

# ProLite® RS Premium Rapid Setting Large Format Tile Mortar

## 1 Product Name

ProLite® RS Premium Rapid Setting Large Format Tile Mortar

## 2 Manufacturer

Custom Building Products  
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## 3 Product Description

A lightweight, medium bed, rapid-setting mortar. This technologically advanced mortar offers high-performance and flexibility designed to meet the rigors of setting large format tile and stone for fast track commercial or residential installations. Capable of thin-set or medium bed application up to 3/4" (19 mm) thick on horizontal surfaces after beat-in. Adjustments allowed, yet it will set quickly, allowing the grouting process to begin in under 3 hours with light traffic in 4 hours. One part formula with no need for a separate liquid additive to improve bond strength, flexibility or performance. Excellent open time and adjustability. Non-slump performance for floor installations. Formulated with CustomLite® Technology, ProLite® is 40% lighter than traditional mortars, providing excellent handling characteristics. A 30 lb. (13.6 kg) bag covers the same area as a 50 lb. (22.68 kg) bag of traditional mortar. Formulated with recycled material and contributes to LEED® certification. Exceeds ANSI A118.15, A118.4 and A118.11 without the need for additives.

### Key Features

- Fast curing - Grout in 3 hours, open for traffic in 4 hours
- High bond strength
- Non-slump for floors, sag and slip resistant for walls
- Lightweight - 30 lbs. covers the same area as 50 lbs. of traditional mortar

### Suitable Tile Types

- Vitreous, semi-vitreous or non-vitreous tile: ceramic, mosaic, quarry, cement body tile
- Impervious porcelain and glass tile
- Brick and Stone Veneer
- Cement-based precast terrazzo
- Natural stone tile



### Suitable Substrates

- Concrete, mortar beds, masonry, Portland cement plaster
- [WonderBoard® Lite](#), cement backerboards
- Liquid applied waterproofing membranes such as [RedGard®](#) and [Custom® 9240](#)
- Crack prevention sheet membranes such as Crack Buster® Pro
- Exterior Grade Plywood Substrates meeting deflection requirements (interior residential and light commercial dry areas)
- Gypsum wallboard (interior dry areas)
- Existing ceramic tile (scarified)
- Fully bonded sheet vinyl flooring (scarified)
- Plastic laminates (scarified)
- Cutback adhesive (see preparation instructions)

### Composition of Product

Modified dry mortar, which is a proprietary blend of Portland cement, inorganic aggregates, copolymers and chemicals.

### Benefits of Product in the Installation

- Sets quickly
- Allows grouting in as little as 3 hours and foot traffic in 4 hours
- Maximum bond strength and flexibility
- Non-slump medium bed for heavy tile and stone installations for floors and walls
- Exceeds ANSI A118.15, A118.4 and A118.11 standards without the need for additives
- Not formulated with silica sand
- Recommended for interior and exterior pools and water features which require ANSI A118.15 bonding mortars.



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## Limitations to the Product

- Do not bond directly to hardwood, Luan plywood, particle board, parquet, cushion or sponge-back vinyl flooring, metal, fiberglass, plastic or OSB panels.
- When setting moisture sensitive natural stone, cement or agglomerate tile use EBM-Lite™ Epoxy Bonding Mortar 100% Solids or CEG-Lite™ 100% Solids Commercial Epoxy Grout.
- Do not use to install resin-backed stone use EBM-Lite™ Epoxy Bonding Mortar 100% Solids, CEG-Lite™ 100% Solids Commercial Epoxy Grout or contact Custom's® Technical Services for recommendations.
- When setting glass tile larger than 6" x 6" (15 x 15 cm), contact Custom's® Technical Services for recommendations.
- When setting dimensional stone larger than 12" x 12" (30 x 30 cm), contact Custom's® Technical Services for recommendations regarding subfloor deflection requirements.

