® surface needs to be free and clear of any debris, dirt, oils and any other contaminants that may affect the adhesion of the thin set. Follow all manufacturers instructions for proper installation.
2. Use a square or "U" notch trowel size that is appropriate for the size of tile. (Minimum 1/4"x 3/8" x 1/4")
3. Mix & use Laticrete 254 Thin-set Mortar per manufacturers instructions, conforming to ANSI A-118.4.
4. Key the thin-set mixture on the Acoustiblok® with the flat side of the trowel and then comb it with the notched side using a left to right motion.
5. Press the tile into the thin-set mixture using a front to back motion perpendicular to the spread of the thin-set for maximum transfer of the thin-set onto the tile.
6. Mortar average coverage per tile shall comply with ANSI A-433.3.2. Minimum grout joint width is 1/4".
7. Use epoxy grout as per manufacturers' instructions. We recommend Laticrete SpectraLOCK Pro epoxy grout series.

