

quickset

Tile Adhesive & Grout

PRODUCT RANGE

Reliable solutions for every tile, every project and every finish.



STRONG BOND

Superior adhesion that stands the test of time.



DURABLE FINISH

Resists cracks, water and daily wear.



TRUSTED QUALITY

Engineered to meet international standards.



quickset – a product of



Profiles Fix
Company Ltd



Floors



Walls



Interiors



Exteriors



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Introduction



“ The standard for all Protiles products involves rigorous pre-launch testing, then continuous testing throughout the year. ”

With the fast growing population rates and the strong wave of rural-urban migration in Africa, Protiles Fix Company Ltd's Market driven approach provides the underlying demand for our products.

Protiles Fix Company Ltd is the specialized entity responsible for the Chemical division and other construction solutions.

Protiles broke new grounds in the manufacture of tile adhesives and grouts by being the first manufacturer to regularly submit for independent evaluation by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). The Standard for all Protiles products involves rigorous pre-launch testing, then continuous testing through-out the year.

We are committed to manufacturing high quality products and developing/supporting quality workmanship through training sessions for tilers, in addition to providing educational literature to key stake holders in the construction industry.

All Protiles products are easy to use and perfectly compatible for premium performance and peace of Mind

Vision:

To be a provider of choice for construction chemicals in Africa and to continuously deliver share holder value.

Mission:

To deliver innovative, quality & cost efficient solutions.

Values:

Integrity, Reliability, customer focused, team work, efficiency, safety and accountability.



Adhesives

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normal cementitious adhesive



1. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Description	Normal Cementitious Tile Adhesive is a tiling adhesive mortar combining cement with selected grades of silica sand and several admixtures. Normal cementitious Tile Adhesive has good bonding and consistency in different climate, and can be used for fixing floor and wall ceramic tiles. Only requires addition of water.
Uses	Normal Cementitious Tile Adhesive provides the following properties: • Good bond adhesion • Fixing wide range of tiles • Factory mixed - Consistent quality • Better coverage: 4-6 m² per 20 Kg (based on thickness of 4mm mortar for floor and 3mm for wall) • Better workability. Save 25-50% of time • Tiles can be adjusted up to 30 minutes after application
In the following substrates:	• Concrete Cementitious plaster and render • Gypsum plasterboards • Hard natural and reconstituted stone • Solid rock • Hollow and solid masonry
Characteristics/ Advantages	• Low wastage • Excellent adhesion to the substrate • Initial setting time is up to 8 hours • Final setting time starting 12 hours • Economical by 10-20% than conventional mortar • Pot life up to 2h30 mins at 20°C

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normal cementitious adhesive

2. TESTS

Approval/Standards	Tested according to US:ISO 13007-1:2010 (UNBS standards)		
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3. FORM

Color	Grey		
Packaging	Bag of 20 Kg	20 Kg	

4. STORAGE

Storage Conditions/ Shelf-life	2 months from date of production if stored properly in original unopened, sealed and undamaged packaging in cool and dry conditions at temperatures between +5°C and +35°C. Protect from direct sunlight. Protect from humidity.		
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5. TECHNICAL DATA

Density	1.3 Kg/Liter		
Curing Speed	Temperature	Open Time	Curing Time
	>+40°C	15 minutes	8 hours
Water Needed	5 Liters per 20 Kg bag.		
Minimum Layer Thickness	3 mm.		

6. MECHANICAL/PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Pull Out Strength	Open time by tensile adhesion (according to US:ISO 13007-1:2010):	
	Conditions:	
	At 10 min	0.80 MPa
	At 20 min	0.70 MPa
	Extended at 30 min	0.60 MPa
	Pull-off stress (according to US:ISO 13007-1:2010):	

quickset

normal cementitious adhesive

	Conditions:	
	1 day	N/A
	7 days	0.8 MPa
	28 days	1.2 MPa

7. APPLICATION DETAILS

Consumption/Dosage	Material consumption is 3 Kg/ m ² when applied using a notched wall trowel, then approximately 6 Kg/m ² when using a floor notched trowel (the actual coverage will be determined by the site conditions, workmanship etc).
Substrate Preparation	The substrate must be free from oil, grease and loose materials. It must not have cracks and must be dry (no standing water).
Grouting	Allow at least 24 hours after completing the tiling before grouting can commence. Ensure that all adhesive is removed from joints.

8. APPLICATION DETAILS

Mixing	Empty contents into a suitable container add 5 liters of cold water. Mix to a creamy consistency. Do not add more water. The usage of a mechanical mixer with low rotation speed is recommended. Keep the paste rest for 2 to 3 mins prior application.
Product Application	Apply Normal Cementitious Tile Adhesive on the substrate using a 6 mm notched trowel in order to achieve a minimum uniform thickness of 3 mm. Apply mortar over areas not exceeding 1.0m ² at once. Press the tile firmly into the substrate and gently adjust the level by twisting slightly within 15 minutes, ensure proper transfer of the mortar, at least 85% to the back of the tile. For better and full adhesion, apply the tile adhesive on both: back of the tile and substrate. Remove excess mortar from tile face using a damp cloth.
Cleaning Of Tools	Clean all tools and application equipment with water immediately after use. Hardened/cured material can only be removed mechanically.

