

A-Z OF TILING

Every week as part of our “Stay Positive, Back Stronger” campaign we will be providing you with our A-Z of Tiling Terms. Get in-depth description of many of the common tiling terms, plus some expert insight or top tips from our team.

D

DAMP PROOF MEMBRANE

A damp-proof membrane (DPM) is a membrane material applied to prevent moisture transmission. A common example is polyethylene sheeting laid under a concrete slab to prevent the concrete from gaining moisture through capillary action.

BAL INSIGHT

For external tiling installations a surface DPM is recommended onto the slab prior to tiling. This helps to provide protection for the finished installation from excess moisture from below which can manifest in the form of efflorescence.

DIMENSIONS (TILE)

D

Tiles are specified by size, with standard sizes given in millimetres: 150 x 150, 300 x 300 etc. These equate approximately, but not exactly, to the traditional standard sizes of 6" x 6", 12" x 12" etc. Standard dimensions for mosaic tiles are indicated in the same way and can include 25 x 25 (approximating to 1" x 1"), 50 x 50 (2" x 2"), 75 x 75 (3" x 3") and so on. Work size is the length, width and thickness of the tile, whereas the coordinating size includes the width of the joints between the tiles (work size + joint width).

BAL INSIGHT

As stated in BS EN 14411, the nominal size is used to describe a ceramic tile, however, "This and the following sizes are only defined for rectangular tiles. If the sizes of non-rectangular tiles are required, they are defined by the smallest rectangle into which they fit"

DISPERSION ADHESIVES

D

Dispersion adhesives are pre-mixed products (also known as 'ready-mixed adhesives' or 'pastes') containing organic binders (polymer), mineral fillers and organic additives. These are classified as either D1 or D2. The D1 adhesives are not water resistant and may be used for dry internal wall tiling. D2 adhesives are suitable for Internal wall tiling in wet areas such as showers, but not for total immersion conditions. Reduced slip, an optional characteristic, may also be classified and shown with a 'T' and an extended open time i.e. longer than 30 minutes shown with an 'E.' An adhesive classified 'D2TE' would therefore be a water-resistant dispersion adhesive with reduced slip properties and an extended open time.

BAL INSIGHT

Dispersion tile adhesives are water-based and form a bond between the substrate and the ceramic tile by the loss of water from the organic or polymer binder. This is why Dispersion tile adhesives are particularly suitable for use with porous bodied ceramic tiles.

D

DRYING

Evaporation of water or other un-combined volatile substance from an adhesive, grout or other material or product.

BAL INSIGHT

Drying and curing are sometimes confused as being one and the same thing. Drying in terms of cement-based systems is basically loss of free water by evaporation (i.e. the free water not used in the cement hydration process). Curing is the prevention of the loss of moisture during the early stages in order to achieve better cement hydration. This is why BS 5385; Part 3: 2014 advises for cement; sand screeds “The screed should be kept covered with waterproof sheeting for at least seven days after laying to prevent drying out. The screed should be kept covered with waterproof sheeting for at least seven days after laying to prevent drying out” and “After the seven-day curing period, levelling screeds should be subjected to continuous air drying for at least a further two weeks before tiling is started”.

D

DRY-PRESSED CERAMIC TILE

A ceramic tile which has been created in a die or mould, using direct pressure onto powdered or granular material.

BAL INSIGHT

Dry pressed or dust pressed tiles are classified with the letter B in BS EN 14411. For example, a dry pressed tile is designated Class B. A dry-pressed porcelain tile is classified by Group Bla and has a water absorption of <math><0.5\%</math>.