



daltile™

# INSTALLATION OF DALTILE® PORCELAIN SLIMLITE™ PANELS (3.5 mm)

Daltile® SlimLite™ Porcelain Panels are designed for conventional interior and exterior 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 300 cm) panels SlimLite™ Panels are ideal for interior or exterior wall applications.

A 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 this can amount to 50% of the tiles thickness. It is therefore important to minimize lippage to less than 1/32" (.08 mm) to prevent damage to the tile.

### 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 into 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% and all edges of the tile must be supported. To achieve continuous contact between the substrate and tiles, a paint roller or a rubber flooring roller may be useful. Exercise caution when checking these thin porcelain tiles for coverage as removing the thin tile can cause them to crack.

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

- ProLite® 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 strength for demanding applications and aids in crack prevention.

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

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

If Daltile® SlimLite™ Panels has a reinforced resin backing, Custom Building Products EBM-Lite™ Epoxy Bonding Mortar — 100% Solids must be used.

### 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) thick. This can result in grout cracking. The following grouts are acceptable for use with this thin porcelain tile.

- Polyblend® Non-sanded Grout is available in 48 colors for joints <1/8" (<3 mm) wide
- Prism® SureColor® Grout 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

It is important to observe all building codes and TCNA requirements in the 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 Detail for additional information.

## Technical Bulletin

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