



TECHNICAL BULLETIN #131

Regarding: Merkrete Crack Isolation Membranes over Concrete Control Joints and Wood Board Joints

This technical bulletin explains how to properly prepare concrete substrates with cracks and control joints or plywood/OSB board joints when using Merkrete's crack isolation membranes.

Liquid Applied Crack Isolation Membranes:

Merkrete Fracture Guard 7000 and Fracture Guard FD are single component mold resistant crack isolation membranes composed of modified latex that provides a monolithic surface with excellent elongation. The thin section and excellent elongation will inhibit the transfer of cracks from the substrate to the finished ceramic, porcelain or stone tile finish. Follow all instructions and heed limitations on the product data sheet.

In order for the membrane to achieve maximum elongation, the membrane film should be proper thickness and uniform. Allowing the product to fill joints or cracks thicker than 1/16" can impede performance. These joints or cracks should be prefilled or bridged with a bond breaker to enable a continuous, uniform film thickness across the entire application area.

Cement Substrates:

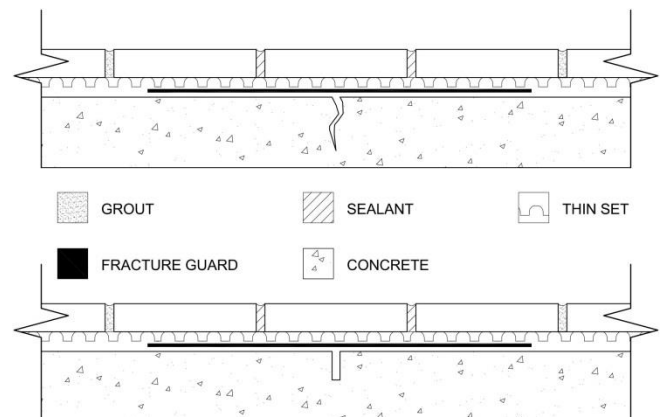
All concrete substrates should be cured a minimum of 14 days. Steel trowel floors to a fine broom finish. Keep Fracture Guard 7000 or Fracture Guard FD a minimum of 6 inches from the wall and all penetrations through the concrete surface. This will allow venting of any retained moisture.

Important: Movement or expansion joints are designed to experience movement and should be provided to comply with TCA method EJ 171.

Control Joints, Saw Cuts, and Cracks: Pre fill all substrate cracks (larger than 1/16") and control joints with urethane sealant or appropriately sized backer rod. Alternatively, you may bridge cracks or saw cut joints with duct tape.

Allow any recently prepared areas to dry. When installing Fracture Guard 7000 using TCNA method #F125A Full Coverage: apply a liberal coat of Merkrete Fracture Guard 7000 Membrane. When installing Fracture Guard 7000 using TCNA method #F125 Partial Coverage: apply a liberal coat of Fracture Guard 7000, the diagonal dimension of the tile, each side of the crack. Periodically, check the film thickness with a wet film thickness gauge, wet coat should be applied approximately 30 to 35 mils wet thickness, at a rate of 80 s/f per gallon.

Details when installing Fracture Guard 7000/ Fracture Guard FD using TCNA method #F125 Partial Coverage



Plywood and OSB Substrates:

All plywood or OSB installations should be interior areas only and protected from exposure to moisture. Merkrete will provide our standard warranty on tile applications over Fracture Guard 7000/ Fracture Guard FD using OSB or plywood substrates meeting the requirements set forth on product data sheets

How to treat Plywood or OSB Board Joints:

Pre fill all board joints with urethane sealant to create a flush/flat substrate and allow to dry or use duct tape on all

the Plywood/OSB board joints to create a flush/flat substrate before applying Merkrete Fracture Guard 7000 or Fracture Guard FD on the entire substrate.

For all substrates:

The installation of ceramic tile must be done following installation standards published in the current (TCNA) Tile Council of America handbook, ANSI (American National Standards Institute) 108 specification and our data sheets.

Visit our website at www.merkrete.com or call the Technical Department at 1-(800) 226-2424 for additional information or to request Product Data sheets on Merkrete Fracture Guard 7000 or Fracture Guard FD.