FlexBond® Premium Crack Prevention Thin-set Mortar



1. Product Name

FlexBond® Premium Crack Prevention Thin-set Mortar

2. Product Description

A premium, polymer-modified mortar with exceptional flexbility and bond strength. Ideal for hard-to-bond surfaces such as nonporous tile.

Key Features

- High flexibility prevents cracks in tile
- For difficult to bond subtrates, such as plywood, vinyl or laminate
- Outstanding bond to glass and other decorative tile
- Exceeds A118.15 and A118.11

Suitable Substrates

- Concrete, mortar beds, masonry, Portland cement plaster
- Liquid applied waterproofing membranes such as RedGard® and Custom® 9240
- Crack prevention sheet membranes such as Crack Buster® Pro
- Uncoupling membranes such as RedGard® Uncoupling Mat
- Surfaces treated with MBP Multi-Surface Bonding Primer
- Exterior Grade Plywood (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

FlexBond® Crack Prevention Mortar is a dry, proprietary blend of Portland cement, copolymers, inorganic aggregates and chemicals

Benefits of Product in the Installation

- Outstanding flexibility and bond strength for difficult substrate and tile applications
- Protects against cracking caused by minor in-plane surface movement
- Isolates small cracks and can be applied over small cracks without additional preparation
- Exceeds ANSI A118.4, A118.15 and A118.11 standards without the need for additives
- Approved for industry-recommended interior and exterior applications
- Recommended for interior and exterior pools and water features which require ANSI A118.15 bonding mortars.

Limitations to the Product

- Do not bond directly to hardwood, Luan plywood, particle board, parquet, cushion or sponge-back vinyl flooring, 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.
- For clear or translucent glass, CUSTOM recommends Glass Tile Premium Thin-Set Mortar. 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.
- Contact CUSTOM Technical Services when installing metal tiles

Packaging

- 50 lb (22.68 kg) and 25 lb (11.34 kg) bags
- Gray or white

3. Technical Data

Applicable Standards

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) - ANSI A108.5, A118.4, A118.15 and A118.11 of the American National Standards for the Installation of Ceramic Tile 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
ISO 13007-2

Technical Chart

Property	Test Method	Requirement	Typical Results
Pot Life			4 Hours
Open Time (E)	A118.15 Section 5.3	E = 30 Minutes	Pass
4 Week Shear Bond Strength			
Glazed Wall Tile	A118.15 Section 7.1.2	> 450 psi	600 - 700 psi (42.2 - 49.2 kg/cm²)
Porcelain Tile	A118.15 Section 7.2.5	> 400 psi	400 - 500 psi (28.1 - 35.2 kg/cm²)
Quarry Tile to Plywood	A118.11 Section 4.1.2	> 150 psi	300 - 350 psi (21.1 - 24.6 kg/cm²)

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:

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- 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

4. 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 broomed or brushed finish to enhance the bond. Smooth concrete slabs must be mechanically abraded to ensure a good bond.

Bonding to Gypsum Surfaces

Lightweight or gypsum-based underlayments must first be treated with RedGard® Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane and must obtain a minimum 2000 psi (13.8 MPa) compressive strength at the recommended cure time. 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. All lightweight concrete and gypsum-based underlayment surfaces to receive RedGard® must be primed with 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/gal (7.5 M/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 and OSB 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 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

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. Contact Custom® Building Products for the proper treatment of control or saw cut joints. Refer to TCNA F125, F125A and TCNA EJ171.

Mixing Ratios

Mix 5 qts (4.73 L) clean water per 50 lb (22.68 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 5-10 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. Mortar can be applied up to 1/4" (6 mm) thick after beat in. For thicker applications, use a medium bed mortar; 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.

Curing of Product

Curing time is affected by ambient and surface temperatures and humidity. Use the following as a guideline. Allow 24 hours before grouting and light traffic. Allow 7-10 days before heavy or vehicular traffic. Before exposure to heavy or vehicular traffic, assure assembly is rated €œHeavy 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 filing water features with water at 70°F (21°C).

Cleaning of Equipment

Clean with water before the material dries.

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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.

5. Size & Availability

Location	Item Code	Size	Color	Package
USA	FBG25	25 lb (11.34 kg)	Gray	Bag
USA	FBW25	25 lb (11.34 kg)	White	Bag
USA	FB50	50 lb (22.68 kg)	Gray	Bag
USA	FBW50	50 lb (22.68 kg)	White	Bag
Canada	CFB50	50 lb (22.68 kg)	Gray	Bag

6. Product Maintenance

Properly installed product requires no special maintenance.

7. Technical Services Information

For technical assistance, contact Custom® Building Products.

8. Filing System

Additional product information is available from the manufacturer upon request.

Related Products

Fusion Pro® Single Component® Grout

MegaLite® Ultimate Crack Prevention Large Format Tile Mortar

Coverage Chart

SQUARE FOOT COVERAGE PER 50 LB BAG (SQUARE METER PER 22.68 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	85 sq. ft. (8.8 M²)	95 sq. ft. (8.8 M²)
1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" (6 x 9.5 x 6 mm) Square-Notch	60 sq. ft. (5.6 M²	67 sq. ft. (6.2 M²)

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 ¼” (6mm) for mortars without an ANSI “H” rating. 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. 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

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back troweling, refer to The National Tile Contractors Association / Reference Manual & Flat Back & Notched Back - Troweling (TileTVS3 22 08).