# Tiling with thin tiles (3 to 5 mm thickness) 


#### Abstract

A few years ago, a new trend appeared in the tiles showrooms: the thin tiles. They are made in ceramic, and their weight is two times lighter than a standard tile. To obtain a professional and clean result, special care should be taken when handling and fixing these tiles.


## Technical constraints

- Thin tiles are available in various sizes: from $30 \times 30 \mathrm{~cm}$ to $100 \times 300$ cm . The solutions given in this case apply for tiles sizes up to $60 \times 60$ cm (maximum size of tile included in standards for tile adhesives). For tiles sizes above that, please consult our technical department.

- Thin tiles generally have a thickness between 3 and 5 mm , and a low porosity.
- If the thin tile is supplied with a mesh on the back, the mesh and mesh adhesive should not cover more than $25 \%$ of the back of the tile, otherwise it could affect the final adhesion.
- Because of their low thickness, thin tiles are also more flexible than standard tiles.
A deformable or flexible tile adhesive should be used.
- Because of their large size and their high flexibility, it is highly recommended to use a fast-setting tile adhesive, to avoid bending/ warping issues that would let the edges of the tiles go up in arrow shape.
The use of a fast-setting tile adhesive will ensure that all the parts of the tile are well bonded with the substrate.
- These thin tiles cannot be applied in high-traffic areas.

Not all the thin tiles have the same shock resistance.
Therefore, some of them cannot be applied on floors or over a heated floor.
It is important to check the scope of use of the tiles given by the tile manufacturer before applying them.

- Thin tiles need a very smooth and flat substrate (old tiles for instance). Due to their low thickness, it is not possible to correct the flatness defaults of the substrate.


Epaleseur de 3 a 5 mm


As well, to avoid that the tile adhesive goes out from the joints during application, it is recommended to use a tile adhesive with a not too fluid consistency.

- The back-buttering method is mandatory to apply thin tiles: apply tile adhesive on both the substrate and the back of the tiles, to ensure full adhesion and avoid hollow spaces under the tiles.



## Recomended products

Self-levelling
compound


S = Substrate
1 = Screed Floortop. 515 PSC
2 = tile adhesive webercol fast / webercol F1
3 = tile grout weberjoint perfect


## 1- Substrate preparation

To obtain a smooth flat surface, make a screed with weberfloor easy $\mathbf{6 2 5}$ or weberfloor $\mathbf{5 3 5}$ FD, a premium self-levelling compound. Wait 3 days minimum before tiling.
Check the flatness of the substrate: maximum tolerance is 3 mm difference under the 2 meters ruler. Substrate must be clean and sound.

## 2- Method of application

## Tile adhesive

Use a deformable fast-setting adhesive to fix thin tiles:

## webercol fast or webercol f1

Use a 6 mm notched trowel for $30 \times 30 \mathrm{~cm}$ and $30 \times 60 \mathrm{~cm}$ tiles, using the back-buttering method
Use a 9 mm notched trowel for $60 \times 60 \mathrm{~cm}$ tiles, using the back-buttering method. For bigger sizes, consult our technical department.


## Tile grouting

If webercol fast or webercol $\mathbf{F 1}$ has been used for tiling, wait only 3 hours before grouting the tiles.
With other tile adhesives, wait at least 24 hours before grouting the joints. The grouting will be ideally made with weberjoint perfect. For large tiles, to compensate the low quantity of joints that will be applied, the joints will have a width of at least 4 mm .


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[^0]:    Note
    Use a fast setting adhesive to avoid bending/warping of thin tile edges.

