

INSTALLATION OF DAL TILE® SLIMLITE™ PANELS

DalTile® SlimLite™ Panels are designed for conventional wall tile installation and can be placed over existing tile. These porcelain panels are only 3.5 mm thick and are available in sizes up to 39" x 118" (99 x 100 cm). SlimLite™ Panels are ideal for interior or exterior wall applications.

The key to a successful installation of these thin porcelain tiles is the preparation of the surface. The surface must be flat and true. In most cases, TCNA guidelines for surface tolerance are acceptable. Maximum allowable variation can not be more than 1/8" (3 mm) in 10' (3 M) and no more than 1/16" (1.3 mm) in 3' (91 cm), with no abrupt irregularities greater than 1/32" (.08 mm).

Lippage is another concern, as the current TCNA guidelines allow up to 1/16" (1.6 mm) lippage between adjacent tiles. Because these tiles are so thin, lippage can amount to 50% of the tiles thickness. Therefore, it is important to minimize lippage to less than 1/32" (.08 mm) to prevent damage to the tile. Mechanical leveling systems can assist in minimizing lippage during the installation of these large, thin panels.

Surface Preparation:

Custom® Building Products offers products to assist in preparing the surface:

- Skim Coat & Patch Cement Underlayment is a trowel-applied patching and smoothing compound that should be used to eliminate imperfections in walls. It can be used to bring the surface to the acceptable tolerance.

Once the surface is properly smoothed, it may be necessary to waterproof or treat cracks in the substrate before the installation of the tile.

- RedGard® Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane can be applied to a dry thickness of 30 mils for general waterproofing.

Thin Tile Bonding:

It is important to follow all TCNA recommendations for the installation of porcelain tile. To assure that the tiles do not crack from impact, it is mandatory that the mortar coverage is greater than 95%, with support for all edges of the tile. To achieve continuous contact between the substrate and tiles, a

paint roller or a rubber flooring roller may be useful. Exercise caution when checking thin porcelain tiles for coverage, as removing the tiles can cause them to crack.

Custom® Building Products recommends several mortars for the installation of this thin porcelain tile:

- ProLite® Large Format Tile & Stone Mortar is ideal for installation on walls. Its non-sag formula will support these large tiles without mechanical assistance.
- MegaLite® Crack Prevention Mortar develops higher bond strengths for demanding applications and aids in crack prevention.

MegaLite Crack Prevention Mortar can be used to install DalTile® SlimLite™ Panels with a reinforced resin backing on vertical surfaces, providing the resin backing does not exceed 0.55 kg/M².



For panels with heavier reinforced resin backing coating, Custom® Building Products EBM-Lite™ Epoxy Bonding Mortar must be used.

If a rapid setting mortar is desired to assure early development of the bond, CUSTOM® recommends:

- ProLite® Rapid Setting Large Format Tile & Stone Mortar is ideal for installation on walls.
- MegaLite® Rapid Setting Crack Prevention Mortar for demanding applications because this product develops high bond strength and aids in crack prevention.

Grouting:

The manufacturer of this thin porcelain tile recommends a 1/16" (1.6 mm) grout joint. Since these tiles are so thin, it is important that the mortar is completely removed from the grout joint. Mortar left in the grout joint will reduce the grout thickness to less than 1/8" (3 mm), which can result in grout cracking.

The following grouts from CUSTOM® are acceptable for use with thin porcelain tile:

- Polyblend® Non-Sanded Grout available in 48 colors for joints <1/8" (<3 mm) wide
- Prism® SureColor® Grout which reduces efflorescence and grout shading for 1/16" (1.6 mm) joints
- CEG-Lite® 100% Solids Commercial Epoxy Grout should be used where stain and chemical resistance is important
- Fusion Pro® Single Component Grout™ provides stain resistance, is ready to use, and never needs sealing.

It is important to observe all building codes and TCNA requirements in tile installation. In particular, all movement joints should be properly placed and filled with the appropriate soft jointing material, such as CUSTOM®'s Commercial 100% Silicone Caulk. See TCNA EJ171 for additional information.

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Technical Bulletin

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