

# FlexBond® Premium Crack Prevention Thin-set Mortar

## 1 Product Name

FlexBond® Premium Crack Prevention Thin-set Mortar

## 2 Manufacturer

Custom Building Products  
 Technical Services  
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## 3 Product Description

A premium quality, polymer-modified mortar with exceptional flexibility and bond strength for tiling difficult surfaces, such as plywood, vinyl and laminates, and for hard-to-bond, nonporous tile, such as porcelain and glass.

### Key Features

- High flexibility to prevent cracks in tile
- Excellent bond strengths
- Outstanding bond to glass and other decorative tile

### Suitable Tile Types

- Vitreous, semi-vitreous and absorptive tile: ceramic, mosaic, quarry, cement body tile
- Impervious glass and porcelain tile
- Natural stone
- Cement-based precast terrazzo
- Brick
- Thin brick

### Suitable Substrates

- Concrete, mortar beds, masonry, Portland cement plaster
- [WonderBoard® Lite cement backerboard](#)
- Liquid applied waterproofing membranes such as [RedGard®](#) and [Custom® 9240](#)
- Crack prevention sheet membranes such as [Crack Buster® Pro](#)
- Uncoupling membranes such as [RedGard® Uncoupling Mat](#)
- Surfaces treated with [MBP Multi-Surface Bonding Primer](#)
- Exterior Grade Plywood (interior residential and light commercial dry areas)
- Gypsum wallboard (interior dry areas)
- Existing ceramic tile (scarified)
- Fully-bonded sheet vinyl flooring (scarified)
- Plastic laminates (scarified)
- Cutback adhesive (see preparation instructions)

### Composition of Product

FlexBond® Crack Prevention Mortar is a dry, proprietary blend of Portland cement, copolymers, inorganic aggregates and chemicals



### Benefits of Product in the Installation

- Outstanding flexibility and bond strength for difficult substrate and tile applications
- Protects against cracking caused by minor in-plane surface movement
- Isolates small cracks and can be applied over small cracks without additional preparation
- Exceeds ANSI A118.4, A118.15 and A118.11 standards without the need for additives
- Approved for industry-recommended interior and exterior applications

### Limitations to the Product

- Do not bond directly to hardwood, Luan plywood, particle board, parquet, cushion or sponge-back vinyl flooring, fiberglass, plastic or OSB panels.
- When setting moisture sensitive natural stone, cement or agglomerate tile use [EBM-Lite™ Epoxy Bonding Mortar 100% Solids](#) or [CEG-Lite™ 100% Solids Commercial Epoxy Grout](#).
- Do not use to install resin-backed stone; use [EBM-Lite™ Epoxy Bonding Mortar 100% Solids](#), [CEG-Lite™ 100% Solids Commercial Epoxy Grout](#) or contact Custom's® Technical Services for recommendations.
- For clear or translucent glass, CUSTOM recommends [Glass Tile Premium Thin-Set Mortar](#). When setting glass tile larger than 6" x 6" (15 x 15 cm), contact Custom's® Technical Services for recommendations.
- When setting dimensional stone larger than 12" x 12" (30 x 30 cm), contact Custom's® Technical Services for recommendations regarding subfloor deflection requirements.
- Contact CUSTOM Technical Services when installing metal tiles

### Packaging

- 50 lb (22.68 kg) and 25 lb (11.34 kg) bags
- Gray or white

## 4 Technical Data

### Applicable Standards

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) — ANSI A108.5, A118.4, A118.15 and A118.11 of the American National Standards for the Installation of Ceramic Tile ASTM International (ASTM)



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- ASTM C109 Standard Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars (Using 2-in or [50-mm] Cube Specimens)
- ASTM C627 Standard Test Method for Evaluating Ceramic Floor Tile Installation Systems Using the Robinson-Type Floor Tester

Resilient Floor Covering Institute - (RFCI) Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings  
 Tile Council of North America (TCNA) - TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation, TCNA Method EJ171  
 ISO 13007-2

