Thin Bed Installations Over Wall or Floor Mortars

TDS 129

Traditionally wall renders and floor screeds were prepared for installing ceramic tile or stone within a few hours and consequently were floated true, plumb or level but left soft and with a coarse textured surface. THESE SURFACES ARE NOT SUITIBLE FOR THIN BED INSTALLATIONS OR THE APPLICATION OF LATICRETE® MEMBRANES.

MORTAR BEDS OR SCREEDS

These surfaces must be hard, dense and compacted with a steel trowel to provide a uniformly strong and smooth surface. Proper placement of floor screeds or beds, which are of the semi-dry nature, requires that the sand/cement mixture be well compacted, screeded or rodded to a level surface, pitched where necessary, and then compacted and troweled with a steel trowel. The steel trowelling is necessary to bring up some cement fines to fill the voids and encapsulate the sand, providing a strong dense surface. Trowelling should bring up to the surface a wet water-web, which is evidence that there is sufficient moisture in the bed to properly cure. If the bed is installed as a "pre-float", for future thin set application of tile, it should be wet cured or covered to retain moisture for proper cure.

Wall renders or float coats should be allowed to take an initial set and then be steel troweled to compact the mortar. This brings some of the latex/cement matrix to the surface which will then fill the voids and encapsulate the sand making a sound, tight surface. The mortar bed or screed is then ready to accept thin bed method installations of tile or application of a LATICRETE Membrane (e.g. LATICRETE Hydro Ban™ or LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane).

RENDERS OR FLOAT COATS

Float coats should be tested by rubbing the palm of the hand across the surface. If sand grains or loose material easily dusts from the surface, precautions must be taken to properly prepare the surface. Wall renders or float coats that have been allowed to harden, and show a dusty or sandy surface when rubbed by hand, must have a skim coat of latex/cement/fine sand applied and troweled onto the surface before any thin bed application. This will provide a dense, smooth and strong surface for the later application of a LATICRETE membrane and thin-set mortar.

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