

CTU Online Anytime Module 1.5 – Achieving Flatness

Key Takeaways

- Every job requires some amount of surface preparation
- Flatness requirements can be found in ANSI A108.02; Section 4
 - ¼" variation in 10 feet for tile under 15 inches
 - 1/8" in 10 feet for large format tile longer than 15 inches on any side
 - No more than 1/16" within 2 feet
- A sound, stable and flat surface helps prevent lippage, cracks and breakage
 - This becomes even more critical under large format tiles – the most common type
- Per ANSI 118.4, an engineered patching or leveling compound is required to patch and flatten surface
 - Thin-set mortar should not be used
 - A patching and finishing compound, such as CUSTOM[®] SkimCoat & Patch[™] or SpeedFinish[™] are ideal for this use
- Patching compounds and trowel-applied products can be used for small repairs such as small shrinkage cracks under 1/8", filling divots, walls or creating ramps or skim coats
 - Larger or deeper repairs should be assessed and may be better handled by the use of a leveler
- Self-leveling underlayments are ideally suited for larger applications
 - Always be sure to prime the area before applying the leveler (products must be used together)
- It is important to read the Technical Data Sheet before installing any product
- Primers work by a) binding micro dust particles, b) consolidating the surface of the substrate, c) suppressing moisture absorptive properties on the surface, d) promoting cement curing, and e) providing adhesion between SLU and substrate
 - An acrylic primer, such as CUSTOM[®] LevelQuik[®] Advanced Acrylic Primer, is ideally suited for use on both porous and non-porous substrates. Note: Apply and allow to dry before leveling
 - For time sensitive jobs, rapid-setting CUSTOM LevelQuik RS levels up to 1.5" in one pour and is walkable in 4 hours. Rated for extra heavy duty use, this product exceeds TCNA requirements
 - CUSTOM LevelLite[®] is 40% lighter than standard SLUs and can be used on projects where weight load is an issue. Can be poured up to 2" deep, walkable in 4 hours. Exceeds TCNA requirements.
- SLU Tips for Success
 - Have a plan – start to finish
 - Have the proper tools
 - Have the personnel to mix, pour, spread and smooth
 - Know the depth and weight of the pour
 - Prep by priming and damming edges and openings

- Do not over- or under-water the underlayment
- When applying, always add wet material into wet material until the finish point is reached
 - Make use of gauge rakes or squeegees to move the material around. Be sure to keep edge wet
 - When finishing, be sure to use a smoothing tool or spiked roller to break surface tension
 - Allow SLU to fully cure before tiling or applying membrane prior to tiling

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