

INSTALLING TILE OVER CONCRETE TREATED WITH XYPEX

Xypex crystalline technology is specified and used on many diverse waterproofing projects. Xypex creates a crystalline structure deep within the pores and capillary tracts of the concrete mass to prevent the penetration of water and aggressive chemicals. This also reduces the porosity of the concrete. A porous surface is needed to obtain the best bond between the tile and the concrete with a dry-set cement mortar.

Xypex Chemical Corporation offers several suggestions for surface preparation before installing ceramic tile with a cement mortar or installation of a cement based underlayment: www.xypex.com

Their fast track method suggests that tiles can be installed to the treated surface 12 to 24 hours after the application of the Xypex Concentrate. The Xypex has not cured in this time frame and will simply incorporate into the polymer-modified dry-set cement mortar. Because this may affect the curing and physical properties of the mortar, CUSTOM does not recommend this method.

In most cases, concrete that has been modified with Xypex Admix is a suitable substrate for the installation of ceramic tile. The porosity of the concrete must be checked with a few drops of water. If the drops are absorbed into the concrete within 60 seconds, it is safe to proceed with the installation of cement underlayments, most membranes and cement-based tile bonding mortars. However, if the water drops bead on the surface, the concrete will need to be shot blasted to open up the pores before installing cement underlayments or ceramic tile with dry-set cement mortars.

Contact CUSTOM's Technical Services Department for answers to questions about your specific tiling project: **800.282.8786**.

Xypex is not manufactured or specifically endorsed by Custom Building Products. Please see the Xypex Chemical Corporation website for product and warranty details.

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