



# LATICRETE<sup>®</sup> Mortars – Do's and Don'ts

## TDS 114

### DO

1. DO remove sealers, curing compounds, form release agents and contamination from substrates by mechanical scarification, bead blasting, shot-blasting, or with proper chemical cleaners.
2. DO clean dusty, dry surfaces to ease application and provide better adhesion.
3. DO use the correct gradation sand based on application thickness for field mix mortar beds:
  - ≤ ¼ inch (0-6 mm) thick: fine sand U.S. Sieves 40-100 (0.0-0.5 mm);
  - ¼ -½ inch (6-12 mm) thick: medium sand U.S. Sieves 20-50 (0.0-2.5 mm);
  - ½ -2 inch (12-50 mm) thick: coarse sand U.S. Sieves 6-20 (0.1-4.7mm).\*
- \* 1-2 inch (25-50 mm) thick topping, patching or concrete repair mortars require 3/8 inch (10 mm) coarse aggregate (typical mix: 1:1:2 PC:coarse sand:aggregate) due to wetter consistency.
4. DO mix screeds and thick bed mortars to a semi-dry consistency and apply them over a wet slurry bond coat. Compact beds fully after placement.
5. DO mix all renders and wall plasters to a stiff wet plastic consistency.
6. DO cover thin floor toppings that are exposed to rapid drying conditions (sun, wind, etc.) with plastic or builder's felt. Keep them covered for a minimum of 24 hours.

### DON'T

1. DON'T apply mortar over a dry or dusty surface.
2. DON'T apply bonded mortar bed over curing agents, sealers, paint or oil.
3. DON'T use acids to remove curing compounds or sealers.
4. DON'T use slurry bond coats when applying wall mud, plaster, stucco or render.
5. DON'T apply >12 mm (1/2 inch) of mortar, at one time, to prevent slumping on vertical surfaces.
6. DON'T allow slurry bond coats to dry before applying semi-dry consistency mortar.
7. DON'T use fine sand for floor screeds that are more than 12 mm (1/2 inch) thick.
8. DON'T make extremely soft or wet mortar mixes for floor applications.
9. DON'T leave thin floor toppings exposed to rapid drying conditions (sun, wind, etc.).

Technical Data Sheets are subject to change without notice. For latest revision, check our website at [www.laticrete.com](http://www.laticrete.com)  
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