## Packaging

- 30 lb (13.6 kg) bag
- Gray or white

## 4 Technical Data

### Applicable Standards

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) - ANSI A108.5, A118.4, A118.5 and A118.11 of the American National Standards for the Installation of Ceramic Tile  
ISO 13007-2

ASTM International (ASTM)

- ASTM C109 Standard Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars (Using 2-in. or [50-mm] Cube Specimens)
- ASTM C627 Standard Test Method for Evaluating Ceramic Floor Tile Installation Systems Using the Robinson-Type Floor Tester

Resilient Floor Covering Institute — (RFCI) Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings  
Tile Council of North America (TCNA) — TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation, TCNA Method EJ171

### Technical Chart

Property	Test Method	Requirement	Typical Results
Pot Life			40 - 60 Minutes
Open Time	A118.15 Section 5.3	> 20 Minutes	Pass
4 Week Shear Bond Strength			
Glazed Wall Tile	A118.15 Section 7.1.2	> 450 psi	550 - 650 psi (38.7 - 45.7 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Porcelain Tile	A118.15 Section 7.2.5	> 400 psi	400 - 475 psi (28.1 - 33.4 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Quarry Tile to Plywood	A118.11 Section 4.1.2	> 150 psi	225 - 300 psi (15.8 - 21.1 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Sag on Walls	A118.4 Section 4.6	< 1/16"	Pass

## Environmental Consideration

Custom® Building Products is committed to environmental responsibility in both products produced and in manufacturing practices. Use of this product can contribute towards LEED® v3 certification:

- Up to 2 points towards MR Credit 5, Regional Materials
- Up to 2 points towards MR Credit 4, Recycled Content
- Up to 1 point towards IEQ Credit 4.1, Low-Emitting Materials – Adhesives & Sealants

## 5 Instructions

### General Surface Prep

**USE CHEMICAL-RESISTANT GLOVES, such as nitrile, when handling product.**

Surfaces must be structurally sound. Remove all grease, oil, dirt, curing compounds, sealers, adhesives or any other contaminant that would prevent a good bond. Glossy or painted surfaces must be sanded, or abraded, and stripped of all contaminants. Concrete must be cured 28 days and accept water penetration. Concrete must be free of efflorescence and not subject to hydrostatic pressure. Concrete slabs should have a coarse finish to enhance the bond. Plywood flooring including those under resilient flooring must be structurally sound and meet all ANSI and deflection requirements. For questions about proper subfloor installation, call Technical Services. Smooth concrete surfaces, existing glazed tile, terrazzo, or polished stone should be scarified. Sheet vinyl must be well bonded and stripped of old finish. Roughen the surface by sanding or abrading, then rinse and allow to dry. Expansion joints should never be bridged with setting material. Do not sand flooring materials containing asbestos. Ambient temperature should be maintained above 50° F (10° C) or below 100° F (38° C) for 72 hours to achieve proper bond.

### Bonding to Concrete Surfaces

Concrete or plaster must be fully cured and must accept water penetration. Test by sprinkling water on various areas of the substrate. If water penetrates, then a good bond can be achieved; if water beads, surface contaminants are present, and loss of adhesion may occur. Contaminants should be mechanically removed before installation. Concrete must be free of efflorescence and not subject to hydrostatic pressure. Concrete slabs should have a coarse finish to enhance the bond. Smooth concrete slabs must be mechanically abraded to achieve proper bond.

### Bonding to Lightweight Cement and Gypsum Surfaces

Lightweight or gypsum based underlayments must obtain a minimum 2000 psi (13.8 MPa) compressive strength. The underlayment must be sufficiently dry and properly cured to the manufacturer's specifications for permanent, non-moisture permeable coverings. Surfaces to be tiled must be structurally sound and subject to deflection not to exceed the current ANSI Standards. Surfaces shall be free of all grease, oil, dirt, dust, curing compounds, waxes, sealers, efflorescence, or any other foreign matter.



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All Lightweight cement or Gypsum surfaces should be primed, with a properly applied sealer or a primer coat of RedGard, consisting of 1 part RedGard diluted with 4 parts clean, cool water. Mix in a clean bucket at low speed to obtain a lump free solution. The primer can be brushed, rolled or sprayed to achieve an even coat. Apply the primer coat to the floor at a rate of 300 ft<sup>2</sup>/gal (7.5 M<sup>2</sup>/L). Drying time depends on site conditions, but is normally less than 1 hour.

Extremely porous surfaces may require 2 coats. At this point, RedGard can be applied to the primed lightweight or gypsum based surface. Refer to the individual product data sheet or packaging directions for application instructions. Expansion joints must be installed in accordance with local building codes and ANSI/TCNA guidelines. Refer to TCNA EJ171.

## Bonding to Plywood Surfaces

Plywood floors, including those under resilient flooring, must be structurally sound and must meet all ANSI A108.01 Part 3.4 requirements. Maximum allowable deflection: L/360 tile L/720 stone. See TCNA F150-13 tile installations, TCNA F141-13 and F250-13 for stone. For questions about proper subfloor installation requirements, call Custom® Technical Services.

