

PROPER INSTALLATION OF GROUT WITH STAINBLOCKER FOR GROUT

One of the latest innovations for cement based grout is an additive that will improve the stain resistance, strength and color uniformity of the grout. There have been many improvements over the years for cement based grout and CUSTOM®'s StainBlocker additive for cement grout addresses many of the issues. To achieve full benefit of the additive it is important that the manufacturer's directions are closely followed; from mixing the grout and additive to the curing of the grout in the joints. The contents of this bulletin should help in achieving a beautiful long lasting tile installation.

Pre-Sealing Tile:

Some tiles can become stained with grout and need to be sealed before the installation of the grout. Tile with high absorption, surface porosity or rough, textured surfaces may require sealing prior to grouting to prevent staining. There are also textured, unpolished, unglazed porcelain tiles that are more difficult to clean and are easily left coated with a grout haze or film. Pre-sealing these tiles with a natural look water based penetrating sealer may be necessary and will make clean-up easier and minimize haze formation.

(If unsure about the porosity of a tile a test area should be conducted).

Proper Mixing:

The dry grout should be pre-blended to assure even color; particularly if more than one lot of grout is to be used on a job. The 32 oz. bottle of StainBlocker should be mixed with 32 oz. of potable water, before adding the dry cement grout. Note: we suggest holding out 8 oz. of water to be added after the powder is blended in, to adjust final consistency. Many times it may not be necessary to mix an entire 25 lb. bag of grout. If mixing a smaller amount of grout, always blend equal parts of water and StainBlocker before adding the dry grout. The dry grout should always be added to the diluted StainBlocker, never add the liquid to the dry powder. If any adjustments need to be made to the grout, a small amount of potable water can be added; additional StainBlocker should not be added.

Grout Installation Tips:

Color variation or shading can occur due to tile type, tile porosity, jobsite conditions, application and cleaning techniques. These variations can be minimized using the following installation tips;

- 1) Mix grout with a trowel or low speed mixer (less than 300 rpm) to achieve a smooth, lump-free consistency. Let the mixture stand (slake) for 10 minutes, and then remix and use within the stated pot life time of the grout.
- 2) **Do not** retemper the grout. *(Retemper – adding additional water to prolong the life of the grout.)*
- 3) Grout should take an initial set, firm to the touch, before shaping grout joints.
- 4) Use MINIMAL water when shaping the grout joints. Wipe the surface in a diagonal motion across tiles when shaping grout with the sponge. **(Do not add any more water to the grout installation during the shaping process)**
- 5) Immediately after shaping a manageable area; do a Clean Wash of that section. **(Do not leave any residual water in the joints to dry on the surface of grout)**

Efflorescence:

StainBlocker does not affect the color of the grout or contribute to efflorescence. All cement based materials have the potential to produce efflorescence (white haze) to some degrees. Efflorescence is an acid soluble salts, which can settle on the grout surface disguising the true color of the grout. When efflorescence occurs call Technical Services at 800-272-8786.

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