



SURFACE PREPARATION

Guidelines

To ensure a durable, high quality professional tile installation, Ezee tile recommends preparing the surface to be tiled in accordance with the SABS code of practice for the design and installation of ceramic tiles (SANS 10107:2011).

The trueness or soundness of the surface to be tiled can be easily and quickly checked by following these instructions.

1. The surface to be tiled needs to be clean to ensure a good bond. Check and remove old coverings like paint, gypsum plaster, bitumen adhesive etc by chipping to expose at least 80% of the surface. Wash off any dust and cement particles with a high pressure washer. Check for any fungi or mould growth and kill with an effective fungicide or a dilution of household bleach.
2. Surfaces need to be sufficiently hard to ensure they remain sound underneath the tiles. To check hardness, scratch the surface with a nail. If the nail leaves a superficial scratch then the surface is fine. Soft surfaces need to be removed and reapplied. For wall applications, **Ezee Tile Keycoat** may be painted directly to powdery surfaces to bond and seal the surface.
3. For new surfaces, ensure that the concrete / plaster has sufficiently cured before tiling i.e. the humidity of the surface must be less than 5%. This will minimise tiling failures due to shrinkage of the substrate. As a guide allow for the following periods:
 - i. 6 weeks for direct bedding onto new brick walls and concrete
 - ii. 2 weeks for tiling onto new plaster
 - iii. 4 weeks for tiling into new screeds
4. When tiling onto very smooth concrete surfaces like steel trowelled or off shutter concrete, acid wash the surfaces to remove laitance and rinse thoroughly with water.

5. For tiling onto existing tiled floors, make sure that the old tiles are correctly bonded to the floor by lightly tapping with a hammer or broom stick. If the tiles make a hollow sound, remove and replace these tiles with a similar tile or fill with a suitable screed.
6. The porosity of the surface will have a huge effect on the bond strength of a tile adhesive. Excessively porous surfaces will suction out moisture from the tile adhesive which will reduce the bond strength. Check the porosity of the surface by pouring water onto the surface. If the water is absorbed within a short period (<1 min) then the surface is too porous and it will need to be primed. If the water forms beads or runs off quickly, then there may be surface contaminants which may affect the ability of the tile adhesive to bond. Acid wash the surface and neutralize with an alkaline degreaser. Rinse thoroughly with water and allow to dry before priming.
7. Check the levelness of the surface with a 2m ruler. Build up any divots with screed or tile adhesive by applying layers of **Ezee Tile Self levelling Screed** not more than 20mm thick. Make sure each layer has set before apply the next layer.

Once the necessary corrections to the surface have been completed, Ezee tile recommends priming the surface as follows:

- i) Make sure the surface is completely dry before priming
- ii) Make a slurry by thoroughly mixing 1 part **Ezee Tile Keycoat** with 2 parts **Ezee Tile Basecoat**.
- iii) Use a block brush to paint the surface to be tiled with this slurry. Make sure the coating is at least 1 – 2 mm thick and that there are no breaks in the surface.
- iv) Allow to dry before tiling.