



THIN-SET FACTS WITH SCHLUTER KERDI INSTALLATIONS



INSIDE TILE INC



Tile Inc. will be closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st. We will reopen Tuesday, June 1st

COVERINGS 2010

Sean is in Orlando, Florida April 26th-28th at Coverings and bringing back fresh and new ideas!

DID YOU KNOW?

Tile Inc. can **BULLNOSE** granite or marble stone tiles in house.
\$11/LF for Granite
\$7/LF for Marble

CALL NOW FOR DETAILS!



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QUESTION: Should a latex-modified thin-set mortar or an unmodified thin-set mortar be used to install Schluter®-KERDI?

ANSWER: The type of bonding mortar used to apply Schluter®-KERDI must be suitable for the substrate and mechanically anchor the fleece on the KERDI. For all the substrates listed in this Handbook (e.g., gypsum board, cement backerboard, etc.), an unmodified thinset mortar is recommended. When installing KERDI with unmodified thin-set mortar over particularly dry and porous substrates, it is recommended to wet the substrate first, in order to help prevent premature drying or skinning of the thin-set mortar. Unmodified thin-set mortar must be used to construct all KERDI seams to ensure watertight performance of the system. Learn more below.

QUESTION: Can ceramic tile, including porcelain tile, be set on Schluter®-KERDI with unmodified thin-set mortar?

ANSWER: YES. In fact, we recommend it. Here's why: Portland cement-based unmodified thin-set mortars are dependent on the presence of moisture for hydration in order to gain strength. Since Schluter®-KERDI is impervious, it does not deprive the mortar of its moisture. This allows the cement to properly hydrate, resulting in a strong, dense bond coat. In fact, after the mortar has reached final set (usually within 24 hours), unmodified thin-set mortars achieve higher strengths when cured in continually moist conditions.

QUESTION: Can ceramic tile, including porcelain tile, be set on Schluter®-KERDI with latex modified thin-set mortar?

ANSWER: We DON'T recommend it. Here's why:

Latex-modified mortars must air dry for the polymers to coalesce and form a hard film in order to gain strength. When sandwiched between two impervious materials such as Schluter®-KERDI and ceramic tile, including porcelain tile, drying takes place very slowly through the open joints in the tile covering. [According to the Tile Council of North America's Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation, this drying period can fluctuate from 14 days to over 60 days, depending on the geographic location, the climatic conditions, and whether the installation is interior or exterior]. Therefore, extended cure times would be required before grouting if using modified thin-set mortars between KERDI and ceramic tile, including porcelain tile. If extended cure times were not observed, the results could be unpredictable. This is even more important to consider in wet areas such as showers, as there is the additional concern of latex leaching.

Info from: Schluter Shower System Installation Handbook, page 22.

For More information, you can talk to your friends at Tile Inc. or go to www.schluter.com and download the Schluter Shower System Installation Handbook.

JULIE IS LEAVING TILE INC.



After a fast three and a half years, the Army is moving my husband **SOMEWHERE**. To date, he might have orders for Fort Monroe, Virginia. This base is surrounded by the beautiful coastal cities of Hampton, Newport News and Norfolk. OR he might have orders for Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. This base is land locked in mid-America, just east of St. Louis, Missouri. As any great Army wife would, I am moving with him!

Working with all the contractors, homebuilders and retailers through these last three and a half years has given me valuable experience that I will take with me once the Army decides where our new home will be. In the mean time, I will continue pursuing my master's degree in public administration through the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. After June, I will be half way through the program with an expected graduation date of December 2011.

Finally, THANK YOU to Winston & Renee, Max & Bentley and all my coworkers for their wonderful help and support. It has been fantastic. Best wishes and good luck to you all!