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heavy duty tile adhesive



1. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Description	Heavy Duty Tile Adhesive is a cement based, polymer modified tile adhesive mortar, for indoor and outdoor application, especially for submerged conditions and where heavy traffic is present. It has excellent bonding properties. It is ideal for the application of: Porcelain tiles and low water absorptive tiles, marble and granite slabs & tiles, ceramic & glass mosaics, large stoneware tiles and ceramic tiles.	
Uses	Heavy Duty Tile Adhesive provides the following properties: • Good bond adhesion • Fixing wide range of tiles • Factory mixed - Consistent quality • Better coverage: 4-6 m² per 20 Kg (based on thickness of 4 mm mortar for floor and 3 mm for wall) • Better workability. Save 25-50% of time • Tiles can be adjusted up to 20 minutes after application	
In the following substrates:	• Concrete cementitious plaster and render • Swimming pools • Bathrooms • Heavy traffic areas	• Gypsum plasterboards • Hard natural and reconstituted stone • Solid rock
Characteristics/ Advantages	• Low wastage • Excellent adhesion to the substrate • Initial setting time is up to 6 hours depending on the substrate and the temperature • Final setting time starting 12 hours • Economical by 10-20% than conventional mortar • Pot life up to 2h30min at 20° C	

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heavy duty tile adhesive

2. TESTS

Approval/Standards	Tested according to US:ISO 13007-1:2010 (UNBS standards)
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3. FORM

People and Places is the best time ever

Color	Grey
Packaging	Bag of 20 Kg

4. STORAGE

Storage Conditions/ Shelf-life	12 months from date of production if stored properly in original unopened, sealed and undamaged packaging in cool and dry conditions at temperatures between +5°C and +35°C. Protect from direct sunlight. Protect from humidity.
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5. TECHNICAL DATA

Density	1.3 Kg/Liter		
Curing Speed	Temperature	Open Time	Curing Time
	>+40°C	15 minutes	6 hours
Water Needed	5 Liters per 20 Kg bag.		
Minimum Layer Thickness	3 mm.		

6. MECHANICAL/PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Pull Out Strength	Open time by tensile adhesion (according to US:ISO 13007-1:2010)	
	Conditions:	
	At 10 min	0.80 MPa
	At 20 min	0.70 MPa
	Extended at 30 min	0.60 MPa
	Pull-off stress (according to US:ISO 13007-1:2010)	

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heavy duty tile adhesive

	Conditions:	
	1 day	N/A
	7 days	0.8 MPa
	28 days	1.2 MPa

7. APPLICATION DETAILS

Consumption/Dosage	Material consumption is 3 Kg/ m ² when applied using a notched wall trowel, then approximately 6 Kg/m ² when using a floor notched trowel (the actual coverage will be determined by the site conditions, workmanship etc).
Substrate Preparation	The substrate must be must be free from oil, grease and loose materials. It must not have cracks and must be dry (no standing water).
Grouting	Allow at least 24 hours after completing the tilling before grouting can commence. Ensure that all adhesive is removed from joints.

8. APPLICATION DETAILS

Mixing	Empty contents into a suitable container add 5 liters of cold water. Mix to a creamy consistency. Do not add more water. The usage of a mechanical mixer with low rotation speed is recommended. Keep the paste rest for 2 to 3 min prior application.
Product Application	Apply Heavy Duty Tile Adhesive on the substrate using a 6 mm notched trowel in order to achieve a minimum uniform thickness of 3 mm. Apply mortar over areas not exceeding 1.0m ² at once. Press the tile firmly into the substrate and gently adjust the level by twisting slightly within 15 minutes, ensure proper transfer of the mortar, at least 85% to the back of the tile. For better and full adhesion, apply the tile adhesive on both: back of the tile and substrate. Remove excess mortar from tile face using a damp cloth.
Cleaning Of Tools	Clean all tools and application equipment with water immediately after use. Hardened/cured material can only be removed mechanically.

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multi-white flexible adhesive



1. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Description	Multi-White Flexible Tile Adhesive is a ready mixed high strength cement base tile adhesive, recommended to fix marble, granite, travertine onto substrates of rendering and screed. Due to its non-stain characteristics it is also recommended to fix white ceramic and porcelain tiles.
Uses	Multi-White Flexible Tile Adhesive provides the following properties: • Good bond adhesion • Fixing wide range of tiles • Factory mixed - Consistent quality • Better coverage: 4-6 m² per 20 Kg (based on thickness of 4 mm mortar for floor and 3 mm for wall) • Better workability. Save 25-50% of time • Tiles can be adjusted up to 20 minutes after application
In the following substrates:	• Concrete cementitious plaster and render • Swimming pools • Bathrooms • Heavy traffic areas • Gypsum plasterboards • Hard natural and reconstituted stone • Solid rock
Characteristics/Advantages	• Low wastage • Excellent bonding and high strength to the substrates • Initial setting time is up to 6 hours depending on the substrate and the temperature • Final setting time starting 12 hours and can be trafficable • Economical by 10-20% than conventional mortar • Pot life up to 2h30min at 20°C

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multi-white flexible adhesive

2. TESTS

Approval/Standards	Tested according to US:ISO 13007-1:2010 (UNBS standards)
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3. FORM

Color	Off white
Packaging	Bag of 20 Kg

4. STORAGE

Storage Conditions/ Shelf-life	12 months from date of production if stored properly in original unopened, sealed and undamaged packaging in cool and dry conditions at temperatures between +5°C and +35°C. Protect from direct sunlight. Protect from humidity.
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5. TECHNICAL DATA

Density	1.3 Kg/Litre		
Curing Speed	Temperature	Open Time	Curing Time
	>+40°C	15 minutes	6 hours
Water Needed	5 Liters per 20 Kg bag.		
Minimum Layer Thickness	3 mm.		

