



Natural Stone Specialist Editorial

Article 1

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Stone Fixing with Thick Bed Adhesives

Over the last five years there has been a large increase in the use of natural stone products as a decorative finish over the last five years. The nature of these products together with the complexity and range of backgrounds in modern construction has in turn put greater demands on the adhesives and grouts used to fix them, and in this article we will start by addressing the issues relating to floors.

British Standard BS 5385: Part 5, the code of practice for the design and installation of terrazzo tile and slab, natural stone and composition block floorings, states that although thin bed adhesives are suitable for some stone floorings, in heavy duty locations or with terrazzo tiles and slabs, a thick bed adhesive is required. Norcross Adhesives have developed Norcross Rapid Porcelain Tile & Stone, and One Part Flexible Adhesives which are suitable for bed thicknesses of 3mm to 6mm and Norcross Thick Bed Stone & Porcelain Adhesive, suitable for bed thickness of up to 25mm. These adhesives are available in grey and white, making them ideal for fixing all types of stone including Slate, Limestone, Marble and Terrazzo. Obviously the correct adhesive choice would also be determined by the dimensions of the stone together with the type of substrate it is intended to fix to.

It is important to consider the intended use of the finished installation. For instance in showers and wet rooms, tiled systems cannot be guaranteed to prevent the passage of liquids from above, even when impervious grouts are used. On suspended floors, water passing downwards may cause damage to walls and ceilings below and in the worst cases lead to flooding. In accordance with the recommendations contained within BS 5385: Part 5, it may be necessary to apply a waterproof tanking membrane such as Norcross Wet Seal prior to commencement of tiling which will prevent passage of liquid.

Timber floors present their own challenges. It is essential to provide a rigid base that will carry the additional dead load without excessive deflection. Anti fracture membranes such as the newly launched 1.8mm thick Norcross Permalayer, provide an easy to install replacement for thick plywood overlays to strengthen floors.