



Installation of Glass Tile with TEC® Products

DATE

March 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Setting of glass tile

Glass tile of different types or from different manufacturers may require different installation materials. The chart below lists the TEC® brand recommendations based on in-house testing of each tile type.

Manufacturer	Series/Product Line	TEC® Recommendation
Best Tile	Vetro Del Piave	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
Bisazza	Glass Mosaic Tile	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White or AccuColor® Unsanded Grout (white cement based*) mixed with XtraFlex™
Crossville	Brillante	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White or Full Flex® White
	Illumessence	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
Diamond Tech	Venetian	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White or Full Flex® White
	Platinum	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
Domani Tile	Dimensions	Super Flex™ White (Interior) or IsoLight™ White
	VisionGlass	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
	Stained Glass	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
Euro Tile	All	Contact Domani Tile
Hakatai	Villi®glas	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
	Carter	Super Flex™ White (Interior) or IsoLight™ White
	Fantastix	Super Flex™ White (Interior) or IsoLight™ White
ISC	Tivoli	Super Flex™ White (Interior) or IsoLight™ White
	Terra Green Glass Tile	Super Flex™ White
Live Tile USA	All	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
Miki's Mosaics	Kie-Bell Collection Crystalline Glass Tiles**	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
Oceana	All	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
Oceanside Glasstile	All	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White
SICIS	Waterglass	Super Flex™ White or IsoLight™ White

* For more information on white cement based grouts and colors, see Discussion section.

**Glass tiles mounted on mesh backings with a water sensitive adhesive are not recommended for wet areas or exteriors.

For glass tile types not listed, please contact your TEC® Sales Representative.

Grouting of glass tile

For grout joints 1/8" (3 mm) or less, use white cement based colors only of TEC® AccuColor® Unsanded Grout mixed with water. For grout joints greater than 1/8" (3 mm), use white cement based colors only of TEC® AccuColor® Sanded Grout mixed with water. TEC® AccuColor® grout is polymer modified for dense, hard, properly cured joints.

Since some glass surfaces may be subject to scratches from installing sanded grout, follow tile manufacturer recommendations or test a small area prior to use to determine suitability.

DISCUSSION

In specifying a setting system for the bonding of glass tile, the following issues must be taken into consideration:

- **Glass Tile Type:** Glass tile can be manufactured in a number of different ways such as clear, translucent with a colored body, or translucent with a colored backing. Each type has a different aesthetic appearance. The color and composition of the mortar can have an effect on the final appearance, especially with clear or translucent tile. White mortars provide a more pleasing and consistent appearance. TEC® AccuColor® Unsanded Grout (white cement based colors only) mixed with TEC® XtraFlex™ Acrylic Mortar Additive is recommended as a bonding mortar for some types of glass tile. Color can be selected to further enhance the final appearance of clear or translucent tile.

The following White Cement Based Unsanded Grout colors, when mixed with TEC® XtraFlex™ Mortar Additive, are suitable for use in bonding some types of glass tile. For mixing ratio, simply replace the required volume of water with an equivalent volume of undiluted TEC® XtraFlex™ as specified below:

TEC® AccuColor® Unsanded Grout	TEC® XtraFlex™ Acrylic Mortar Additive
25 lbs. (11.34 kg)	3½-4 quarts [112-128 fl. oz.] (3.3-3.78 L)
9.75 lbs. (4.42 kg)	1¼-1½ quarts [40-48 fl. oz.] (1.2-1.4 L)
1 lbs. (0.454 kg)	5 fl. oz. (147.8 mL)

White Cement Based Unsanded Grout Colors	
TEC® Color Number	TEC® Color Name
902	Ivory
903	Birch
906	Corn Silk
908	Dove Gray
909	Sterling
910	Bright White
915	Light Smoke
928	Praline
931	Standard White
939	Mist
940	Antique White
945	Light Buff
949	Silverado
961	Sandstone Beige
973	Warm Taupe
984	Almond
988	Pearl
991	Parchment

- **Mortar trowel ridges:** Mortar trowel ridges may be visible through clear and translucent glass tile. It may be necessary to back-butter tile to ensure a uniform appearance.
- **Bond Strength:** Glass is impervious, making it a difficult material to bond. Some glass tile types have backings that also present challenges to bonding. For these reasons it is important to follow the above listed recommendations.
- **Alkali-Silica Reaction:** Since glass tile is composed of silica some types can react with the highly alkaline gray Portland cement mortars. The reaction can result in glass tile degradation leading to discoloration and the potential loss of bond strength. The use of white cement based mortars minimizes these effects.

Please refer to glass tile manufacturer for:

- Tile use and selection criteria
- Specific installation requirements and techniques

Questions?

Call the Technical Support Hotline at 1-800-832-9023.

This Technical Bulletin has been prepared in good faith on the basis of information available at the time of publication. It is intended to provide users with information about and guidelines for the proper use and application of the covered TEC® brand product(s) under normal environmental and working conditions. Because each project is different, H.B. Fuller Construction Products Inc. cannot be responsible for the consequences of variations in such conditions, or for unforeseen conditions.

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