

SELF-LEVELING FLOOR UNDERLAYMENT TIP SHEET

FOR USE WHEN POURING CERAMIC TILE MORTAR BEDS

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	TIP	WHY
FLOOR PREP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean floor of contaminants, dirt, dust, wax, gypsum, etc. Scrape & sweep. Vacuuming is best. 2. Plug all holes, seams, pipes and vents. Use caulk, fiberglass, rigid foam & duct tape for cabinet toe kick & base board trim. 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. 4. If sheetrock mud is on floor, agitate with water and stiff broom - sponge up excess water. 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. 6. Butt joint lath and staple every 2" on seam & 4" in the field, no gaps. Be sure to offset lath joints. Minimum 3/8" staple. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensures bond, removes bond breakers - prevents job failure 2. Cement is in a very liquid state; it will run through the smallest hole or crack. 3. Material needs a boundary to push up against, or it will continue to flow. 4. Must get sheetrock residue off the floor, it is a bond breaker. 5. Primer seals substrate & 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. 6. Keeps lath flat & mechanically bonded to substrate (lath not needed for pours over concrete substrate).
SET UP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 2. 4 1/2 quarts of water per bag. Have more water on site than you need for mixing. 3. 2 to 6 (5 gallon) buckets needed for mixing. 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. 5. Cut tops of bags side to side. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan ahead, saves time. Accuracy of material needed, always bring a few more bags for contingencies. 2. Don't get caught short, you will need water for clean up also. 3. 5 gallon buckets work well, 6 gallon are better. 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. 5. Saves time.
MIXING / SPREADING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mix to a lump free consistency (time varies with drill, paddle & water temperature). Do not splash water out while mixing. Hold paddle vertical and clean all sides of bucket. 2. Pour liquid cement across floor (not in a pile) turn bucket upside down to drain material out. 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. 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. 5. Repeat mixing procedure until finished. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leave no unmixed material on sides or bottom of the bucket. Splashing changes the consistency of the mix & inhibits flow. 2. Makes material easier to move around. 3. Ensures confidence & proper depth of cement, actually speeds up spreading process. 4. Material will harden on sides of bucket if not cleared & mixed into the water of the next batch. Turning the water over ensures no unmixed material is left on the bottom, this avoids problems & longer clean-up time at completion of job. 5. Ensures consistency.
TROUBLE SHOOTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If material is flowing down a crack or hole - sprinkle some dry powder on top of the hole, material will thicken & stop the leak. ● After initial set & 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. 	
SUGGESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have a back-up drill; 2 to 3 drills may be needed for larger jobs. ● Use expansion foam at perimeter & restraining surfaces. ● Larger jobs may need to be poured in sections. Keep 1x2's on hand to use as dams for sections. 	
NOTE	<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>	