## Bonding to Backerboards

As an alternative to an additional layer of plywood, WonderBoard Lite backerboard may be installed over plywood subfloors for ceramic tile installations. Refer to TCNA F144-13 tile installations and TCNA F-250-13 for stone. Call Custom® Technical Services when installing natural stone over plywood subfloor.

## Bonding to Existing Surfacing Material

Existing Ceramic Tile, Resilient Flooring or Plastic Laminates: Resilient flooring or plastic laminates must be well bonded, as well as clean and free of all contaminants. Roughen the surface by sanding or scarifying; rinse and allow to dry. Do not sand flooring that contains asbestos. For existing well bonded ceramic tile, mechanically abrade the surface. Rinse and allow to dry. When sanding, an approved respirator should be used.

## Bonding to Cutback Adhesive

Adhesive layers must be removed, as they reduce mortar bond strength to cement surfaces. Use extreme caution; adhesives may contain asbestos fibers. Do not sand or grind adhesive residue, as harmful dust may result. Never use adhesive removers or solvents, as they soften the adhesive and may cause it to penetrate into the concrete. Adhesive residue must be wet-scraped to the finished surface of the concrete, leaving only the transparent staining from the glue. To determine desirable results, do a test bond area before starting. Refer to the RFCI Pamphlet, "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings", for further information.

## Movement Joint Placement

Movement joints are required for perimeters and other changes of plane in all installations. Expansion joints and cold joints, as described in ANSI A108.01, should never be bridged with setting material. They must be brought through the tile work and filled with an appropriate elastomeric sealant, such as Custom's® 100% Silicone. Contact Custom's® Technical Services for the proper treatment of control or saw cut joints. Refer to TCNA EJ171, F125 and F125A.

## Mixing Ratios

Mix 5.75 - 6 qts (5.4 - 5.7 L) clean water per 30 lb (13.6 kg) bag of mortar.

## Mixing Procedures

Mix by hand or use a low 150-200 RPM speed 1/2" (13 mm) drill to achieve a smooth, paste-like consistency. Let the mixture slake or stand 3 minutes; stir again and use. Stir occasionally, but do not add more water. When properly mixed, troweled ridges will stand without slump.

## Application of Product

Installation must conform to ANSI A108.5. Use a properly-sized notch trowel to ensure proper coverage under tiles. Using the flat side of the trowel, apply a skim coat of mortar to the surface. With the notch side of the trowel held at a 45° angle, apply additional mortar to the surface, combing in one direction. Press the tile firmly into place in a perpendicular motion across ridges, moving back and forth. The perpendicular motion flattens ridges and closes valleys, allowing maximum coverage. With some tile, back-buttering is advisable. Adjust the tile promptly and beat it in with a beating block and rubber mallet. Periodically pull up a tile and check the back to ensure proper adhesive coverage. If the material has skinned over (not sticky to the touch), recomb with the notch trowel; if too dry, remove and replace the dry material with fresh material. Thin-Set Mortar should not be used to fill low spots in the flooring. Mortar thickness should be less than 3/4" when beat in.

## Curing of Product

Curing time is affected by ambient and surface temperatures and humidity. Use the following as a guideline. Allow 3 hours before grouting, 4 hours before light traffic, and 3 days before heavy or vehicular traffic. Before exposure to heavy or vehicular traffic, assure assembly is rated "Heavy or Extra Heavy" per TCNA Service Requirements. As necessary, use plywood or other load distributing protection when moving heavy equipment across tiled assembly. Submerged applications; wait 14 days after the final grouting period before filling water features with water at 70°F (21°C).

## Cleaning of equipment

Clean with water before the material dries.

## Storage

Protect from freezing. Store in a cool, dry area.

## Health Precautions

This product contains Portland cement and free silica. Avoid eye contact or prolonged contact with skin. Wash thoroughly after handling. If eye contact occurs, flush with water for 15 minutes and consult a physician. Do not breathe dust; wear a NIOSH approved respirator.

## Conformance to Building Codes

Installation must comply with the requirements of all applicable local, state and federal code jurisdictions.

