

CTU Online Anytime Module 2.6 – Gauged Porcelain Tile and Panels

Key Takeaways

- Gauged porcelain tile panels (GPTP) are stronger and lighter than natural stone.
 - A low profile makes them suitable for tile over tile installations
 - Range in thickness from 3.5mm – 12mm thick
 - Range in size from 1m x 3m to 5 ft x 10.5 ft
 - $\geq 1\text{m}^2$ is considered a gauged porcelain tile panel or slab
 - $< 1\text{m}^2$ is referred to as gauged porcelain tile
 - 3.5mm – 4.9mm thick for wall applications
 - 5mm – 6.5mm thick for floors or walls
- ANSI A137.3 is the new standard for gauged porcelain tile panels/slabs.
 - Flatness requirement is the same as LFT tile ($\frac{1}{8}$ " over 10')
 - A flat and stable substrate is critical for GPTP as the panels will show a non-flat substrate
- GPTP do not require the use of an LHT/LFT mortar.
 - Thinner materials translate to less weight load to support
 - An improved, modified mortar is required
- ANSI A108.19 is the new installation standard for GPTP.
 - Standard provides step by step instructions
 - Details methods, such as how to properly trowel (parallel ridges on the substrate)
 - Outlines coverage requirements, including wet mortar transfer
- GPTP are not all the same and utilize different manufacturing methods.
 - Back-layered materials have resin back and in some cases a mesh
 - Confirm mortar or adhesive recommendation from manufacturer of each product match
 - CUSTOM MegaLite[®] or EBM-Lite may be required for resin or mesh backed GPTP
- Proper installation of GPTP is very different from setting regular sized and LHT/LFT tile.
 - Mortar is applied on the substrate and tile at the same time (combing parallel to one another)
 - Special racks are used to hold and bed GPTP onto substrate
 - Lippage control systems are required for setting GPTP
 - Specific walking pattern is used to move air out from underneath panel. This is done in quadrants.
 - Additionally, a palm sander is used to help work rest of air out from underneath panels

- Lippage control systems must have removable cap to clean mortar out while still wet. These are cleaned while mortar is wet. Caps are installed and then left on until curing is complete. Any material over 3/8" in size requires the use of a lippage control system.
- Tool and clean joint while the mortar is wet
 - The thinner GPTP material results in shallow joints; they must be struck clean.
 - There is a 1/32" joint allowance when installing GPTP
- Grout must be chosen carefully for GPTP installations. Optionally, 100% silicone sealant can be used at every location. Be sure to check GPTP and grout manufacturer's recommendation.
- ANSI A108.19 requires that installers get specialized training from one of the following:
 - Setting materials manufacturer, such as Custom Building Products
 - GPTP tile manufacturer
 - ACT (Advanced Certified Tile Installers)
- An investment needs to be made for the proper cutting and handling tools to prevent breakage
- Due to large size of panels, traditional trowel designs do not work
 - ANSI recommends use of trowels that promotes ridge collapse
 - CUSTOM SuperiorBilt Platinum Notch Trowel is an excellent choice for GPTP installation
- Planning process is key for installation of GPTP
 - Contact manufacturers (GPTP, setting materials, etc.) to confirm
 - Assess jobsite for accessibility to material delivery and racks
 - Train crew in the proper methods
 - Make sure to have all necessary tools (including how to get tile to jobsite)

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