

INSTALLATION OF SLIMLITE™ SLATE AND QUARTZITE

SlimLite™ Slate and Quartzite are thin layers of natural stone bonded to a polymer/fiber reinforcing sheet. These thin tiles/panels of natural stone are 1/32" – 1/8" (.08 – 3 mm) thick and are available in 12" x 24" (30 x 60 cm) and 24" x 48" (60 x 122 cm) panels. They can be installed on walls in residential and commercial interior applications. These tiles can be installed to a variety of surfaces, such as concrete, existing ceramic tile and aluminum. The selection of installation materials will depend on the surface – refer to the bonding mortar/adhesive data sheet for acceptable surfaces. Exterior installation of SlimLite™ Slate and Quartzite should be limited to covered and protected wall applications. The manufacturer of the SlimLite™ tiles should be contacted for wet area suitability; some natural stone contains minerals that react with moisture and water, this can affect the appearance of the tile.

These tiles are unique, and care should be used in their installation. Due to their thickness and polymer backing, considerations should be made in selecting the proper thin-set mortar and grout. We at Custom® Building Products recognize the uniqueness of these tiles and offer these recommendations for successful installation:

1. It is important that the surface for the tile installation is flat. Subsurface tolerances should not exceed 1/8" (3 mm) in 10' (3 M) and no more than 1/16" (1.3 mm) in 3' (91 cm).
2. Concrete surfaces should be cured for a minimum of 28 days. All wall surfaces should be true, sound and clean of any contaminants. If necessary, Custom® Building Products' SpeedFinish™ Patching and Finishing Compound can be used to smooth the surface. Because the tile is very thin, it is necessary to have a very smooth surface to assure full contact between the mortar and the wall surface. Gypsum surfaces should be primed with RedGard® Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane before installation of tile with cement mortar.
3. Once the surface has been properly prepared and cured, it is ready for tile installation. Custom® Building Products recommends the use of a highly polymer-modified mortar: FlexBond®, MegaFlex® or MegaLite® Crack Prevention Mortar. Optionally, a high performance, ready-to-use ceramic tile adhesive/mastic can be used: OmniGrip® Maximum Strength Adhesive. For increased bond strength in demanding applications, EBM-Lite™ Epoxy Bonding Mortar – 100% Solids can be used to install SlimLite™ tile. Follow package directions for application of the thin-set mortar or adhesive, unless noted different, here. The mortar or mastic should be spread on the wall with a 3/16" x 5/32" (5 x 4 mm) V-notch or 1/4" x 3/16" (6 x 5 mm) V-notch trowel depending on the flatness of the surface to be tiled. Too much adhesive can ooze up through the grout joints; if this occurs, remove excess adhesive immediately. The tile should be immediately placed in the wet mortar/adhesive. A covered paint roller or rubber roller can aid in pressing the tile into the mortar/adhesive to obtain proper coverage. Periodically remove a tile to check mortar/adhesive coverage; there should be a minimum of 80% coverage on the back of the tile. Tiles should be installed with a 1/16" (1.3 mm) grout joint.
4. The tiles should be allowed to cure 24 hours before grouting. Custom® Building Products recommends using CEG-Lite™ 100% Solids Commercial Epoxy Grout for filling the joints between the tiles. Package instructions should be followed for installing grout in natural stone tile. Care should be exercised when installing epoxy grout. All residues must be removed from the surface of the slate and quartzite, or a dark residue can remain around the perimeter of the tile, resulting in "picture framing". Once the epoxy cures, this is difficult to remove.
5. The tiles should be sealed with Aqua Mix® Sealer's Choice® Gold. If an enhanced stone appearance is preferred, then Aqua Mix® Enrich'N'Seal™ will enhance the colors in the natural stone in addition to sealing the stone. Be sure to follow all package directions when applying sealers.

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