



# rapidset flexible

## Tile Adhesive for Wall and Floors

### DESCRIPTION

Polymer-modified water/frost-resistant cementitious rapid-setting tile adhesive for walls and floors.

### Use for

- Fixing ceramics, porcelain and vitrified tiles, mosaics, natural stone including marble (excluding translucent), terrazzo, rigid foam insulating materials and brick slips in dry or wet interior and exterior environments.

NOTE: Certain types of natural stone (i.e. limestone, travertine and some marble) may be susceptible to staining. In this case, use of a BAL rapid-setting white adhesive e.g. BAL Rapidset Flexible White is recommended.

- Recommended for swimming pools/total immersion areas/showers. Also suitable for installations subject to limited movement and vibration and heated screeds.

### Restrictions

- NOT suitable for metal, painted or glazed tile/brickwork surfaces

### PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Composition:** Highly polymer-modified cement-based powder.

**Colours:** Grey and White

**Type/Classification:** Exceeds BS EN 12004 **C2FT**

**Pack sizes:** 20kg and 10kg (grey only)

**Key features:** Rapid-setting; ideal for fast-track tiling. Enhanced adhesion to fully vitrified/ porcelain tiles and low porosity substrates. Highly water/frost-resistant. Non-slip.

**Grout after:** 3 hours

### USAGE & SERVICE CONDITIONS

Walls	✓	Worktops	✓
Floors	✓	Dry	✓
Interior	✓	Wet	✓
Exterior	✓	Showers (1)	✓
Swimming Pools (2)		✓	
Heated Screeds		✓	
Limited Movement/Vibration		✓	

- (1) Do not use shower for at least 2 weeks following completion of grouting – BS 5385:Part 4:2009, clause 7.2.1.
- (2) Do not fill pool for at least 3 weeks following completion of grouting – BS 5385:Part 4:2009, clause 7.2.10.
- (3) Provided surface is sufficiently flat.
- (4) Prime with BAL PRIME APD or BAL PRIMER.
- (5) Direct fixing in dry conditions only.
- (6) In wet conditions tank out with the BAL WP1 Tanking System.
- (7) Check suitability of sheets for the intended purpose with the manufacturer.
- (8) Flooring grade only.

Not recommended for use on paint, metal, wooden backgrounds or glazed tiles/bricks.

### BACKGROUNDS/BASES

Brick/Concrete (3)	✓
Rendering	✓
Lightweight Blockwork (3) (4) (5)	✓
Plaster (4) (6)	✓
Plasterboard (4) (6)	✓
Tile Backer Boards	✓
Fibre Cement Sheets (7)	✓
Cement:sand Screeds	✓
Anhydrite Screed (4) (6)	✓
Plywood Overlay (6) (Floors only)	✓
Vinyl Tiles	✓
Unglazed Ceramic Tiles/Hard Natural Stone	✓
Mastic Asphalt (8)	✓

Usage: Bed-thickness/Time at 20°C			
Bed-thickness <sup>^</sup>	Open Time*	Pot Life	Setting Time**
2-6mm <sup>^</sup>	20 mins	45 mins	2 hours

\* Drying time will be extended in colder temperatures, when fixing to impervious backgrounds or when fixing tiles of low porosity.

\*\* Cured adhesive.

<sup>^</sup> Up to 12mm in areas of limited extent. Use minimum 3mm for floor tiling.

Usage: Tools/Coverage		
	Recommended Application Tools	Typical Coverage <sup>^</sup>
Dry wall areas	Round notched trowel	0.5m <sup>2</sup> /kg
Wet wall areas	Thin bed solid bed trowel	0.4m <sup>2</sup> /kg
Exteriors/floors	Thick bed solid bed trowel	0.26m <sup>2</sup> /kg

<sup>^</sup> May vary dependent on nature and flatness of surface, and on trowel used.

Temperature Resistance
-30°C to 100°C

## SURFACE PREPARATION

### General

Ensure surfaces to be tiled are flat, clean, dry, sound and free from contamination.

*In shower areas:* waterproof background with BAL WP1 Tanking System or BAL Waterproofing Kit for Showers.

### SUITABLE SURFACES include:

#### Asphalt (suitable grade e.g. flooring)

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Must be of a suitable grade, be clean, in sound condition (without brittleness, softening, etc.) and have adequate cohesive strength, a natural float finish and laid on a firm rigid base.

Ensure that surface is sufficiently regular to suit bedding depths of adhesive.

Clean thoroughly to remove surface dirt using warm water and a suitable detergent. Remove all detergent residues with clean water.

#### Concrete; cement:sand screeds and rendering

Before tiling, allow the following minimum drying times:

- Concrete/concrete block walls/clay brickwork: 6 weeks
- Cement:sand screed: 3 weeks
- Cement:sand rendering: 2 weeks (3 weeks for swimming pools)
- BAL QUICKSET CEMENT: sand renderings and screeds: 24 hours
- BAL QUICKSET RENDER: 2 hours

#### Existing unglazed ceramic tiles, quarry tiles, terrazzo and natural stone

Ensure existing tiles are soundly bonded to a stable background that is sufficiently strong enough to support the weight of the new tiling.

If areas are loose or hollow-sounding, cut out and make good with 1:3 cement:sand mortar over a slurry bonding coat (2:1 cement: BAL BOND SBR by weight)

#### Existing vinyl tiles

Ensure these are in good sound condition and securely bonded to their base.

Remove loose or damaged tiles/areas of sheet along with any loose or soft adhesive and make good.

Remove any polishes, wax, grease etc. with a suitable proprietary cleaner.

NOTE: Cushioned types of flooring are not suitable and must be completely removed along with the adhesive residue prior to tiling.