## 6 Availability & Cost

Location



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Country	Item Code	Size	Color	Package
USA	PLRSW30	30 lb (13.6 kg)	White	Bag
USA	PLRSG30	30 lb (13.6 kg)	Gray	Bag
Canada	CPLRSW30	30 lb (13.6 kg)	White	Bag

## 7 Product Warranty

Obtain the applicable **LIMITED PRODUCT WARRANTY** at [www.custombuildingproducts.com/product-warranty](http://www.custombuildingproducts.com/product-warranty) or send a written request to Custom Building Products, Inc., Five Concourse Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30328, USA. Manufactured under the authority of Custom Building Products, Inc. © 2017 Quikrete International, Inc.

When ProLite® Rapid Setting Tile & Stone Mortar is used as a part of a qualifying full installation system of CUSTOM products, the installation can qualify for up to a 15 year system warranty. CUSTOM will repair and/or replace, at its discretion, the affected area of the system. For more information, find details and limitations to this warranty at [custombuildingproducts.com](http://custombuildingproducts.com).

## 8 Product Maintenance

Properly installed product requires no special maintenance.

## 9 Technical Services Information

For technical assistance, contact Custom technical services at 800-282-8786 or visit [custombuildingproducts.com](http://custombuildingproducts.com).

## 10 Filing System

Additional product information is available from the manufacturer upon request.

### Expected Wear

Properly installed tile will last for more than 60 years.

### Related Products

Polyblend® Sanded Grout



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## Coverage

SQUARE FOOT COVERAGE PER 30 LB BAG (SQUARE METER PER 13.6 KG)

Chart for estimating purposes. Coverage may vary based on installation practices and jobsite conditions. For more trowel sizes, please use the material calculator at CustomBuildingProducts.com or contact CUSTOM Technical Services at (800)282-8786.

Trowel Size	Min Coverage	Max Coverage
1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" (6 x 6 x 6 mm) Square-Notch	90 sq. ft. (8.4 M <sup>2</sup> )	100 sq. ft. (9.3 M <sup>2</sup> )
1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" (6 x 9.5 x 6 mm) Square-Notch	63 sq. ft. (5.9 M <sup>2</sup> )	70 sq. ft. (6.5 M <sup>2</sup> )
	<b>IMPORTANT NOTE BELOW</b>	<b>IMPORTANT NOTE BELOW</b>
1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" (13 x 13 x 13 mm) Square-Notch	45 sq. ft. (4.2 M <sup>2</sup> )	50 sq. ft. (4.6 M <sup>2</sup> )
3/4" x 9/16" x 3/8" (19 x 14 x 9.5 mm) U- Notch @450 angle		
3/4" x 9/16" x 3/8" (19 x 14 x 9.5 mm) U- Notch @300 angle	36 sq. ft. (3.3 M <sup>2</sup> ) 45 sq. ft. (4.2 M <sup>2</sup> )	40 sq. ft. (3.7 M <sup>2</sup> ) 50 sq. ft. (4.6 M <sup>2</sup> )

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Custom Building Products does not recommend the use of a 1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" (13 x 13 x 13 mm) Square-Notched trowel as the 1/2" spacing between each square notch has been shown to make it more difficult to bed tiles and achieve proper mortar coverage. CUSTOM recommends the use of a trowel design that promotes mortar ridge collapse such as either a deeper, slanted, U-notch, V-notch, or ridged large format troweepitl when applying thicker amounts of mortar to accommodate tile warpage and back pattern recesses. Applying mortar using a 3/4" x 9/16" x 3/8" (19mm x 14mm x 9.5 mm) U- Notch at a 300 angle provides better coverage between the tile and the substrate and the same coverage area as a 1/2" notched trowel.

Regardless of the trowel used, mortar coverage between the substrate and tile underside is required to be ≥80% for dry areas and ≥95% for wet areas and exteriors with all tile edges properly supported with mortar and in a minimum of 3/32" (2.38 mm) and a maximum of 3/4" (19mm) continuous thickness. Note: Larger tiles, tiles with deep underside patterns and ungauged natural stone tiles may require larger notch sizes and may need to be flat back-troweled (formerly back buttered) or notched-back troweled to achieve proper coverage and mortar support. To meet warranty requirements, CUSTOM recommends testing to confirm adequate bonding mortar coverage.

When back troweling, consider the tile's underside pattern and depth to estimate thickness and usage to add to your estimate. For achieving proper mortar coverage see the following video: [Trowel & Error](#). (Also available in Spanish and Russian.) For information regarding back troweling, refer to The National Tile Contractors Association / Reference Manual & [Flat Back & Notched Back - Troweling \(TileTVS3 22 08\)](#)



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