

Ceramic Tile Installation Over VCT

Technical Bulletin

Category: Tiling

Keywords: Thin Set, Surface Preparation, Membrane

When dealing with existing Vinyl Composite Tile (VCT) floors, full removal to the original substrate is the best course of action. Another option is to install a new bonding surface, screwing cement backer boards or exterior grade plywood or installing a portland cement based mortar bed. In some instances when full removal and/or a new bonding surface are not practical, ceramic tile can be applied over the VCT.

Merkrete thin set adhesive products have been successfully used on numerous jobs to install tile over VCT substrates. Installation success is achieved by adhering to the following factors:

VCT Surface Readiness

Vinyl flooring must be tightly bonded to the substrate without any voids.

The vinyl must be solid with no compression (Ceramic tile cannot be installed over any cushion-backed or foam backed VCT).

The floor may not have moisture vapor intrusion in excess of product limits.

The surface must be extremely clean, dry and free of any wax, oils, paints, dust and contaminants.

Vinyl surface must be sanded or scarified to provide a suitable bonding surface.

NOTE: Caution should be used not to remove, sand, or abrade certain types of flooring materials that may contain asbestos. Inhalation of asbestos dust from removal or preparation may cause bodily harm.

Tile Installation

Apply a single layer of Merkrete Fracture Guard, and allow to fully dry before performing tile installation.

Use Merkrete 720RS Thin Set adhesive to install tile as described in the application instruction on the container and product data sheet.

Use Merkrete grout once the tile has set firmly in place.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact the Parex USA Technical Department at (800)226-2424.

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