

# THINSET MORTAR | 4A

USED TO SET TILE, MARBLE, STONE AND THIN BRICK PAVERS OVER PROPERLY PREPARED MASONRY AND CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

**THINSET MORTAR** is a select blend of aggregates, Portland cement and special additives designed for setting all types of tile, marble, stone and thin brick pavers over properly prepared horizontal masonry and concrete surfaces.

## USES and ADVANTAGES

- May be used over properly prepared horizontal masonry and concrete surfaces.
- Suitable for interior applications, above or below grade.
- Available in white or gray.

## SURFACE PREPARATION

### Concrete and Masonry Surfaces

Must be sound and clean. Remove all dirt, dust, spalling or loose concrete, oil, grease, wax, mildew, efflorescence, curing compounds, form release agents, paint or any other foreign material which might effect the bond. **SEE WARNING ON BACK PAGE REGARDING PAINT REMOVAL.** A dry removal method such as a sand or shot blasting procedure will ensure a proper surface preparation. Wet cleaning may also be used. If the size of the job does not justify the costs of such equipment, all preparations may be accomplished manually. All oil and grease must be scrubbed with a degreasing compound, rinsed thoroughly then allowed to dry. After cleaning oil or grease spots, sprinkle a little water on the cleaned surface to check for residual contamination. Oil or grease is still present if the water forms small globules. If the water is quickly absorbed, the surface is clean. Efflorescence must be washed with a mild solution of muriatic acid and water, rinsed thoroughly then allowed to dry.

Roughen all smooth, steel troweled concrete floors to ensure a good bond. All surfaces must be dampened prior to installing tile, making sure not to leave any puddles or standing water.

If after cleaning, the surface is extremely dusty, porous or if there is any question of bonding, prime the floor with Bond All Exterior, do not allow to puddle.

### Wood Floors

Thinset Mortar may be used over plywood floors only if the plywood surface is clean, dust free, rigid and well fastened. Nail or screw heads must be set level with or below the surface. Plywood must be CDX grade, otherwise delamination may occur. **Plywood floors must first be primed with Bond All Exterior and then Add Mix-21 must be used in place of water when mixing (see MIXING below).**

Always perform a spot test (of sufficient size) prior to application in order to ensure compatibility between Thinset Mortar and the substrate as well as to confirm that performance is acceptable.

## MIXING

In a clean container or mixer, add approximately 5 quarts of clean water. Then add a 50 pound bag of Thinset Mortar and mix thoroughly to a thick, creamy consistency. Proper consistency is such that the notched trowel ridges in the Thinset Mortar will not slump or flow when applied to the substrate. If using a drill mixer, use a low speed, high torque drill not to exceed 600 rpm, fitted with a suitable mixing blade so as not to entrap air in the mix. Allow mixture to sit for ten minutes, then remix before applying. Do not add any additional

water to Thinset Mortar after the soaking period. Working time is approximately 1/2 hour to one hour depending on temperature and humidity.

### Use Add Mix-21 in place of water if:

- Installation is made over plywood floor.
- There is any question of bonding to the substrate.
- Installation is made in a wet environment such as in a bathroom or kitchen.
- Increased adhesion and strength is desired.

As with any Portland cement-based material, mixing liquid should be kept to a minimum to avoid decreasing strength and adhesive properties.

## TROWEL CHOICE

### Slate

1/4" wide x 1/4" deep x 1/4" apart

### Quarry, brick paver, large ceramic tile

1/4" wide x 3/8" deep x 1/4" apart

### Ceramic tile 3" or smaller:

Use 3/16" deep V-notched trowel

## APPLICATION

Apply a thin, pressured-on skim coat to the substrate with the flat edge of the trowel. Using the appropriate notched trowel for the tile being installed, apply a second coat combing the Thinset Mortar into ridges to obtain an even setting bed. Trowel an area 20 square feet at a time. Apply dry tiles with a twisting motion, making sure 25% of the thickness of the tile is embedded in the Thinset Mortar. Make all adjustments immediately after the beat in procedure. Clean all joints and wipe smudges from



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the tile face with a damp sponge or rag. If a "skin" forms over the troweled in place Thinset Mortar, remove it and reapply.

All tile must be set in accordance with industry practice and the recommended minimum requirements for materials and workmanship as set forth by ANSI A108.5 specifications and the "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation" published by the Tile Council of America.

### **CONTROL JOINTS**

Expansion joints must be provided in the overall construction of the tile work at the existing expansion joints in the backing and where materials change.

### **COVERAGE**

When applied with a 1/4" x 1/4" notched trowel, one 50 pound bag of Thinset Mortar will cover approximately 75 square feet.

### **GROUTING**

All traffic should be kept off floors prior to grouting. Do not grout until the tile has firmly set and cured (72 hours for floors or 48 hours if kneeling boards are used). Unglazed tile may require sealing prior to grouting so that discolorations do not occur.

### **PRECAUTIONS**

- Thinset Mortar should be applied when the ambient and surface temperatures are 50 degrees F or above and will not fall below that for 48 hours.
- Do not apply over frozen surfaces.
- Plywood floors must be primed with Bond All Exterior prior to installation.
- Add Mix-21 must be used in place of water when installing over plywood floors.
- Keep all traffic off floors prior to grouting.
- Clean mixing tools and equipment

during and immediately after use with water.

- Do not use below grade when hydrostatic pressure and excessive moisture conditions exist.

### **WARNING!**

Do not take internally. Contains Portland cement and Silica sand. May be irritating to the eyes and nose. Prolonged inhalation may cause lung injury. Avoid eye contact or prolonged contact with skin. Wash hands thoroughly with water after handling. In case of eye contact, flush with plenty of water for at least fifteen minutes. If irritation persists, consult a physician immediately. Dust masks, eye protection and gloves are recommended when using this product. Read Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) before using this product which may be obtained from your retailer or by calling 978-453-8881.

24 Hour Emergency Medical/Spill Information (Chemtrec): 800-424-9300

### **KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN!**

**WARNING!** If you scrape, sand or remove old paint, you may release lead dust or fumes. **LEAD IS TOXIC.**

**EXPOSURE TO LEAD DUST OR FUMES CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ILLNESS, SUCH AS BRAIN DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY IN CHILDREN. PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD ALSO AVOID EXPOSURE.**

Before you start, find out how to protect yourself and your family by contacting the USEPA National Lead Information Hotline at 1-800-424-LEAD or log onto [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead). Wear a properly fitted respirator and prevent skin contact to control lead exposure. Clean up carefully with a HEPA vacuum and a wet mop. Follow these instructions to control exposure to other hazardous substances that may be released during surface preparation.

For technical assistance call 978-453-8881

[www.umaco.com](http://www.umaco.com)

### **LIMITED WARRANTY**

*The manufacturer guarantees its products to be free of defects and the extent of its liability is limited to the purchase price of the materials only, if proved to be defective.*

*Improper mixing, incorrect application or other factors beyond the control of the manufacturer or its dealers may produce unsatisfactory results and cannot be held to be the manufacturers or its dealers responsibility. There are no other guarantees either expressed or implied.*

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