## Technical Chart

| Property                   | Test Method              | Requirement       | Typical Results                                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Pot Life                   |                          |                   | 4 Hours  |
| Open Time (E)              | A118.15<br>Section 5.3   | E = 30<br>Minutes | Pass   |
| 4 Week Shear Bond Strength |                          |                   |  |
| Glazed Wall Tile           | A118.15<br>Section 7.1.2 | > 450 psi         | 600 - 700 psi<br>(42.2 - 49.2 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ) |
| Porcelain Tile             | A118.15<br>Section 7.2.5 | > 400 psi         | 400 - 500 psi<br>(28.1 - 35.2 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ) |
| Quarry Tile to Plywood     | A118.11<br>Section 4.1.2 | > 150 psi         | 300 - 350 psi<br>(21.1 - 24.6 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ) |

## Environmental Consideration

Custom® Building Products is committed to environmental responsibility in both products produced and in manufacturing practices. Use of this product can contribute towards LEED® v3 certification:

- Up to 2 points towards MR Credit 5, Regional Materials
- Up to 2 points towards MR Credit 4, Recycled Content
- Up to 1 point towards IEQ Credit 4.1, Low-Emitting Materials – Adhesives & Sealants

## 5 Instructions

### General Surface Prep

**USE CHEMICAL-RESISTANT GLOVES, such as nitrile, when handling product.**

Surfaces must be structurally sound. Remove all grease, oil, dirt, curing compounds, sealers, adhesives or any other contaminant that would prevent a good bond. Glossy or painted surfaces must be sanded, or abraded, and stripped of all contaminants. Concrete must be cured 28 days and accept water penetration. Concrete must be free of efflorescence and not subject to hydrostatic pressure. Concrete slabs should have a coarse finish to enhance the bond. Plywood flooring including those under resilient flooring must be structurally sound and meet all ANSI and deflection requirements. For questions about proper subfloor installation, call Technical Services. Smooth concrete surfaces, existing glazed tile, terrazzo, or polished stone should be scarified. Sheet vinyl must be well bonded and stripped of old finish. Roughen the surface by sanding or abrading, then rinse and allow to dry. Expansion joints should never be bridged with setting material. Do not sand flooring materials containing asbestos. Ambient temperature should be maintained above 50° F (10° C) or below 100° F (38° C) for 72 hours to achieve proper bond.

### Bonding to Concrete Surfaces

Concrete or plaster must be fully cured and must accept water penetration. Test by sprinkling water on various areas of the substrate. If water penetrates, then a good bond can be achieved; if water beads, surface contaminants are present, and loss of adhesion may occur. Contaminants should be mechanically removed before installation. Concrete must be free of efflorescence and not subject to hydrostatic pressure. Concrete slabs should have a coarse finish to enhance the bond. Smooth concrete slabs must be mechanically abraded to achieve proper bond.

### Bonding to Lightweight Cement and Gypsum Surfaces

Lightweight or gypsum based underlayments must obtain a minimum 2000 psi (13.8 MP) compressive strength. The underlayment must be sufficiently dry and properly cured to the manufacturer's specifications for permanent, non-moisture permeable coverings. Surfaces to be tiled must be structurally sound and subject to deflection not to exceed the current ANSI Standards. Surfaces shall be free of all grease, oil, dirt, dust, curing compounds, waxes, sealers, efflorescence, or any other foreign matter.

All Lightweight cement or Gypsum surfaces should be primed with a properly applied sealer or a primer coat of [RedGard](#), consisting of 1 part RedGard diluted with 4 parts clean, cool water. Mix in a clean bucket at low speed to obtain a lump free solution. The primer can be brushed, rolled or sprayed to achieve an even coat. Apply the primer coat to the floor at a rate of 300 sq. ft./ (7.5 sq. m/L). Drying time depends on site conditions, but is normally less than 1 hour. Extremely porous surfaces may require 2 coats. At this point, RedGard can be applied to the primed lightweight or gypsum based surface. Refer to the individual product data sheet or packaging directions for application instructions. Expansion joints must be installed in accordance with local building codes and ANSI/TCNA guidelines. Refer to TCNA EJ171.

