

# Large Format Tile-LFT Mortar

## 1 Product Name

Large Format Tile-LFT Mortar

## 2 Manufacturer

Custom Building Products  
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## 3 Product Description

Large Format Tile-LFT Mortar is a general purpose, economical, polymer-modified medium bed mortar for use with large format porcelain, ceramic and natural stone tile. With a non-slumping formula to eliminate lippage, Large Format Tile-LFT Mortar can be applied to 3/4" (19 mm) thick on horizontal applications. It is also formulated with non-sag and non-slip for excellent use on vertical applications.

Exceeds ANSI A118.4T and A118.11

### Suitable Tile Types

- Vitreous, semi-vitreous or non-vitreous tile: ceramic, quarry, cement body tile, pavers
- Impervious porcelain
- Brick and stone veneer
- Cement-based precast terrazzo
- Gauged or Ungauged Natural stone tile

### Suitable Substrates

- Concrete, mortar beds, masonry, Portland cement plaster
- WonderBoard® Lite, cement backerboards
- Liquid applied waterproofing membranes such as RedGuard® and Custom® 9240
- Crack prevention sheet membranes such as Crack Buster® Pro
- 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

Modified dry mortar, which is a proprietary blend of Portland cement, inorganic aggregates, copolymers and chemicals.

### Benefits of Product in the Installation

A general purpose, economical, polymer-modified mortar formulated specifically for large format ceramic and natural stone tile. Developed with a non-slumping formula to eliminate lippage, CUSTOM LFT Mortar can be applied up to 3/4" (19 mm) thick on horizontal applications. Use it for vitreous, semi-vitreous and absorptive tile, including ceramic, quarry, pavers, cement and porcelain, gauged or ungauged natural stone and pre-cast terrazzo.



- General purpose medium bed mortar for floors and walls
- Non-slump for large and heavy tile & stone floor installations
- Non-slip / non-sag for wall applications
- Use as a thin or medium bed up to 3/4"
- Exceeds ANSI A118.4 and A118.11

### Limitations to the Product

- Do not bond directly to hardwood, Luan plywood, particle board, parquet, cushion or sponge-back vinyl flooring, metal, 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.
- When setting glass tile larger than 6" x 6" (15 x 15 cm), contact Custom's® Technical Services for recommendations.
- Ensure that the substrate meets deflection requirements.

### Packaging

- 50 lb (22.68 kg) bag
- Gray or white



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# Large Format Tile-LFT Mortar

## 4 Technical Data

### Technical Chart

Property	Test Method	Requirement	Typical Results
Pot Life			2 hours
Open Time	ANSI A118.4 Section 4.4	> 50 minutes	> 50 minutes
Adjustment Time	ANSI A118.4 Section 4.5	> 30 minutes	> 30 minutes
4 Week Shear Bond Strength			
Glazed Wall Tile	ANSI A118.4 Section 5.1.5	> 300 psi	500 - 600 psi (35.2 - 42.2 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Porcelain Tile	ANSI A118.4 Section 5.2.4	> 200 psi	325 - 450 psi (22.8 - 31.6 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Quarry Tile to Plywood	ANSI A118.11 Section 4.1.2	> 150 psi	175 - 250 psi (12.3 - 17.6 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 to LEED® certification.

## 5 Instructions

### General Surface Prep

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 Cement 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 MPa) 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 ft<sup>2</sup>/gal (7.5 M<sup>2</sup>/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. For questions about proper subfloor installation, call Custom Building Products.

### Bonding to Backerboards

As an alternative to an additional layer of plywood, WonderBoard Lite backerboard may be installed over plywood subfloors for ceramic tile installations. Refer to TCNA F144. Call tech support when installing natural stone over plywood subfloor (TCNA F-141-11 & F-250-11). Only approved installation methods for stone.

### Bonding to Existing Surfacing Material

Resilient flooring or plastic laminates must be well-bonded, as well as clean and free of all contaminates. 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.

### 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.



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## Expansion Joint placement

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 and F125A.

## Mixing Ratios - powder to water

Mix 6 qts (5.67 L) clean water per 50 lb (22.68 kg) bag of Large Format Tile-LFT 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. 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. Thin Set Mortar should not be used to fill low spots in the flooring. For large format tile with one edge greater than 15" and uneven flooring, use mortars designed for medium bed applications.

## Curing of Product

Curing time is affected by ambient and surface temperatures along with humidity. Use the following as a guideline. Allow 24 hours before grouting or light traffic.

## 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	LFTMG50	50 lbs (22.68 kg)	Gray	Bag
USA	LFTMW50	50 lbs (22.68 kg)	White	Bag
Canada	CLFTMG50	50 lbs (22.68 kg)	Gray	Bag
Canada	CLFTMW50	50 lbs (22.68 kg)	White	Bag

## 7 Product Warranty

Custom® Building Products warrants to the original consumer purchaser that its product shall be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal and proper usage for a period of one year following the date of original purchase. Custom's sole liability under this warranty shall be limited to the replacement of the product. Some states, countries or territories do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty will not extend to any product which has been modified in any way or which has not been used in accordance with Custom's printed instructions. Custom makes no other warranties either expressed or implied. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights that vary from state to state or from one country/territory to another. For details and complete warranty information, visit the [warranty page](#).

## 8 Product Maintenance

Properly installed product requires no special maintenance.

## 9 Technical Services Information

For technical assistance, contact Custom® Building Products.

## 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

Fusion Pro® Single Component Grout™

Prism® SureColor® Grout



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## Coverage

AVERAGE COVERAGE PER 50 LB. (22.68 KG) BAG

Trowel Size	Min Coverage	Max Coverage
1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" (6 x 6 x 6 mm) Square-Notch	90 sq. ft. (8.4 M <sup>2</sup> )	100 sq. ft. (9.2 M <sup>2</sup> )
1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" (6 x 9.5 x 6 mm) Square-Notch	63 sq. ft. (6.0 M <sup>2</sup> )	70 sq. ft. (6.6 M <sup>2</sup> )
1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" (13 x 13 x 13 mm) Square-Notch	45 sq. ft. (4.2 M <sup>2</sup> )	50 sq. ft. (4.6 M <sup>2</sup> )



# CUSTOM<sup>®</sup>