6. MECHANICAL/PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Pull Out Strength	Open time by tensile adhesion (according to US:ISO 13007-1:2010):	
	Conditions:	
	At 10 min	0.80 MPa
	At 20 min	0.70 MPa
	Extended at 30 min	0.60 MPa
	Pull-off stress (according to US:ISO 13007-1:2010)	

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multi-white flexible adhesive

Conditions:

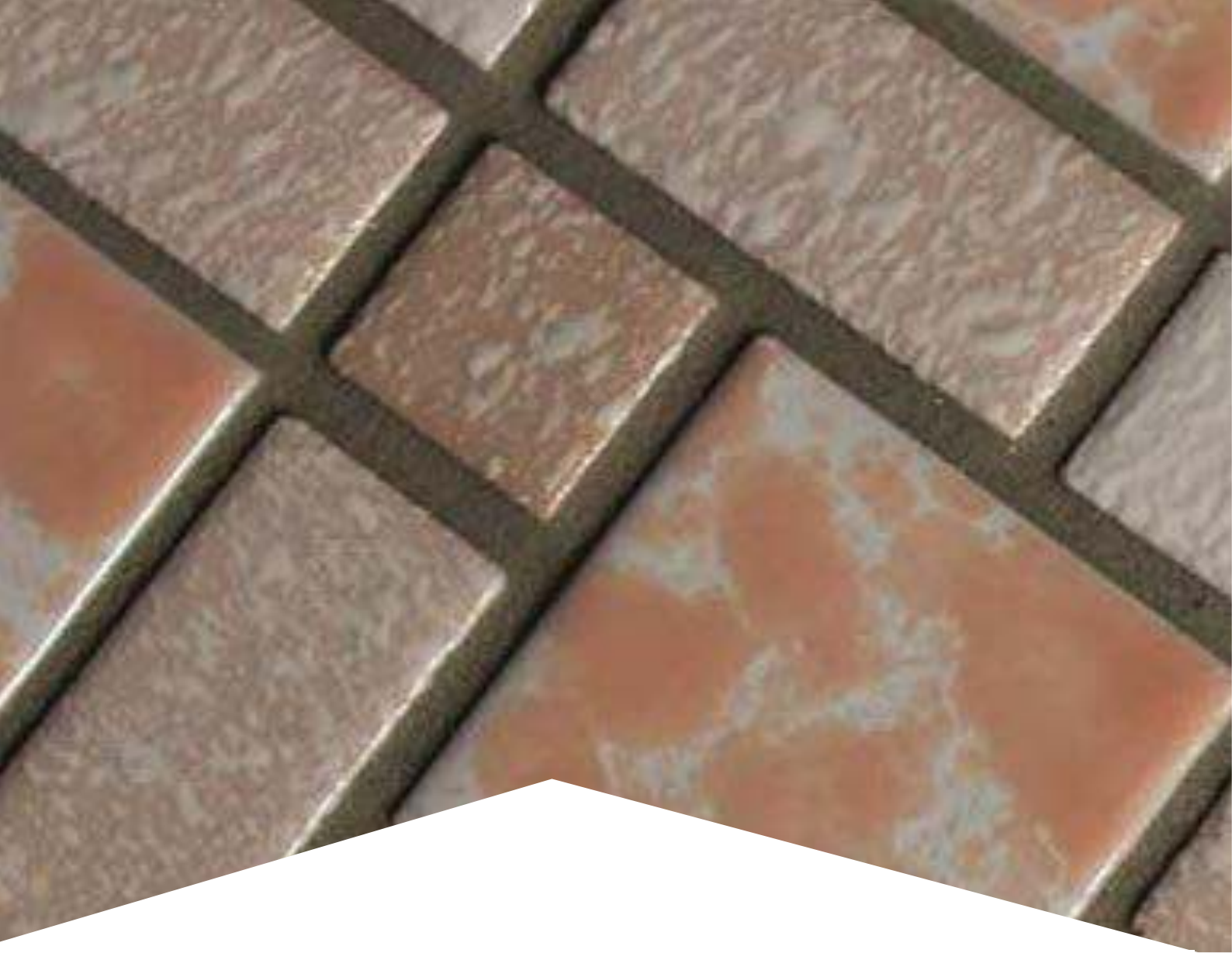
1 day	N/A
7 days	0.8 MPa
28 days	1.2 MPa

7. APPLICATION DETAILS

Consumption/Dosage	Material consumption is 3 Kg/ m ² when applied using a notched wall trowel, then approximately 6 Kg/m ² when using a floor notched trowel (the actual coverage will be determined by the site conditions, workmanship etc).
Substrate Preparation	The substrate must be free from oil, grease and loose materials. It must not have cracks and must be dry (no standing water).
Grouting	Allow at least 24 hours after completing the tiling before grouting can commence. Ensure that all adhesive is removed from joints.

8. APPLICATION DETAILS

Mixing	Empty contents into a suitable container add 5 liters of cold water. Mix to a creamy consistency. Do not add more water. The usage of a mechanical mixer with low rotation speed is recommended. Keep the paste rest for 2 to 3 mins prior application.
Product Application	Apply Multi White Flexible Tile Adhesive on the substrate using a 6 mm notched trowel in order to achieve a minimum uniform thickness of 3 mm. Apply mortar over areas not exceeding 1.0m ² at once. Press the tile firmly into the substrate and gently adjust the level by twisting slightly within 15 minutes, ensure proper transfer of the mortar, at least 85% to the back of the tile. For better and full adhesion, apply the tile adhesive on both: back of the tile and substrate. Remove excess mortar from tile face using a damp cloth.
Cleaning Of Tools	Clean all tools and application equipment with water immediately after use. Hardened/cured material can only be removed mechanically.