### Bonding to Plywood Surfaces

Plywood floors, including those under resilient flooring, must be structurally sound and must meet all ANSI A108.01 Part 3.4 requirements. Maximum allowable deflection: L/360 tile L/720 stone. See TCNA F150-13 Tile Installations, TCNA F141-13 and F250-13 for Stone. For questions about proper subfloor installation requirements, call Custom technical services.

### Bonding to Backerboards

As an alternative to an additional layer of plywood, WonderBoard backerboard may be installed over plywood subfloors for ceramic tile installations. Refer to TCNA F144-13 tile installations, TCNA F250-13 stone installations. Call Custom technical services when installing natural stone over plywood subfloor.

### Bonding to Existing Surfacing Material

Existing Ceramic Tile, Resilient Flooring or Plastic Laminates: Resilient flooring or plastic laminates must be well bonded, as well as clean and free of all contaminants. Roughen the surface by sanding or scarifying; rinse and allow to dry. Do not sand flooring that contains asbestos. For existing well bonded ceramic tile, mechanically abrade the surface. Rinse and allow to dry. When sanding, an approved respirator should be used.



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## Bonding to Cutback Adhesive

Adhesive layers must be removed, as they reduce mortar bond strength to cement surfaces. Use extreme caution; adhesives may contain asbestos fibers. Do not sand or grind adhesive residue, as harmful dust may result. Never use adhesive removers or solvents, as they soften the adhesive and may cause it to penetrate into the concrete. Adhesive residue must be wet scraped to the finished surface of the concrete, leaving only the transparent staining from the glue. To determine desirable results, do a test bond area before starting. Refer to the RFCI Pamphlet, "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for further information.

## Movement Joint Placement

Movement joints are required for perimeters and other changes of plane in all installations. Expansion joints and cold joints, as described in ANSI A108.01, should never be bridged with setting material. They must be brought through the tile work and filled with an appropriate elastomeric sealant, such as [Custom's 100% Silicone](#). Contact Custom's Technical Services for the proper treatment of control or saw cut joints. Refer to TCNA EJ171, F125 & F125A.

## Mixing Ratios

Mix 5 qts (4.73 L) clean water per 50 lb (22.68 kg) bag of mortar.

## Mixing Procedures

Mix by hand or use a low 150 – 200 rpm speed 1/2" (13 mm) drill to achieve a smooth, paste-like consistency. Let the mixture slake or stand 5 – 10 minutes; stir again and use. Stir occasionally, but do not add more water. When properly mixed, troweled ridges will stand without slump.

## Application of Product

Installation must conform to ANSI A108.5. Use a properly-sized notch trowel to ensure proper coverage under tiles. Using the flat side of the trowel, apply a skim coat of mortar to the surface. With the notch side of the trowel held at a 45° angle, apply additional mortar to the surface, combing in one direction. Press the tile firmly into place in a perpendicular motion across ridges, moving back and forth. The perpendicular motion flattens ridges and closes valleys, allowing maximum coverage. With some tile, back-buttering is advisable. Adjust the tile promptly and beat it in with a beating block and rubber mallet. Mortar can be applied up to 1/4" (6 mm) thick after beat in. For thicker applications, use a medium bed mortar; periodically pull up a tile and check the back to ensure proper adhesive coverage. If the material has skinned over (not sticky to the touch), recomb with the notch trowel; if too dry, remove and replace the dry material with fresh material.

