

New Mer-Stik™ dry polymer adhesive offers greater job site flexibility



By Randy Schultz

Versatility and resourcefulness have always served construction contractors well, whether it is in their own knowledge and diverse skills or in the products they use. There is widely-recognized value in multi-purpose elements or innovative principles that save money and time or create a more efficient work environment. So it's not surprising that a new product from a leading supplier to the tile and stone industry is quickly making a name for itself and gaining a solid reputation that is bound to stick.

The virtues of versatility



Mer-Krete's Mer-Stik applies quickly and consistently.

Mer-Stik™, a revolutionary new hybrid dry polymer mastic adhesive from Mer-Krete Systems, a division of Parex LaHabra, was recently introduced as an

adhesive product with greater versatility and strength for a variety of tile applications. Developed to enhance nearly all installations of ceramic tile, natural stone and glass tile, this quick-drying, non-slump product allows tile contractors to grout most tiles in less than four hours.

Already, installers are using Mer-Stik on the job, with excellent results. Impressions with Tile, an experienced Garden Grove, Calif., tile and marble installer, is applying Mer-Krete's new Mer-Stik along the bathroom shower walls in all 290 rooms of Best Western Stovall's Inn, located across from the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim. This major renovation is one of a half-dozen or more hotels under the same ownership slated to utilize Mer-Stik in upcoming remodels.

The product, which includes built-in anti-microbial protection, displays superior non-sag and bond strength features, even for large format tile and stone installations. It mixes easily and offers characteristics for outstanding workability.

Doug Jones, owner of Impressions with Tile, touts the many different advantages of Mer-Stik, the latest in Mer-Krete's long list of product innovations.

"The Mer-Stik product spreads much more easily than traditional mastics and it shows excellent adhesive properties," Jones noted. "It's been a very smooth operation, using the product in the shower areas at Best Western Stovall's Inn, and cleanup is much faster. After we put it away at the end of the day, Mer-Stik has the same consistency the next morning. It doesn't dry out like a lot of mastics do."

Consistency in more ways than one



Buttering the tile with Mer-Krete's Mer-Stik adhesive.

Because Mer-Stik is a dry powder, it is also lighter and easier to transport than ordinary mastic adhesives. The product comes packaged in two 12 1/2-pound bags encased in a plastic bucket. After mixing, it maintains its consistency even over an extended period of time in the enclosed pail. Those working in cold weather climates needn't worry about the powder freezing when transporting it since it is freeze-thaw stable.

Mer-Stik is bright white in color, making it an ideal adhesive for glass tiles. It bonds well to most surfaces and can be used not only on walls, but also in light-duty interior floor applications. Suitable for both commercial and residential construction, the product is also effective when used over Mer-Krete's quality

waterproofing and crack isolation membranes, including HydroGuard 2000, HydroGuard One and FractureGuard 5000.



Applying Mer-Krete's Mer-Stik to shower stall area.

In fact, it is used in various installations where moisture is common, such as in bathrooms and kitchens. Mer-Stik has demonstrated its advantages in a range of venues when used with absorptive, semi-vitreous and vitreous tile over properly-prepared masonry, concrete and cement backer board. Water is all that is required to remove any of the uncured adhesive from tiles, tools or equipment.

Because it features low VOC emissions, Mer-Stik meets LEED (IAQ CR 4.1.) requirements, providing added incentive for installers wishing to meet environmental guidelines. Though there are no industry standards yet for this groundbreaking new all-purpose mastic adhesive, it exceeds ANSI 136.1.

"Mer-Stik reflects the kind of far-reaching research and development that has made Mer-Krete a leader in its field," said Tim McDonald, vice president of ParexLaHabra, Mer-Krete brands. "With its introduction to the market, installers need fewer products at the job site because Mer-Stik is effective as more than just a simple mastic. In some cases, Mer-Stik can even take the place of traditional thin-set mortars. We've had extremely posi-

tive feedback from installers, who like its adhesive strength, its quick drying time, the easy way it spreads and its ability to maintain its consistency over an extended period.”

Putting efficiency into the mix



Mer-Stik used in the Best Western outdoor pool area.

Completion of the Best Western Stovall's Inn hotel project is expected by mid-summer, with Jones' company presently working ahead of schedule. With products such as Mer-Krete's new Mer-Stik adhesive at his disposal, he looks forward to maintaining his accelerated pace.

“We definitely plan on using Mer-Stik on our upcoming projects,” said Jones. “When you get a product like this that delivers everything it promises, you want to put it to your advantage. Mer-Krete has provided us with an excellent solution.”

Mer-Krete Systems has made strong efforts to develop new products that achieve optimum results, while offering environmentally friendly properties. Innovations like its new 7d10 Dust-Less Thin-Set provide notable examples of this commitment. Mer-Stik reflects that same thinking, with its anti-microbial properties, designed to promote resistance to mold and mildew -- certainly an important issue

for all in the building industry.

“We're confident that Mer-Stik will be specified for more and more construction projects where versatility, cost considerations and overall performance are paramount,” Mer-Krete's McDonald stated. “From an efficiency standpoint, it's a product that offers a combination of benefits that no other mastic can match.”



Best Western Stovall's Inn, Anaheim, Calif.

Early reports about Mer-Krete Systems' new Mer-Stik dry polymer mastic adhesive show it to be a product with a solid future. Not only at Best Western Stovall's Inn, but in other installations where quality performance and time savings are important, the product has made a strong impression with installers. It just proves that there's always a place for innovative technology. And in the tile industry, where competition is fierce for construction projects and resourcefulness pays dividends, keeping your powder dry has a whole new meaning.

Randy Schultz is a Los Angeles-based freelance writer with more than 26 years of experience and over 25 national and local writing awards to his credit. He has written articles for a number of magazines, in addition to commercials, video scripts and live productions.