Grouts

quickset grouts



Description

Quickset Tile Grout is specially blended from selected high quality performance cements, fillers, pigments and synthetic additive.

Only add water to provide a creamy paste. When set, the hardened grout paste is non shrink mold and mildew resistant.

Technical Data

Class CG1

Type: Powder

Powder Bulk Density; 1.2 grammes per Cubic Centimeters

Colour: Light Grey, Cream, Dark Grey and White

Packaging: 1Kg, 5 Kg and 10 Kg

Coverage: Depending on tile size and spacing. Approx 0.25 Kgs required to fill joints 1 Sqm coverage

Set Time: 24 Hours at 22 degrees

Storage: This product must be stored in unopened bags, clear of the ground in cool dry conditions.

Shelf Life: 12 months for an unopened bag in a cool dry environment off the floor.

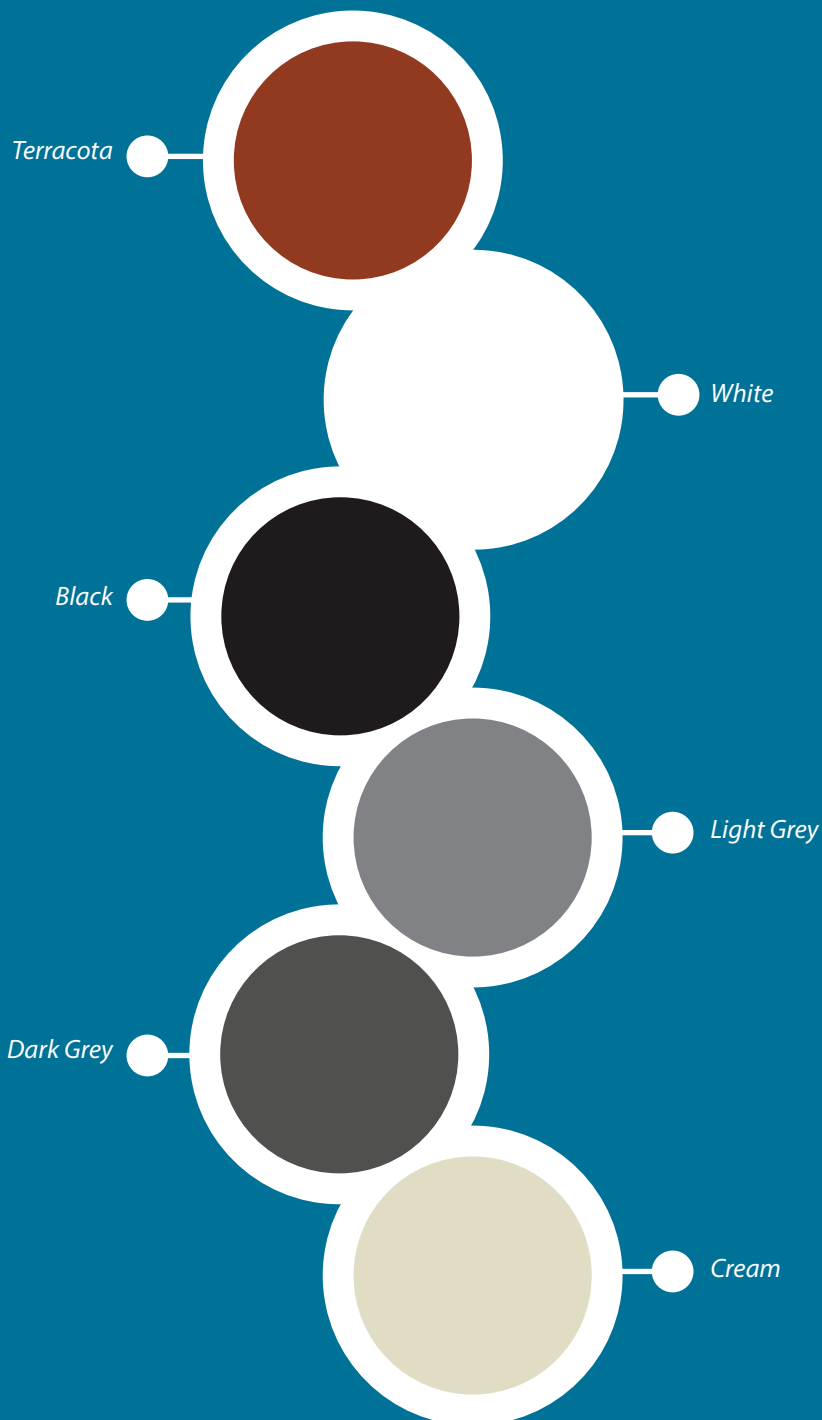
Mixing Ratio: 1 liter of water per 4 kilos of product.

Joint Width: Upto 3MM

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Colour Chart

The Following grout colours are available from Quickset





Other Products

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white cement



Product Description

White cement is a specialized type of Portland cement distinguished by its bright white color, achieved through the use of carefully selected raw materials and a specific manufacturing process.

It's used in both structural and decorative applications where a bright white finish is desired or required, offering strength and durability along with aesthetic appeal.