## Curing of Product

Curing time is affected by ambient and surface temperatures and humidity. Use the following as a guideline. Allow 24 hours before grouting and light traffic. Allow 7-10 days before heavy or vehicular traffic. Before exposure to heavy or vehicular traffic, assure assembly is rated "Heavy or Extra Heavy" per TCNA Service Requirements. As necessary, use plywood or other load distributing protection when moving heavy equipment across tiled assembly. Submerged installations must cure for 14 days before filling with water.

## Cleaning of equipment

Clean with water before the material dries.

## Storage

Store in a cool dry area.

## Health Precautions

This product contains Portland cement and free silica. Avoid eye contact or prolonged contact with skin. Wash thoroughly after handling. If eye contact occurs, flush with water for 15 minutes and consult a physician. Do not breathe dust; wear a NIOSH approved respirator

## Conformance to Building Codes

Installation must comply with the requirements of all applicable local, state and federal code jurisdictions.

## 6 Availability & Cost

| Location | Item Code | Size             | Color | Package |
|----------|-----------|------------------|-------|---------|
| USA      | FBG25     | 25 lb (11.34 kg) | Gray  | Bag     |
| USA      | FBW25     | 25 lb (11.34 kg) | White | Bag     |
| USA      | FB50      | 50 lb (22.68 kg) | Gray  | Bag     |
| USA      | FBW50     | 50 lb (22.68 kg) | White | Bag     |
| Canada   | CFB50     | 50 lb (22.68 kg) | Gray  | Bag     |

## 7 Product Warranty

Obtain the applicable **LIMITED PRODUCT WARRANTY** at [www.custombuildingproducts.com/product-warranty](http://www.custombuildingproducts.com/product-warranty) or send a written request to Custom Building Products, Inc., Five Concourse Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30328, USA. Manufactured under the authority of Custom Building Products, Inc. © 2017 Quikrete International, Inc.

When FlexBond® Crack Prevention Mortar is used as a part of a qualifying full installation system of CUSTOM products, the installation can qualify for up to a lifetime system warranty. CUSTOM will repair and/or replace, at its discretion, the affected area of the system. For more information, find details and limitations to this warranty at [custombuildingproducts.com](http://custombuildingproducts.com).

## 8 Product Maintenance

Properly installed product requires no special maintenance.

## 9 Technical Services Information

For technical assistance, contact Custom technical services at 800-282-8786 or visit [custombuildingproducts.com](http://custombuildingproducts.com).

## 10 Filing System

Additional product information is available from the manufacturer upon request.

## Expected Wear

Properly installed tile will last for more than 60 years.

## Related Products

Natural Stone & Large Tile Premium Mortar

Fusion Pro® Single Component® Grout

MegaLite® Ultimate Crack Prevention Large Format Tile Mortar



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## Coverage

SQUARE FOOT COVERAGE PER 50 LB BAG (SQUARE METER PER 22.68 KG)

For tile with longest side 15"+, use a medium bed mortar from CUSTOM designed for large format and heavy tile.

| Trowel Size  | Min Coverage                     | Max Coverage                     |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Longest side of tile less than 8" use 1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" (6 x 6 x 6 mm) Square-Notch | 85 sq. ft. (7.9 M <sup>2</sup> ) | 95 sq. ft. (8.8 M <sup>2</sup> ) |
| Longest side of tile 8" to 15" use 1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" (6 x 9.5 x 6 mm) Square-Notch  | 60 sq. ft. (5.6 M <sup>2</sup> ) | 67 sq. ft. (6.2 M <sup>2</sup> ) |

Recommended minimum coverage (80% for dry areas and 95% for wet areas and exteriors). Back buttering may be necessary.

Note that mortar coverage does not include backbuttering tiles. When backbuttering, consider the tile underside pattern and depth to estimate thickness and usage to add to your estimate.

Chart for estimating purposes. Coverage may vary based on installation practices and jobsite conditions. For more sizes, use the material calculator at [CustomBuildingProducts.com](http://CustomBuildingProducts.com) or contact CUSTOM Technical Services at 800-282-8786.



# CUSTOM®