



## Technical Bulletin # 102

### RE: Installing Ceramic Tile over Cut-Back Adhesive Residue

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Cut-back adhesive is one of the most difficult surfaces to successfully bond to. This bulletin provides information and recommendations to help assure a successful tile installation.

Cut-back was widely used to bond vinyl composition tile (VCT) & vinyl asbestos tile (VAT). In fact, much of the cut-back manufactured in the past contained asbestos. Therefore caution must be taken when removing old tile and adhesives. The contractor should be made aware of these facts and consult the [Resilient Floor Covering Institute's](#) (RFCI) recommendations for removal of old flooring materials before proceeding.

C-Cure thinset mortars approved for use over properly prepared Cut-Back Adhesive Residue are:

- 1) M-Flex Strata 914 Dry-Set Mortar
- 2) PST 948 additive mixed in lieu of water with C-Cure ThinSet 911 Dry-Set Mortar
- 3) UniFlex 916 Elastomeric Dry-Set Mortar

Follow all applicable instructions found on containers and information sheets. Applications over cut-back are limited to interior, light commercial and residential installations not subject to hydrostatic pressure.

General instructions:

- 1) All ridges, loose and thick areas of the cut-back shall be wet scrapped down to the slab, as detailed in RFCI recommendations.
- 2) The remaining residue shall be almost transparent and hard, but not sticky or tacky.
- 3) Remove any loose concrete or old loose cement patching or leveling compound.

4) If there is a gypsum based "white patch" present, remove it completely. C-Cure's mortars are not recommended to be used over gypsum patching materials.

5) Wet mop the surface to remove dust and dirt as necessary and let dry.

6) Mix C-Cure mortar per directions. Key/scratch the mortar into the substrate with the straight edge of a notched trowel and spread it over the surface as a "skim coat".

7) Before the skim coat dries, apply mortar with the proper notched trowel as described in Product Information sheets or bag directions.

We strongly recommend a test patch of three 12 square inch areas of actual tile be bonded and allowed to cure for three days. Remove with a hammer and chisel to determine if adequate bond is achieved.

It is important to follow the Tile Council of America's (TCA) recommendations as detailed in TCA EJ171 to assure the proper placement and installation of expansion joints in the installation and around the perimeter.

Note: Do not set marble or porous stone over cut-back residue as discoloration can occur.

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