#### Fibre reinforced cement boards and lightweight tile backer boards

Ensure boards are securely fixed and rigid. Install boards to BS 5385 – i.e. moisture-resistant boards screwed to seasoned framework as per the board manufacturer's recommendation (usually at maximum 300mm centres vertically and horizontally). Do NOT seal or prime surfaces to be tiled.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Obtain manufacturer's confirmation that boards are suitable for tiling and for relevant fixing instructions.

#### Overlaid timber floors (min. 15mm)

Ensure timber floor (i) is sufficiently rigid, dry and stable to receive tiles; (ii) can carry the additional load without excessive deflection; and (iii) has adequate ventilation under the timber.

Overlay existing timber floor with WBP or marine grade plywood, min. 15mm thick, screwed (not nailed) at 300mm centres.

Prime all timber surfaces on back face and edges with neat BAL BOND SBR priming agent. Allow to dry.

#### Plaster (finish coat only)

Must be at least 4 weeks old before tiling. Ensure that the plaster is free from dust, efflorescence and friable material.

If plaster is shiny or polished, brush thoroughly with a stiff bristled brush before priming with 2 coats of:

- BAL PRIME APD or BAL PRIMER (neat) or
- BAL BOND SBR (diluted 1:2 by volume with water)

Allow each coat of primer to dry.

#### Plasterboard

Ensure boards are securely fixed and rigid. Prime with 2 coats of:

- BAL PRIME APD or BAL PRIMER (neat) or
- BAL BOND SBR (diluted 1:2 by volume with water).

Allow each coat of primer to dry

#### Underfloor heating

Suitable for underfloor heating.

NOTE: For further information on other backgrounds and preparation, contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE.

#### MIXING

Use a BAL MIXING BUCKET or other suitable bucket.

1. Add 4 parts powder to 1 part clean cold water by weight.
2. Mix until smooth, lump-free consistency achieved.

NOTE: If using electric drill mixer, blend at slow speed (i.e. under 300rpm).

Ready for immediate use. Pot life at 20°C: approx. 45 minutes.

NOTE: Working time/setting time will vary slightly with temperature: higher temperatures = shorter; lower temperatures = longer.

## APPLICATION/USAGE

Do NOT use in temperatures below 5°C or in damp conditions.

### Trowel recommendations

*For wall tiling:*

(Dry areas) BAL ROUND NOTCHED TROWEL

(Wet areas) BAL THIN BED SOLID BED TROWEL

*For exteriors and floors:*

BAL THICK BED SOLID BED TROWEL

### Fixing procedure

1. Apply adhesive to wall or floor surface (max. 1m<sup>2</sup> at a time) and comb to required bed thickness depth of 2-6mm (but can be applied up to 12mm for localised areas). Ensure ribs in adhesive all run in one direction.

*If fixing large/heavily-patterned tiles, apply additional adhesive to tile reverse.*

2. Press tile firmly into the ribs of the adhesive and into position, with slight twisting/sliding action to ensure optimum adhesive contact.
3. Fix tiles before adhesive forms skin (typically 20 minutes at 20°C, depending on surface porosity/atmospheric conditions).  
*If skin has formed, remove adhesive and apply fresh layer.*  
Tiles can be adjusted for 5-10 minutes after initial positioning.
4. Occasionally lift a mosaic/tile to check adhesive contact area. When solid-bed fixing, leave no voids behind tiles.
5. Leave adequate joints between individual tiles. Install movement joints to BS 5385, Parts 1-5.
6. Clean off surplus adhesive from tile face and between tile joints.

### Grouting

7. Wait minimum 3 hours after tile fixing. Select a BAL grout suitable for specific location/environment/function.
8. Fill movement joints with BAL MICROSEAL SILICONE SEALANT.  
*However, do NOT use on sensitive surfaces that could react to acetic acids released during cure.*  
*For intermediate movement joints, a more durable hard wearing material may be needed (e.g. an Epoxy polysulphide sealant, or pre-formed movement joint strip).*

#### NOTE:

*If completing a swimming pool, do NOT fill pool for at least 3 weeks after grouting (contact BAL Technical Advisory Service for further advice).*

*If completing a shower, do NOT use shower for at least 2 weeks (as required by BS 5385 – Part 4).*

## HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION/ GOOD PRACTICE ADVICE

For detailed information and safety guidance, please refer to Product Material Safety Data Sheet [MSDS].

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

For free expert guidance on use of this product, or any aspect of tiling, contact the BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE on  
Tel: 01782 591120 or 0845 600 1 222 or Fax: 01782 591121.

### POWERSPEC

A unique computerised online specification system for the design and installation of ceramic, mosaic and natural stone tiling. Visit [www.powerspeconline.com](http://www.powerspeconline.com)

### SHELF LIFE

12 months under normal dry conditions. Protect from frost and damp.

### QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Manufacturing quality assurance standards conform to BS EN ISO 9001. Satisfies the environmental management requirements and operational scope of ISO 14001.

### 25 YEAR GUARANTEE

All BAL products are supplied with a 25 year product guarantee to be free from manufacturing defects and to be fit for purpose. The guarantee covers materials replacement costs and labour.

This guarantee is subject to use of product in accordance with BAL's instructions and technical data, and good working practice. No liability can be accepted for any loss or damage arising from incorrect use of products or poor workmanship, over which BAL has no control.

*Contact BAL Marketing Department for full details.*

### CONDITIONS OF SALE

Sold subject to the Company's Conditions of Sale.  
*Available on request.*

*For sales and technical queries, contact:*

### BUILDING ADHESIVES LTD

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NOTE: BAL reserves the right to update instructions, technical data and other information at any time without notice.

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**Rapidset Flexible**