

## Frequently asked questions about Alcolin Easy-Tiler

### 1. What is Alcolin Easy-Tiler?

Alcolin Easy-Tiler is a fast grabbing, ready mixed, thin bed ceramic tile adhesive for light duty application onto internal walls and floors.

### 2. What is Alcolin Easy-Tiler used for?

Alcolin Easy-Tiler is suitable for fixing lightweight ceramic, brick, mosaic, stone and clay tiles, to cement-based plaster, concrete, primed cement fibreboard and primed gypsum plaster.

### 3. How do I use Alcolin Easy-Tiler?

It is critical to first ensure correct floor and wall surface preparation. We recommend that one reads the technical data sheet for Alcolin Easy-Tiler for full details on surface preparation.

Alcolin Easy-Tiler is a ready to use paste adhesive and must not be adulterated by addition of water or any other substance. Stir before use.

Tiles should not be butt joined. A minimum grouting joint width for walls is 2mm and for floors, 3mm. Apply a 3mm bed of Alcolin Easy-Tiler to the surface using a 6x6x6mm notched trowel. Heavily lugged, grooved or dovetailed tiles must be buttered with adhesive before bedding into the troweled adhesive in order to prevent any voids. If the tiles do not have spacer lugs, plastic spacers may be inserted between the tiles to help maintain straight grout lines. Remove these after placing the tile, before they become firmly set in the adhesive. Do not spread more adhesive than can be tiled in 10 minutes. Press tiles firmly into wet adhesive with a twisting action (before surface drying/skinning occurs). Use a "RUBBER MALLET" to bed large or heavy tiles. Occasionally lift a tile to check that full contact is being made between the tile and the adhesive. Use only dry tiles – do not pre-wet tiles in water. Clean excess adhesive off tile surface, grout joints and tools while still wet.

Do not tile over existing structural movement joints. Movement joints should be located in both directions at a maximum 5m for interior applications and every 3m for exterior applications. Movement joints should also be located in all horizontal and vertical corners, and against obstructions fixed to the structural background and over all discontinuities in building materials e.g. interfaces between concrete and brickwork.

### 4. How long should I wait before grouting?

Allow a minimum of 24 hours before grouting.

### 5. What is the difference between Alcolin Easy-Tiler and Alcolin Flexi-Tiler?

Alcolin Flexi-Tiler is a high quality ready mixed tiling adhesive with excellent flexibility and is ideal for application on flexible, dimensionally unstable surfaces. Alcolin Easy-Tiler is a more economical ready mixed tiling adhesive and is ideal for bonding of lightweight ceramic tiles, interior application only.

**6. Can I use Alcolin Easy-Tiler if I am butt joining tiles?**

No, it is not suitable for butt joining tiles – space must be left between the tiles for tile expansion. These spaces can be filled with a tile grout such as Alcolin Grout.

**7. Can I tile over existing expansion / structural movement joints?**

No, all expansion and movement joints must extend through the adhesive bed and tiling.

**8. Can I use Alcolin Easy-Tiler for porcelain or vitrified tiles?**

No, you must use Alcolin P301 or Alcolin Porcelain Fix for these tiles.

**9. I need to tile over a flexible, dimensionally unstable surface. Can I use Alcolin Easy-Tiler?**

No, for this application you should use a flexible tile adhesive such as Alcolin Flexi-Tiler.

**10. Can I use Easy-Tiler for light coloured natural stone tiles?**

No, as these tiles are usually large 'heavy duty' tiles. You must use a white coloured cement based tile adhesive such as Alcolin Mosaic Marble Fix. A grey coloured tile adhesive may cause discolouration on natural stone, marble and travertine tiles.

**11. Does a new cement/sand render/screed require a minimum drying time of 3 weeks prior to the fixing of ceramic tiles? If this is correct, is there an alternative material that allows the fixing of tiles within a shorter time scale?**

This is correct, and is recommended by the SABS 0107:1996 specifications: The design and installation of ceramic tiling.

If the subfloor is new, then there are no shortcuts, however if the subfloor is aged, and one is only repairing the surface prior to tiling, then instead of repairing the surface with a standard cement screed, one could use a rapid setting self levelling screed such as Alcolin Z101, or a rapid set patching cement such as Alcolin Anchoring and Patching Cement. These products would allow for tiling between 4-5 hours after application.

**12. I want to fix a light colour natural stonewall or travertine tile to a cement/sand rendered wall. Is it true that staining of the tiles can occur as a result of the dark grey cement tiling adhesive? What precautionary procedures would you recommend?**

Yes, staining will occur if using a grey coloured ceramic tiling adhesive. The natural stone / Travertine tiles are very porous and the cement can absorb into these pores causing staining. Also the dark colour of the cement adhesive can show through light coloured tiles. It is best to use a white coloured cement tiling adhesive such as Alcolin Mosaic Marble Fix for these applications. The tile adhesive can also be used as a grout if necessary. In addition to the above, it is normally recommended that the tiles are pre-sealed prior to the installation with an appropriate sealer. Seek advice from the tile/stone merchant where the tiles were purchased, depending on the circumstances, the tile adhesive may also be used as the grout.

**13. I have a wooden floor that I want to tile using ceramic tiles. Is there an adhesive and grout, which I could use for this type of floor construction?**

Alcolin Easy-Tiler is not suitable for this application as it cannot accommodate any movement that may come from the existing wooden floor. One can however, use Alcolin Flexi-Tiler for this job.

**14. What are expansion joints and where should these be installed?**

Stresses build up in tiling installations due to a combination of a number of factors such as the drying shrinkage of cement in the adhesive, irreversible expansion of tiles due to moisture ingress, temperature differentials, movement in the subfloor, etc. These stresses need to be alleviated by means of expansion joints (movement joints).

According to the South African specification SABS 0107:1996 The Design and Installation of Ceramic Tiling expansion joints need to be at least 5mm wide, coincide with any structural movement joints, where tiling meets other surfaces, across junctions of different backgrounds, dry interior areas, interior & exterior wet areas, areas where there large temperature variances and additional joints are required in large areas extending every 5m<sup>2</sup> in both the horizontal and vertical directions. Failing to insert expansion joints in the installation it could result in the following consequences: lifting or tenting of the tiles, cracking and crazing on the tiles surface etc.