Product Data Sheet

Essential characteristics		Typical value	Requirements in EN 197-1
1 day strength	MPa	29	
2 days strength	MPa	42	≥ 30
28 days strength	MPa	67	≥ 52.5
Initial setting time	min	125	≥ 45
Standard Consistency		29	
Soundness	mm	0.5	≤ 10
Fineness	m ² /kg	460	
Reflectance (DIN 5033)	%	86.5	
Hunter L		93.0	
Hunter a		-1.4	
Hunter b		3.5	
Absolute density	kg/m ³	3150	
Bogue composition – Clinker / ASTM			
C ₃ S	%	72	
C ₂ S	%	17	
C ₃ A	%	6	
C ₄ AF	%	0.8	
Chemical properties			
SO ₃	%	3.4	≤ 4.0
MgO	%	0.2	
Alkalies as Na ₂ O	%	0.5	
Cl ⁻	%	0.07	≤ 0.10
Loss on ignition	%	3.5	≤ 5.0
Insoluble residue	%	0.2	≤ 5.0
Water soluble Cr ⁶⁺	mg/kg	≤ 2.0	

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waterproof powder

Technical Data **Mortar Mix Design**

Suggested Mix Proportions

Building Mortar	Weight
Cement	50kg
Building sand	250kg
External Plaster	Weight
Water proof	1kg
Cement	50kg
Plaster sand	250kg
Floor Screed	Weight
Water proof	1kg
Cement	50kg
River sand	200kg

Density : 1kg per 50kg of Portland cement i.e. 2% by weight of cement

Mixing :

Waterproof is added to the dry mix of Portland cement and sand prior to the addition of the gauging water. Dry component should be mixed thoroughly before water is added to ensure a proper distribution of the water-proof throughout the mix.

Limitations :

Overdosing can cause retardation of set. The quality and waterproofness of the cement mortar mixes may be affected by one or more of the following: Poor quality sand, Poorly graded sand, Excessive dust in the sand, Excess water, Excess cement and Lack of adequate curing.

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skim coat



Product Description

Skim coat is a high-performance, fast-drying, white cement based mortar designed to create a smooth, water resistant, uniform surface on walls and ceilings before final finishes like paint or coverings are applied.

It is used to repair minor defects, level imperfections, gives a good adhesion and superior finish.

Uses

Repair minor defects, holes, cracks, and pre-fill non-moving joints and seams in concrete and wood substrates.

Specifically for both for interior ceiling and wall application

Formulated for use on plastering surface smooth concrete surface, gypsum boards and pre cast wall panel

Characteristics/Advantages:

- Resistance to mold and alkaline
- Ideal as base layer for receiving paint
- Designed to achieve smooth finishing after polish
- Excellent adhesion
- No need for undercoat

Application

Add 8-10 liters of clean water in 25kg of Quickset Skim Coat. Thickness of application should be 1.0mm.

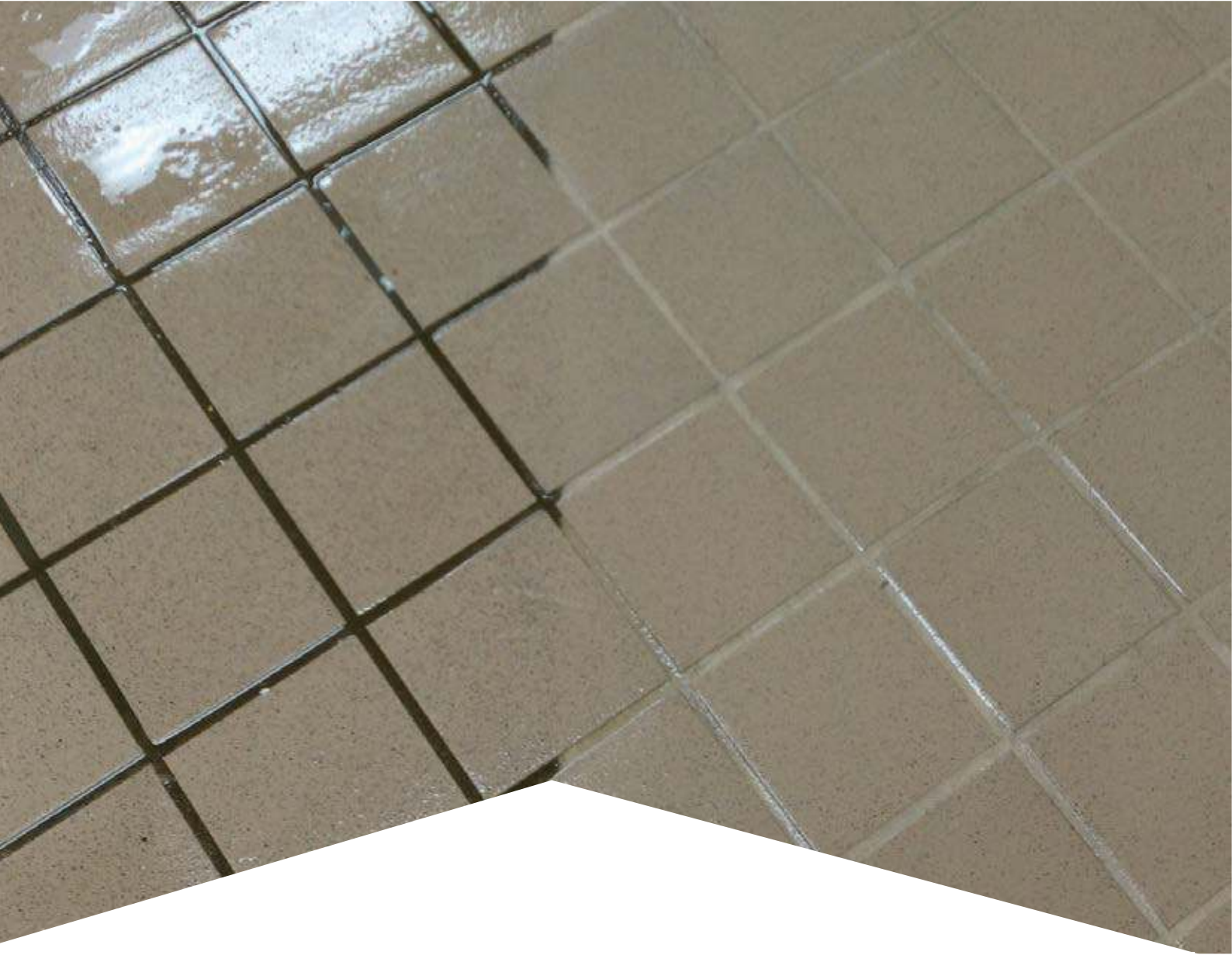
Pot life: Approximately 2 hours Coverage: 2-2.5 Sqm/r/kg/mm
The surface should be cleaned of all dust and imperfections. For best results, it is important the surface is pre-wet properly before application of Quickset Skim Coat.

