

## BONDING TILE DIRECTLY TO LUAN PLYWOOD

---

This bulletin addresses the concerns of the suitability of Luan plywood in ceramic tile installations. Luan plywood is an unacceptable and unapproved substrate to receive tile or cementitious backer units (CBU). Ceramic tile, stone and/or cementitious backer unit installations utilizing any Luan species will not be warranted by CUSTOM®.

Luan is a hardwood species containing extractives (sugars), which adversely affect the "cure" of mastic adhesives and Portland cement products, including thin-set mortar and underlayments. Luan products are not manufactured under any recognized grading rules or controlled measures. Luan is not recognized in the United States by any major model building code or organization, and does not carry a grade stamp or have any known structural design value. Performance characteristics, including moisture stability, are unknown.

The American Plywood Association (APA) does not provide compliance assurance for any products utilizing the Luan species. The APA's recommendations for subfloor and underlayment under ceramic tile installations are consistent with the Tile Council of America (TCA). Approved plywood substrates to receive ceramic tile or CBUs must be APA-approved Exterior and Exposure 1 grades only (See ANSI A108 AN-3.4 Wood Subfloors).

To ensure standardized structural plywood performance to specific end users in the construction industry, the APA uses a Panel Performance Rating System. This rating gives the exact structural specifications of the plywood panel. To identify an APA approved Performance Rated Plywood Panel, look for the APA trademark on the back and/or side of the sheet.

The PS 1 and PS 2 Voluntary Product Standard grade conformance, where applicable, is given in the lower portion of the APA trademark. This trademark performance grading system is recognized throughout the construction industry by the following model building code organizations: Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI).

### REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Custom® Building Products Product Information Sheets APA Res. & Commercial Design/Const. Guide ANSI A108 AN-3.4 Wood Subfloors,

The information in this bulletin is presented in good faith, but no warranty, express or implied, is given nor is freedom from any patent in as much as any assistance furnished by CUSTOM® with reference to the safe use and disposal of its products provided without charge. Custom® Building Products assumes no obligation or liability therefore, except to the extent that any such assistance shall be given in good faith.



Technical Bulletin  
 Technical Services 800-282-8786  
[custombuildingproducts.com](http://custombuildingproducts.com)