



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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RE: Ceramic tile installations over Vinyl Asbestos Tile (VAT), Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT) or Sheet Vinyl Flooring materials..

When considering a ceramic tile installation over vinyl tile or sheet vinyl flooring materials it is always best that the flooring materials be removed and the substrate be cleaned. Caution should be used not to disturb, break-up or sand certain types of flooring materials that may contain asbestos. Inhalation of asbestos dust from sanding or removal may cause bodily harm.

Do not install ceramic tile, marble or stone over vinyl flooring subject to hydrostatic pressure. Ceramic tile cannot be installed over any "cushioned-backed" or "foam backed" vinyl floor materials or sheet vinyl flooring that has been installed with the perimeter adhesion method. The "cushioned back" and perimeter bonded vinyl flooring materials do not provide a rigid, sound and well bonded surface for the ceramic tile.

Installation of a new, clean bonding surface such as a Portland Cement mortar bed, cementitious backer board or properly fastened and gaped exterior grade plywood sheeting (were applicable) over the existing vinyl flooring is the best option. Reference A.N.S.I. for substrate preparation when using these options.

However, sometimes installation of a new bonding surface material plus ceramic tile are not practical due to the increase in completed floor height. These following steps will allow for a successful ceramic tile installation directly over the vinyl tile or sheet vinyl flooring materials with a lower overall finished floor height.

STEP 1. Carefully inspect all of the floor area to receive ceramic tile. The substrate must be level, rigid, sturdy and sound with no flexing. The vinyl tile or sheet vinyl flooring must be tightly bonded to the substrate. Loose, peeling, curling, torn, air-pocketed (bubbled or

blistered), mildewed, water damaged and poorly bonded areas shall be cut out with a sharp utility knife and removed. Exposed old adhesive residue shall be tightly bonded or removed (reference Technical Bulletin #201 Installing Ceramic Tile Over Cut-Back Adhesive Residue).

STEP 2. All vinyl tile or sheet vinyl floor coverings to receive ceramic tile shall be free of adhesives, paints, waxes, sealers, dirt, dust, oil, grease, soaps and any loose or foreign matter that will interfere with bond. Old floor finishes must be completely removed with the use of a commercial or heavy-duty liquid floor stripper. Follow the manufacturer's directions for the liquid stripper and thoroughly rinse and dry the surface. A wet/dry vacuum will aid in the removal of debris and dissolved finish during the stripping process.

STEP 3. Inspect the floor again and repeat STEP 1. and STEP 2. if necessary.

STEP 4. The surface should be clean, dry and free of any standing water and puddles. The ceramic tile can be installed with one of the Tex-Rite products listed:

- A. UniFlex Elastomeric Dry-Set Mortar
- B. CeramaFlex Dry-Set Mortar
- C. CureFlex Admixture mixed with PermaBond Dry-Set Mortar

Follow the mixing directions and application procedures found on the containers and information sheets for the chosen Tex-Rite product.

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