Apply the skim coat using a steel trowel at a thickness of approximately 1mm and the second coat after Allow the surface to dry over night for 10-12 hours. 240# or 600# sand paper should be used for sanding the applied surface before painting.

Storage Conditions/ Shelf life

Store in a cool dry place

Shelf life : 2 years from the date of manufacture



Cleaning Chemicals



quickKleen

Grout and Cement Remover



Grout and Cement Remover

It is a special blend of acids specifically formulated to remove grout and mortar residues from porous and non-porous surfaces.

It removes grout stains from floors after grouting has taken place.

Instructions

Depending on the severity of the stain to determine the ratio of about 1:20 times with water, after cleaning you should immediately flush with plenty of water.

Warning

Keep out of the reach of children. In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice. If swallowed, seek medical advice immediately and show this container or label.

Storage

Store in a cool, dry, frost free place.

Ingredients

Glycolic Acid, Glycolic acid, Phosphoric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid.

quickKleen

Tile Cleaner



Tile Cleaner

It's a concentrated floor tile cleaner for ceramic, porcelain and natural stone floors. It kills germs, shines and tough on grease and stains.

Instructions

Depending on the severity of the stain to determine the dilution ratio usually about 1:5, after cleaning you should immediately rinse with water.

Warning

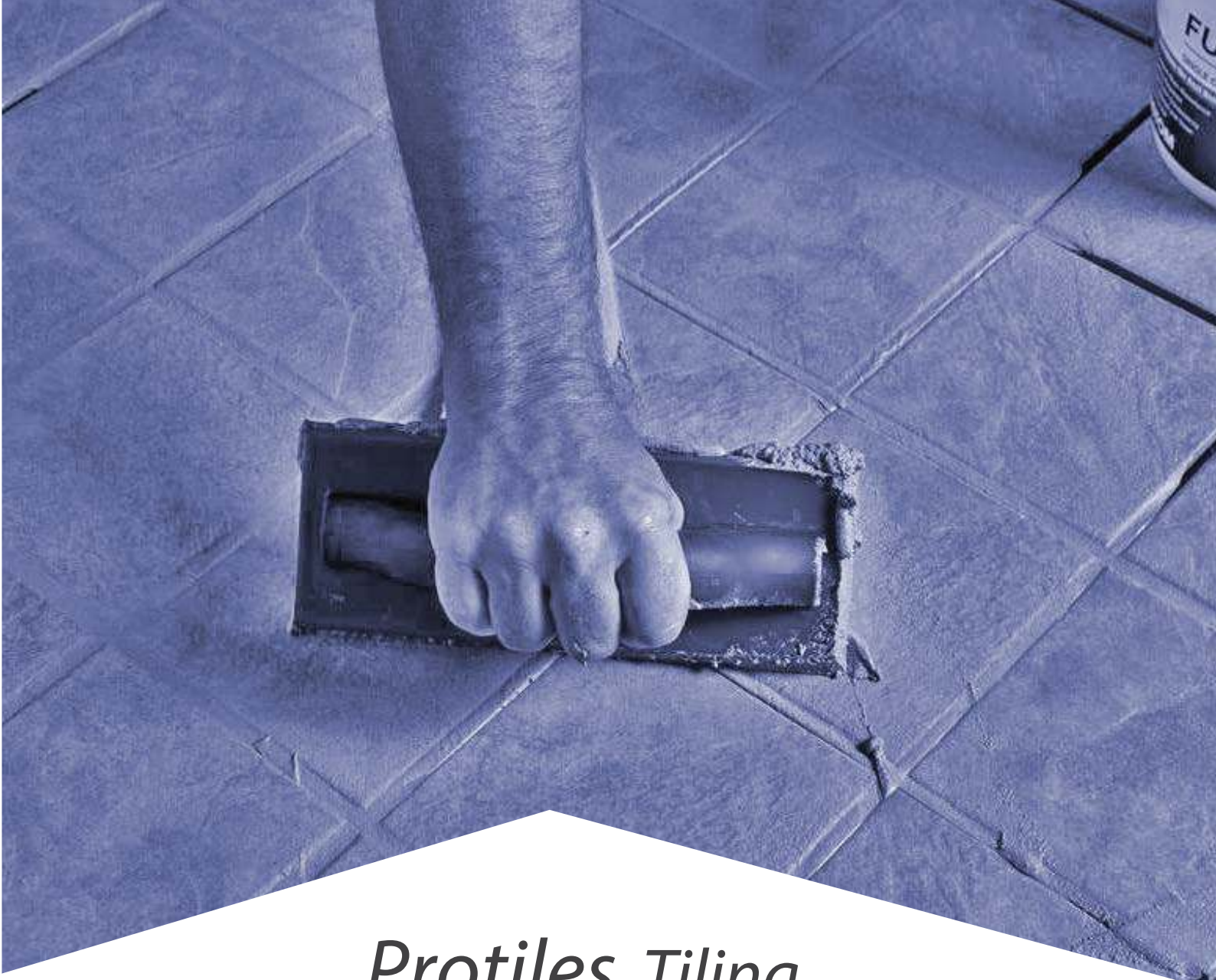
Keep out of the reach of children. In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice. If swallowed, seek medical advice immediately and show this container or label.

