

CONTACT US for Technical Information & Project Recommendations

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## PRODUCT PROGRESS REPORT



**FlexMat** continues to grow in terms of sales and overall customer awareness with respect to providing a quality full system uncoupling membrane alternative in conjunction with Flextile mortars and other setting components. New independent test data from TCNA shows that a **FlexMat** system for porcelain tile installation on plywood and concrete substrates, complete with Flextile Polymer Modified Mortars, offers industry leading bond strengths and service ratings – more proof that **Yes You Can** (and should) use Polymer Modified Mortars for porcelain tile bond coats over uncoupling membranes. Recent independent tests also show that **FlexMat**, when installed with Flextile **5400 Maxi-Flex** ANSI A118.5 / ISO C2 Polymer Modified Mortar, allows for quicker curing of the setting bed than our leading competitor's product with their designated bond coat mortar. **FlexMat's** unique design of its vapor channels on the underside allows moisture to dissipate at a quicker rate, enabling high latex content Flextile mortars to provide a superior bond to the substrate. Contact Flextile @ [mzerey@flextile.net](mailto:mzerey@flextile.net) or [mboldt@flextile.net](mailto:mboldt@flextile.net) for further information and test data on **FlexMat** and its advantageous installation properties.



**Flextile 1600 RSG Fast-Setting PM Sanded Grout** has been under-utilized since its inception in 2013. **1600 RSG** offers two distinct advantages over standard PM sanded grouts: namely the ability to greatly reduce or eliminate the dreaded Efflorescence on applications using dark coloured grouts such as Jet Black, Charcoal, Mocha, etc.; and it also compliments our other fast-setting products such as membranes and tile bond coats to provide a complete fast-setting installation system for tile or stone under time-sensitive schedules (i.e. pool facilities, exterior installations, renovations). **1600 RSG** should always be presented to contractors or specifiers as an option to our standard 600 Sanded Grout when these types of conditions exist.

**Flextile 6000 Grout Optimizer** is now available in a 1.9 L / 0.5 USG size. ~~Since the launch of FlexMat~~



requests for this smaller size in order to meet customer demands. This type of product continues to sell well in many markets, as customers look for improved grout performance such as stain resistance, greater density, and maximum strength – without having to go with a resin-based grout

**Flextile 5400 Maxi-Flex** meets today's most demanding industry standards for high performance latex Portland cement mortars. Meeting the ISO 13007 C2 and new North American ANSI A118.15 standards for maximum movement capability and performance in water immersion and freeze/thaw conditions, **5400 Maxi-Flex** is a legitimate replacement for two-component latex mortar systems for these types of installations. **5400 Maxi-Flex** contains the latest in polymer technologies, making it the ideal choice in Flextile's product line



to compete directly with one-component products of this type heavily promoted by our competitors. Available in Grey & White formulas, **5400 Maxi-Flex** is competitively priced, and ideally suited for use with Flextile membranes such as **WP900/980**, **Flexilastic 1000/2000SC**, and **FlexMat** for critical performance installations.

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## FLEXITILE PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



In this project Flextile and Olympia Tile worked together to provide a complete tile and installation system for the 23 separate ONroute Highway Service Centers along Highways 401 and 400 in the Greater Toronto Area. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver-certified buildings feature adhesives, mortars and grouts from Flextile that qualify for LEED points through high recycled content, locally sourced raw materials & local production, and low volatile organic compounds (VOC) targeting a minimum of 20 per cent regional materials and 15 percent recycled content. Olympia Tile's Eco-Leader porcelain tile series was selected which is manufactured using 40% recycled material, exceeding the targets set for the LEED certification.

**INSTALLATION:** Tiles were installed using **Flextile 61**, a premier polymer-modified, full-contact mortar designed specifically for large modular tile and stone, exhibiting excellent movement capability and bond strength while effecting excellent mortar transfer to the back of tile – probably the most important aspect of Large Format Tile installation. For the wall tile applications, **Flextile 66 FlexLite** was utilized, for its excellent non-sag properties and its FlexLite Technology for ease of troweling. **FlexLite 66** is formulated with recycled material for high contribution to LEED credits. Grouting was completed using **ColourMax Plus**, providing high stain resistance, colour uniformity and overall performance superior to cementitious grouts, also with high contribution to LEED credits.

**COMPLETION** A successful installation was realized through the efforts of all parties and strict accordance to TTMAC/TCNA standards, highlighted by a close working relationship between Flextile/Olympia and other project participants. The ONroute Highway Service Centers are just another testament to our ability to supply and complete challenging projects to the highest of quality standards.

## TECHNICAL TIPS

### MOISTURE IN CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

Tile bond coat mortars, bonded membranes, and some tile & stones themselves can be negatively affected by excessive moisture contained in concrete substrates. Generally, new concrete slabs should be cured for a minimum of 28 days (up to 90 days in cold, damp or exterior conditions). Flextile does not recommend the installation of ceramic tile or stone on slabs cured less than 28 days, unless an uncoupling system such as **Flextile FlexMat** (refer to *FlexMat installation brochure*) or a moisture barrier such as **Flextile 4020 Moisture Barrier** is used, or a vapor emission of less than 1.36 kg/92.9m<sup>2</sup> (3 lbs/1000 Ft<sup>2</sup>) per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test method ASTM F189 or less than 75% relative humidity as measured with a moisture probe test per ASTM F2170 is determined.



ASTM F2170 Moisture Probe



ASTM F189 Calcium Chloride Test Kit

Moisture moving through a concrete slab that negatively affects tile & stone installation assemblies is generally defined by two types: **Negative Hydrostatic Pressure** is actual water that is in contact with the bottom of the slab, and moves through the slab due to surface pressures. **Vapor Emission** is moisture that is contained in the concrete mixture itself and passes through the slab during the natural curing process of the concrete. Either of these scenarios can present problems that may be critical to the performance of installation components such as self levelling underlayments, waterproof or crack isolation membranes, tile bond coat mortars, and grout. Retarding or prohibiting the proper cure of bonding components or even re-emulsifying certain components in extreme moisture conditions, and efflorescence are unfortunately far too common occurrences in today's fast-track building construction schedules. It is important that we work with specifiers and our trade contractor clients to ensure we recommend the proper substrate and environmental conditions, installation system components, and curing times for Flextile products being used. The use of a **Flextile Fast-Setting** surface preparation/installation system and/or the **FlexMat** or **4020 Moisture Barrier** moisture management systems are options we have available to help address these concerns, along with proper recommendations for testing concrete slabs for moisture prior to the application of installation