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NEW PRODUCT PROGRESS REPORT



FlexMat

FlexMat is now stocked in most Olympia & Affilaite branches, and is receiving very positive feedback from customers. Contractors appreciate having another option when requiring an uncoupling membrane, and **FlexMat's** competitive cost and acceptance for using modified mortars for bonding porcelain and other impervious tiles are seen as significant advantages. Architects are encouraged by the inclusion of this product into our lineup, as they can now specify a complete Olympia tile / Flextile setting system package on projects requiring an uncoupling membrane – without the concern over conflicting installation recommendations or warranties. Another advantage that many customers see when they initially purchase FlexMat is that the top layer scrim on the surface makes it much easier to trowel on the tile bond coat mortar, and that it also provides a 100% mechanical “key” to the membrane surface – a unique feature that other uncoupling membranes do not provide.

Changes to Installation Recommendations

FlexMat's recommendations have been updated to include certain Exterior applications. **FlexMat** is **RECOMMENDED** for **EXTERIOR USE** on properly prepared concrete surfaces, with the important consideration that FlexMat surface recesses are completely filled with latex modified mortar. It is NOT recommended for use on exterior wood structure decks

We have altered the application recommendations for bonding **FlexMat** to the substrate – either a 3/16 x 3/16 V-Notch or ¼ x ¼ square notch trowel is recommended, depending on the type and condition of the substrate.

Finally, we have updated the ASTM C-627 Service Ratings to Extra Heavy Service, based on recent independent test results we achieved from TCNA.

These important updates further enhance **FlexMat's** application properties and competitiveness within the marketplace. Please refer to Features & Limitations sections on the updated data sheet on our website for specifics on these changes. www.flextile.net

TOP PERFORMER

Flextile 66 is a very high end lightweight mortar with a trowelling consistency resembling mastic, but with the superior performance of cement-based mortars. **Flextile 66** is the ideal choice for installation of impervious tiles over likewise impervious surfaces such as shower boards and membranes, where mastic adhesives are not appropriate, and is also suitable for installing glass tile or for demanding wall or floor installations including shower floors and other water immersion applications. It provides exceptional sag resistance on vertical and even ceiling applications in showers, etc. **Flextile 66** has twice the coverage of standard mortars, and has over 20% recycled content, contributing generously to LEED points. The added hollow micro-spheres not only make the product lighter, but also provide a ball-bearing effect – resulting in minimal trowel resistance, thus providing higher productivity. **Flextile 66** is in the S1 class of mortars (ISO) for high flexibility, and bonds tenaciously to a multitude of tiles and substrates.



FLEXITILE TRAINING

With the rapid expansion of the Flextile product line in recent years, Flextile is committing itself to provide as much training as is possible with our current structure and manpower. A full on Flextile training centre has been established in the newly renovated showroom area at the Olympia Toronto location, where video inputs and display & product application facilities are in place, with a capacity to seat up to 30 people.

At the Flextile facility in Burnaby, BC, a similar space is being developed on site, where reps can both receive necessary training themselves or invite their clients for exclusive training sessions. Training and marketing tools such as sample boards, improved grout sample options, detailed installation specs, literature in both written & digital form, as well as specific Power Point & Windows Media slide shows are also available to all branches upon request.

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FLEXITILE PROJECT HIGHLIGHT #1

West Herr Toyota, Clarence N.Y.

Approximately 12,000 sq ft of 12 x 12 Regal from Dobkin Buffalo was installed using a complete and exclusive Flextile system consisting of **WP980 WP & CI Membrane, Flexilastic 1000, 52 Versatile, FlexEpoxy 100 Grout, and Ultra Performance Caulk**. Fairway Floorcovering, a longtime supporter of Flextile products was the installation contractor.



FLEXITILE PROJECT HIGHLIGHT #2

Bell Labs Town Center, Holmdel, NY

The owners and developer have selected a complete Flextile system consisting of **Flexilastic 1000 & 2000SC, FlexMat, 5900, 61, and 600 PM Grout** to install 60,000 sq ft of Olympia tile from New Jersey Tile & Stone at the initial stage of this historic restoration project currently underway. Extensive surface preparation work including levelling, sound control and crack isolation was required to prepare existing floor surfaces to suitable standards. At the insistence of NJT&S, Flextile was brought in to make installation recommendations, and eventually assist with the writing of the specification for an appropriate installation solution. To date, the installation is progressing well, with Flextile and NJT&S continuing to provide full technical assistance to the architect, contractor, and developer.



TECHNICAL TIPS

SURFACE PREPARATION IS KEY FOR LARGE FORMAT TILE

Flextile has developed many products specifically for large format tile installation. These are geared to deal specifically with the type and condition of the substrate, the desired drying time prior to traffic, the flatness of the substrate and the in service use of the ceramic tile floor. As tile sizes continue to grow, builders are still not providing the suitably flat substrates that these tiles require; hence also the requirement for using leveling compounds should be specified to complement the large format tile installation process. Large tile requires super flat substrates: the larger the tile, the flatter the substrate. Trying to correct the flatness of the surface with thin-set mortar, which is the scenario seen in many jobsites, invariably leads to an unsatisfactory installation. Thin-set mortars do not have the compressive strength of the required leveling compounds, and any exerted stress may lead to weakening of mortar and bond failure.

First and foremost, the flatness of the surface is job one. This applies to wall as well as for floor installations. Flextile leveling compounds **Flextile 59** (up to ½") and **5900** (up to 2"), as well as **Flextile Patch** are quite well suited for various requirements of leveling. **Flextile Drypack Mortar** is also widely used for building up and leveling thicker applications, and where fast curing is a requirement, **Flextile Fast Set Screed** may be used for screeding small or large area requirements up to 4" thick.

The final phase in surface preparation for large format tile installation is protecting against cracks with possible surface movement or shrinkage stresses, and a crack isolation membrane or an uncoupling membrane should be installed accordingly. For concrete slabs cured less than 28days, **FlexMat Uncoupling Membrane** should be recommended. Any movement in the concrete, including "green concrete" will "uncouple" the tile installation from the concrete floor through the fleece, and excess moisture in the slab dissipates through the open channels on the underside of the membrane. On fully cured substrates, the use of **Flexilastic 1000** is the other option for isolating cracks from the tile assembly, and has been used with great success on many significant projects.