Storage

Store in a cool, dry, frost free place.

Ingredients

Fatty alcohol polyoxyethylene ether, Glycolic acid, Phosphoric acid, Hydrochloric acid.



Profiles Tiling Questions and Answers



Why floor tiles get drummy or loose?

If your floor tiles are drummy or hollow sounding, you really do need to take some action. This situation will generally become obvious as soon as the tiles are laid.

It means that the adhesive does not have a good bond between the tiles and the substrate, or that there are hollow voids of missing adhesive under the tiles. If tiles are laid correctly and there is 100% adhesive coverage, and the bond is sound, then the tiles effectively become one with the substrate.

As the floor is used and subjected to foot traffic, the tiles that are not correctly laid will most likely break, crack, chip, or fail in some other way. In extreme circumstances, the tiles will actually lift off the floor.

What can cause the problem?

Drummy or loose tiles can be caused by a number of reasons including:

- *Not enough adhesive under the tiles, or 'dobbing' of the adhesive under the tiles. This leaves hollow voids.*
- *The wrong adhesive has been used and it has not bonded with to the tiles or substrate. Or, in wet areas, the adhesive is not suitable and has broken down.*
- *The adhesive has skinned before the tiles were laid. This means that the adhesive was put down and left too long and the surface has dried. This prevents a sound bond to the tile.*

- *If the subject tiling is over a timber floor, then the incorrect adhesive may have been used. Special adhesive must be used for a permanent and sound bond over timber, and the instructions followed closely.*

- *Excess movement of the floor boards can also create a problem, especially if the adhesive is not a flexible product.*

So what is the solution?

The bad news is that any drummy or loose tiles on a floor will cause problems down the track.

This situation is not a fault of the tiles; the builder, tiler or tile retailer must take responsibility.

If the retailer specified the wrong adhesive, then that needs to be corrected. The first step is to talk to the retailer and check the suitability of the adhesive.

If the tiler has supplied the adhesive and it is not suitable, or he has let it skin, or he has not prepared the floor correctly; then he will need to correct the problem.

Likewise, if there is excessive 'bounce' in the timber floor, then the builder or tiler needs to rectify the project.

The excessive floor movement should have been fixed before the tiles were laid.



Why floor tiles pop up or buckle?

Structural movement in homes and buildings is a fact of life. Different substrates will move, settle, shrink, or expand depending on the conditions. Some tiles can also grow in size as they absorb moisture in the period shortly after manufacture.

Problems can develop if tiles are laid without flexible adhesives, and no allowance for the expansion and contraction of the substrate.

One situation that can develop is if tiles are laid onto concrete before it has had time to completely cure. The general rule of thumb is to allow one month to cure per 25mm of thickness of the concrete slab. Even then, the average house slab can take up to two years to completely cure (and shrink). If this structural movement is not allowed for by using the correct adhesives and including expansion joints, something has to give. There have even been reports of tiles exploding unexpectedly. This is due to extreme lateral pressures as the walls and floor move in different directions. Nobody is expecting their tiles to explode!

What can cause the problem?

- Not using the correct adhesive over a concrete slab that is still curing (we refer to such a slab as being green).

- Not allowing for expansion or movement around the perimeter of a tiled area, and at 4.5 metre intervals in a grid pattern through the floor.

- Incorrect installation of movement joints. These must travel through the tile and adhesive to the substrate and must be fully filled with a flexible silicone or rubber compound.

Incorrectly laid tiles are solely the responsibility of the tiler or builder. You will need to arrange for the tiler or builder to fix the problem.

In the unlikely situation that the problem is discovered early, and a flexible adhesive was used, and some tiles have not actually exploded, one solution can be to cut expansion joints around the perimeter. This is done by cutting 6mm off the edge of the tiles (through both the tile and the adhesive bed) and removing that strip. Then fill it with silicone. This is not a guaranteed solution, so it may still be worth talking to your tiler or builder.

So what can I do now?

The only remedy is to remove the tiles and retile the area correctly. The movement that would cause buckling prevents replacement of the buckled area, because the removed tiles will not fit into the smaller space.



Why does grout go crumbly and soft?

Grout is used to fill the joints between tiles and help make a smooth, attractive surface that is both water resistant and easy to maintain. If the grout is crumbly, or powdery and falling out; it is obvious that it can't perform this task.

It is important to remedy this situation quickly, especially in bathrooms where this risk of water penetrating the joints and causing damage to the substrate or the building structure.

Crumbly or powdery grout is due to poor mixing and application.

What can cause the problem?

