

HOW TO CHOOSE A THIN-SET MORTAR

There are various types of thin-set mortars formulated to fit specific application needs or requirements. They are categorized as modified and un-modified. A modified thin-set mortar contains polymers formulated into the dry mix that increase its performance and strength. An un-modified mortar is simply a thin-set mortar that does not contain polymer in the dry mix. Liquid polymer additives are available for un-modified thin-set mortars to boost bond strengths, water resistance or flexibility. These liquid additives are used in place of water and should never be diluted, unless otherwise noted on the product directions.

POLYMER-MODIFIED MORTARS

- Mix with water — no additives required
- Use for installations that require higher bond strengths or flexibility (see list below)
- Use a specific polymer-modified thin-set mortar for jobs with special requirements:
 - High traffic areas
 - Crack isolation
 - Commercial jobs requiring quick installation
 - Jobs requiring a medium bed mortar — natural stone, large format tile, Saltillo pavers

DRY-SET (UNMODIFIED) MORTARS

- Mixed with water for the most basic tile applications
- Mix with polymer additives such as Thin-Set Admix Concentrate or Thin-Set Mortar Admix for installations requiring higher bond strengths. (see list)

INSTALLATIONS REQUIRING THE USE OF AN ADDITIVE OR A POLYMER-MODIFIED MORTAR ARE:

- To meet ANSI requirements A118.4 or A118.11
- Over exterior-grade plywood
- Areas subject to freeze/thaw cycles
- Over existing ceramic tile
- Over vinyl flooring, VCT
- Over cutback adhesives
- Over plastic laminates
- Over painted drywall or plaster
- When adhering WonderBoard® panels

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