



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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RE: Ceramic tile installations for people with allergies and chemical sensitivities.

Individuals with allergies and/or chemical sensitivities are having ceramic tile recommended to them as surfaces in their homes to reduce the effects of dust, spores, and chemicals which are commonly found in other floor and wall coverings. These recommendations are given to them by physicians and environmental consultants and are found in various books and publications for "healthy environments."

Texas Cement Products, Inc. does not specifically endorse, design, produce or sell products as hypoallergenic, odor-free, or chemical free. However, individuals with allergies or chemical sensitivities have used our basic products successfully for several years.

The following items are products that have been used:

SETTING MATERIALS

FloorMix* Tile setting material for floors (concrete and cementitious surfaces)

WallMix* Tile setting material for walls (concrete, cementitious and gypsum wall board surfaces)

GROUTING MATERIALS

AR Grout* Sanded ceramic tile grout

Supreme* Unsanded dry-tile grout

*These products should be mixed with clean water only.

These products contain Portland cement, washed graded sand and a basic amount of additives to accommodate proper tile bonding and grouting. They

do not contain excessive amounts of enhanced bonding additives such as polymers or latex that has been known to cause a negative response to some individuals.

Floor Mix is designed to bond tiles that have an absorption rate of 3% up to 7%. Wall Mix is designed to bond tiles that have an absorption rate above 7%. Many tiles on the market have absorption rates below 3%.

Normally, a setting material with a high polymer or latex content would be recommended for setting these tiles since they have less pores to provide a mechanical bond by the Portland cement and depend more on adhesion provided by polymers or latexes. However, that option is usually not available for chemically sensitive individuals. Caution should be used when selecting tiles for these installations to stay within the capabilities of the setting material. In addition, the recommendations in the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) Handbook For Ceramic Tile Installations concerning movement joints (EJ171) should be closely followed to minimize the stress placed on the tile installation.

Due to the fact that all individuals react differently to different chemicals and materials, actual jobsite materials including tile, mortar and grout, shall be approved by a physician and the allergenic/chemically sensitive individuals before any tile setting or grouting begins.

Texas Cement Products, Inc. can not assume any liability for the product's approval or their suitability in these types of installations.

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