When grout and water are mixed together, a chemical reaction called 'hydration' is started. It is this reaction that causes the grout to go from a thick paste to a hard tile joint. Powdery or crumbly grout is likely to occur if the tiler:

- Doesn't wet the joints before applying the grout.
 - Doesn't mix the grout to a consistent, thick and creamy paste.
 - Doesn't fill the whole grout joint and compress the grout into the joint when grouting.
 - Uses old grout that is past its expiry date or shelf life.
- Before application, and especially on soft biscuit wall tiles, the tiler needs to wet the joints where he intends to grout.

This extra moisture slows the hydration process. With soft biscuit tiles, the body of the tile soaks up the moisture in the grout. With incorrect hydration, the grout will not cure or dry correctly and the result is powdery or crumbly grout.

If the grout is not mixed thoroughly, patches of grouted areas on the wall or floor will end up powdery or crumbly. The use of a rubber squeegee (trowel) and a firm sweeping action across the joints ensures that the grout is compressed into the joint and completely fills the joint without voids. Incorrectly applied grout will be unserviceable and is likely to crack and fall out over time.

Grout has a shelf life of about 12 months from date of manufacture. After this time it is likely to go powdery and is unsuitable for use.

So what can I do now?

The only way to rectify this problem is to scrape out the grout and replace it. This is done by using a grout rake. Once the joints are clean, apply the correctly mixed grout.

Note: Never grout the internal corners between two walls or the internal corner where a wall and floor meet. Movement and different rates of expansion and contraction will cause these joints to crack and fail. Silicone must be used in these places.



Why does grout change colour and It goes to white?

Under certain circumstances, a white powder can form on grout, especially on floor tiles. This is a natural phenomenon called efflorescence. It is due to soluble salts rising to the surface of a cement based product. When they dry out on the surface, the remaining salts appear white and powdery.

Efflorescence often manifests itself in the cement joints of new brickwork. Numerous studies have been made around the world to try to determine why it can appear on one installation, and not on another under apparently identical conditions. One of the few things we do know are that it happens when Portland Cement is present, and that there is no real solution for it. Efflorescence does clear up over time unless there is an ongoing issue with rising damp from the substrate. It is defined as the 'migration of soluble salts.

This is not due to substandard tiles, adhesives, or grout; and generally, there is nothing to worry about.

What can cause the problem?

As explained, is it simply soluble salts that are present in the cement based product. This can be the concrete, mortar bed, tile adhesive, or grout. These rise to the surface, and as it dries an annoying

white powder remains on the surface. The grout is the weakest link in the floor surface, so this is where the salts will migrate.

So what can I do now?

The only real solution is to brush the grout with a stiff bristled brush and vacuum away. Repeat this from time to time, and eventually, it will generally stop recurring. You can also wash the area with a 50/50 mix of water and Phosphoric acid. Apply, leave for two minutes and then rinse thoroughly.

Some people advocate brushing the salts away and then applying a grout sealer. While these are great products and are worth using in many situations to keep your grout clean and seal out dirt, these products won't always stop efflorescence.



Why does grout go dark or black?

If your grouting has gone dark or black, it is just dirty. This does not mean that you don't keep a clean home or floor, but simply that the way you have been cleaning is not best suited to tiles.

The most common cause of this is that people wash their floors using too much water and detergent. The dirt is washed off the tiles and collects in the grout joints. It settles in these mini gutters and dries out leaving a film of dirt and detergent. Each time the floor is washed, this film builds up and eventually causes the grout to appear black. In truth, the black is just the film of grime sitting on top of the grout.

In some areas where there is ongoing dampness, such as a bathroom, this film is an ideal breeding ground for mould.

What can cause the problem?

Cleaning the floor with too much water and detergent and then not rinsing thoroughly is the most common cause. We should explain here that the way detergent works is to capture dirt and grease on the microscopic level. The reason we mix it with water is to enable this mini globules to be washed away. If we leave a floor wet without rinsing, that film will stay on the floor, especially in the grout joints.

Whenever you wash a floor using any form of detergent, rinse it well with clean water. Most soiling on glazed ceramic tiles will lift off with plain, clean, warm water. The only thing we recommend that you add to the water is a drop or two of disinfectant (or a splash of vinegar) to kill any germs. Any greasy or oily marks can be cleaned up as a spill. For overall cleaning, leave the detergent in the cupboard.

So what can I do now?

Visit your tile store and purchase a bottle of Tile and Grout Cleaner. Wash the floor (and rinse several times) to remove all the built up grime.

From that time on, avoid detergents and just use warm water. Always use the water sparingly; there is no need to flood the floor.

Once the floor is thoroughly clean and dry, it might be wise to seal the grout joints with a grout sealer. Once light application using the trigger spray will seal the grout joints and make them water repellent and easy to clean for around five years.



Projects and Clients

Profiles Fix Company Ltd is the number one choice for many home and project builders. We are honoured to be dependable partners that have delivered and continue to deliver on our promise.

Some of the major projects we have been privileged to work on:

Imperial suites, Mall and Apartments
Mapeera House
DFCU Bank Head office
Canaan Hotel
Mestil Hotel and Apartments
Aponye Building
Brovard Hotel
Skysz Hotel

Construction companies we work with:

Roko Construction Company Ltd
Khalisa Developments (U) Ltd
Cananze Construction Ltd
Metier Contractors
JP Constructions
Seyani Brothers & Co (U) Ltd
Pioneer Construction Limited
PlanBuild Technical Service Limited
Fair Construction
Costa Construction Services Limited
E.t.c.



Mestil Hotel



Skyz Hotel



Rwebajja Estate

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