

Sub.: Tile adhesive and grouts

There is a great deal of confusion about use of tile adhesive and grouts. Grouts are used for filling the joints between ceramic tiles or vitrified tiles. Tile adhesives are used for sticking tiles or stone to walls or floor.

Grouts are generally of 2 types i.e., cement based and epoxy grouts. We are generally using cement based grouts. However, epoxy grouts can be used in select applications like filling gaps around bathtubs. Epoxy grouts are expensive and its use should be minimal.

Bathroom tiles and flooring tiles inside the flat should be fixed using normal cement/cement mortar. However, for applications like wall cladding, landscaping, swimming pool tiles, etc., an adhesive must be used. Bands of marble or granite less than 6" in width used in kitchen platforms, utility area, etc., must also be fixed using tile adhesive. Generally the thickness of adhesive should be only about ¼". Therefore, the surface on which the tiles or stones is to be fixed must be finished like in two coats of plaster. Tile adhesives are of different types i.e., for floor, walls, interiors, exteriors for tiles, for stones, etc. Some times an admixture is to be added to the tile adhesive.

Laticrete is a company manufacturing several types of grouts, adhesives and water proofing compounds. These chemicals are also manufactured by other companies like Fosroc, Roff, ellandura, Sika, etc., and are available with Anisha Associates, United Engineering and most paint shops.

Out preferred brand is Laticrete. Please ensure that the correct chemical is used for a given application. Please consult the purchase division and Laticrete executives to ensure correct use of the product. Also make a cost Vs. benefit analysis to ensure good performance at reasonable cost.

Ensure that your requisition clearly mentions the type of product, product I.D. and brand. Do not send requisitions simply stating 'Laticrete'.

Sohm Modi.