



# Bonding Ceramic Tile and Stone To Steel Substrates

## TDS 146

More and more frequently, unusual substrates including steel, metal and aluminum are being used in tile or stone installations. Swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, elevator cabs, and cooler floors and walls frequently have a steel surface on which to bond tile. Below are methods to properly install tile to these substrates.

The preferred method for installation over steel is;

1. Steel, metal or aluminum substrate must be rigid and meet the maximum allowable standard for deflection of L/360 for tile or L/480 for stone
2. Tack weld or mechanically fasten 3.4 # galvanized diamond metal lath over the steel surface in accord with ANSI A108.01 3.3.
3. Apply a scratch and leveling coat of LATICRETE 3701 Fortified Mortar Bed; or, LATICRETE® 3701 Mortar Admix mixed with LATICRETE 226 Thick Bed Mortar to encapsulate and fill the lath.
4. After the mortar hardens, LATICRETE Hydro Ban™ or LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane may be installed where specified.
5. Tile may be installed with LATICRETE 254 Platinum or LATICRETE 4237 Latex Additive mixed with LATICRETE 211 Powder. In areas where a more chemically resistant adhesive is necessary (or when installing water sensitive marble or agglomerate) install with LATAPOXY® 300 Adhesive.
6. When tile has set firm, grout with LATICRETE SpectraLOCK® PRO Premium Grout\*; LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout; LATICRETE PermaColor™ Grout; or, LATICRETE 1500 Sanded Grout or LATICRETE 1600 Unsanded Grout gauged with LATICRETE 1776 Grout Enhancer. For areas subjected to food acids, harsh chemicals or extreme heat use LATICRETE SpectraLOCK 2000 IG.

or, the alternative method for installation over steel is;

1. Steel or aluminum must be rigid, meet the maximum allowable standard for deflection of L/360 for tile or L/480 for natural stone, and be free of rust, dirt, paint, manufacturing oils, or other surface contamination.
2. Steel manufacturer / contractor must inspect steel for any signs of rust or corrosion. Clean, remove, passivate steel in accord with steel manufacturer's guidelines to ensure that rust / corrosion is completely removed prior to tiling.
3. Wash steel surface with strong detergent to ensure that all manufacturing oils are removed, rinse completely and allow to dry. Refer to steel manufacturer's guidelines for steel surface preparation when cladding with tile or stone.
4. Install tile or stone with LATAPOXY 300 Adhesive by following instructions outlined in DS 633.0 and DS 631.5 INTL.
5. Grout tile or stone with LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Premium Grout\*; LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout; LATICRETE PermaColor™ Grout; or, LATICRETE 1500 Sanded Grout or LATICRETE 1600 Unsanded Grout gauged with LATICRETE 1776 Grout Enhancer. For areas subjected to food acids, harsh chemicals or extreme heat use LATICRETE SpectraLOCK 2000 IG.

Refer to LATICRETE Data Sheet 025.0 for LATICRETE 25 Year System Warranty Information.

\* United States Patent No.: 6881768 (and other Patents)

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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