



Norcros SA: Finishes - walls & floors



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Curing Periods : (Standard setting cement mortars)

New plasterwork	-	2 weeks
New screeds	-	4 weeks
New concrete slabs	-	6 - 8 weeks

Background Preparation :

All new substrates must have a moisture content of 5% or less before tiling can be commenced. When tiling directly onto concrete, ensure that the surfaces are clean and free of all traces of shutter release and curing agents, laitance and any other surface contaminants, preferably by scarifying or sandblasting.

The substrate must be integrally sound (no crumbling, cracking, etc) and must be of a quality and consistency suitable for tiling. All defective areas must be removed and made good before proceeding.

SURFACE	PREPARATION
Rendered walls	Woodfloated – can tile directly without priming Steeffloated – prime with a TAL Keycoat slurry
Concrete / Screeds / Off-Shutter Concrete	Woodfloated – can tile directly without priming Powerfloated or Steeffloated and Off-Shutter Concrete – prime with a TAL Keycoat slurry
Brickwork	Must be in good condition and at least 14 days old. Prime with a TAL Keycoat Slurry
Gypsum Plaster (Rhinolite) PVA Paint Enamel Paint	Domestic - Interior : Chip thoroughly (80%) and prime with a TAL Keycoat slurry. Commercial / Exterior : Chip thoroughly, remove all traces of existing gypsum plaster/paint. Prime with a TAL Keycoat slurry
Bitumen Adhesive	Domestic - Interior : Chip thoroughly (80%) and prime with a TAL Keycoat slurry. Commercial / Exterior : Chip thoroughly, remove all traces of existing bitumen. Prime with a TAL Keycoat slurry
Tile Onto Tile	Ensure existing tiles are solid and not hollow-sounding, acid wash, rinse with fresh water, allow to dry. Prime with a TAL Keycoat slurry. TAL GOLD STAR 6 (rapid setting adhesive) must be used regardless of tile being used NOTE : TAL does not recommend tiling over natural stone tiles such as limestone, sandstone, slate, etc
Waterproofing	All "wet" areas, such as showers or balconies, must first be waterproofed using either TAL Superflex or TAL Sureproof waterproofing compounds prior to commencing tiling NOTE : cement-based tile adhesives will not bond sufficiently onto "bitumen type" waterproofing compounds

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Adhesive System :

TILE TYPE	Minimum Joint Width between Tiles	Recommended Adhesive: Interior walls – ‘dry’ areas Interior surface beds	Recommended Adhesive : Suspended applications Exterior or exposed applications Permanently wet areas Heavy traffic areas
1) Ceramic Wall Tiles 2) Ceramic Floor Tiles	2mm 5mm	TAL Professional	TAL Professional + TAL Bond Or alternatively, TAL Proflex
1) Porcelain, Granite and Dark Coloured Marble Tiles	3mm	TAL Gold Star 6	TAL Gold Star 6 + TAL Bond Or alternatively, TAL Goldflex
1) Highly Vitrified tiles, ie NCI or Vitro tiles. 2) Concrete tiles 3) Natural Stone Tiles ie Slate, Sandstone, etc	5mm or as per manufacturer 5mm 5mm or as per manufacturer	TAL Gold Star 6	TAL Gold Star 6 + TAL Bond Or alternatively, TAL Goldflex
1) White or Light-Coloured Marble tiles 2) Travertine Tiles	3mm 3mm	TAL Marblefix	TAL Marblefix + TAL Bond Or alternatively, TAL Marbleflex

Grouting System :

	Recommended Grout : Interior walls – ‘dry’ areas Interior surface beds	Recommended Grout : Suspended applications Exterior or exposed applications Permanently wet areas Heavy traffic areas
Wall joints only, up to 3mm	TAL Super White Grout	TAL Super White Grout + TAL Bond
Wall and Floor joints, up to 8mm	TAL Wall & Floor Grout	TAL Wall & Floor Grout + TAL Bond
Wall and Floor joints, from 5mm up to 25mm	TAL QuarryGrout	TAL QuarryGrout + TAL Bond
Areas susceptible to Bacterial Growth and/or Chemical Attack, ie, abattoirs, dairies, food preparation areas, sluice rooms, swimming pools, etc	TAL Fine Epoxy Grout (Walls and Floors – minimum 3mm joint width) Or TAL Industrial Epoxy Grout (Floors only – minimum 5mm joint width)	TAL Fine Epoxy Grout (Walls and Floors – minimum 3mm joint width) Or TAL Industrial Epoxy Grout (Floors Only – minimum 5mm joint width)

Movement Joints :

- It should be noted that the lack of movement joints in a tile panel is a major cause of tile failure. They should be specified at the design stage to avoid placing them in heavy traffic areas and spoiling the visual effect of the tiles.
- Movement joints should be located in both directions at maximum 5 metre centres for interior surface bed applications, and maximum 3 metre centres for suspended/pre-stressed slabs or exterior applications.
- In addition, movement joints must be located around the perimeter of all floors, in all corners and interfaces, and around any fixtures protruding through the tiles surface such as columns or stairs.
- The joints should be at least 5mm wide and extend through the tile and adhesive layers. All structural expansion joints in the background must be extended through the tiles to the surface. The full width of the structural joints must be extended through the tiles to the surface.

- The joints must be filled with a good quality resilient sealant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- Over and above the 3 metre centres for exterior walls, the Plasterer must cut a "V" joint into the rendering at precisely the area where Clay Brick fill-in meets the structural beams and columns and this joint must be carried through the tile adhesive and tile panel. It can then be filled with a good quality resilient sealant as with the other movement joints.

NOTE : For the key requirements common to all tiling situations, please refer to SABS 0107-1996.

Please note that the above is a basic guideline for background preparation and adhesive selection. As each and every project needs to be assessed individually on its own merits and characteristics please contact the TAL Technical Advice Centre for a project-specific detailed materials and methods specification for specific projects.