

# Kerabond T

Premium, Large-and-Heavy-Tile and Thin-Set Mortar



When mixed with water



When mixed with Keralastic®



## DESCRIPTION

*Kerabond® T* is a premium-grade, nonsag, nonslump mortar for use in thin-set and large-and-heavy-tile applications in interior/exterior residential and commercial floors and walls when mixed with water.

## FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Nonsag, nonslump formula for tile/stone in wall and floor applications when mixed with water
- For tile and stone on floors and walls
- Ideal for most substrates, tile and stone when mixed with *Keralastic®*. For details, see the Technical Data Sheet (TDS) for the *Kerabond T/Keralastic* System.

## INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND APPROVALS

- ISO 13007: Classification C1T
- ANSI: Exceeds ANSI A118.1HT requirements

## WHERE TO USE

When mixed with water

- For installing ceramic, quarry, paver and Saltillo tiles, as well as most types of marble, granite and natural stone

- For most interior/exterior residential installations on floors, walls and countertops in dry and wet areas
- For most interior/exterior commercial installations on floors and countertops
- For most interior/exterior commercial installations on walls
- For installations subject to intermittent water exposure
- For installing large-format tile and stone

When mixed with Keralastic (see the Kerabond T / Keralastic TDS for details):

- All the uses above
- For installing glass and porcelain tiles
- For installations in freeze/thaw environments, in submerged conditions and with special substrates
- For all residential, heavy commercial and industrial installations

## LIMITATIONS

- Install only at temperatures between 40°F and 95°F (4°C and 35°C).
- Do not use for moisture-sensitive stone (green marble; some limestone and some granite), agglomerate tiles or resin-backed tiles. Instead, use suitable epoxy or urethane adhesives (see respective TDSs for more information).
- For light-colored and translucent natural stone as well as transparent and translucent glass, a white mortar is recommended.
- Do not use over dimensionally unstable substrates such as hardwood flooring, oriented strand board (OSB), substrates containing asbestos, or metal. See the "Suitable Substrates" section below.
- To use directly over gypsum-based patching or leveling substrates, apply a suitable sealer/primer before use. See the "Tiling over gypsum" technical bulletin in the Tile & Stone Installation Systems section of MAPEI's Website.
- Do not use for installations subject to water immersion, such as pools and spas.
- *Kerabond T* is not recommended for areas subject to severe freeze/thaw conditions. For the best performance, use the *Kerabond T / Keralastic* System.
- For improved performance and longevity, mix with *Keralastic* rather than with water for areas subject to freeze/thaw, heavy-duty wet areas, and areas subject to water immersion or temperature extremes.
- Large-and-heavy-tile mortars are not designed to correct uneven floors. Substrates must be flat and level (according to substrate flatness requirements in ANSI A108.02) before the installation of large-format tile.

## SUITABLE SUBSTRATES

When mixed with water:

- Concrete (cured for at least 28 days)
- Masonry cement block, brick, cement mortar beds, render coats and leveling coats
- Cement terrazzo

When mixed with Keralastic:

- All the substrates above
- Gypsum wallboard and plaster – interior walls in dry areas only (priming may be required). See the "Surface preparation requirements" reference guide in the Tile & Stone Installation Systems section of MAPEI's Website.

- Cement backer units (CBUs) – see the manufacturer's installation guidelines
- Well-bonded ceramic tile, porcelain, vinyl composition tile (VCT), plastic laminate countertops, non-cushioned vinyl sheet goods and cutback residue (interior only)
- Plywood underlayments must be a Group 1 exterior-grade plywood CC-plugged or better, conforming to APA classification and U.S. Product Standard PS 1-95 or a "SELECT" or (SEL-TF) CANPLY classified exterior-grade plywood conforming to CSA-0121 standard for Douglas fir for direct-bond applications (interior, residential and light commercial floors and countertops in dry conditions only).
- MAPEI waterproofing, crack-isolation, sound-reduction and uncoupling membranes over suitable substrates for these membranes

## SURFACE PREPARATION

- All substrates should be structurally sound, stable, dry, clean, and free of any substance or condition that may reduce or prevent proper adhesion.

See the "Surface preparation requirements" reference guide in the Tile & Stone Installation Systems section of MAPEI's Website.

## MIXING

Before product use, take appropriate safety precautions. See the Safety Data Sheets for details.

1. Pour clean water into a clean mixing container. For nonsag/nonslump applications, use about 6.5 to 7.5 U.S. qts. (6.15 to 7.10 L) of water. For MAPEI uncoupling and peel-and-stick membranes, use about 7.5 to 8 U.S. qts. (7.10 to 7.57 L) of water. Or, when needed instead of water, use 2 U.S. gals. (7.57 L) of *Keralastic*.
2. Gradually add 50 lbs. (22.7 kg) of *Kerabond T* powder while slowly mixing.
3. Use a low-speed mixing drill (at about 300 rpm), with an angled cross-blade mixer or spiral mixer. Mix thoroughly until mixture becomes a smooth, homogenous, lump-free paste. Avoid prolonged mixing.
4. Let the mixture stand ("slake") for 5 minutes.
5. Remix.
6. If mixture becomes heavy or stiff, remix it without adding more liquid.

## PRODUCT APPLICATION

Read all installation instructions thoroughly before installation.

1. Choose a notched trowel (see the "Approximate Coverage" chart below) with sufficient depth to achieve greater than 80% mortar contact to both the tile and substrate for all interior applications, and greater than 95% for exterior installations and wet applications. It may be necessary to back-butter tiles in order to meet these requirements. (Refer to ANSI A108.5 specifications and TCNA Handbook guidelines.)
2. With pressure, apply a coat by using the trowel's flat side to key mortar into the substrate.
3. Apply mortar to the substrate (and, if installing thin tile, to the back of the tile). Use the trowel's notched side to comb the mortar in a single direction parallel with the tiles' shortest dimension. If thin tile is being installed, each tile should be placed so that the troweled ridges on its back are oriented in the same parallel direction as the trowel ridges on the substrate.
4. Spread only as much mortar as can be tiled before product skins over. Open time can vary with jobsite conditions.
5. Place the tiles firmly into the wet mortar. Push the tiles back and forth in a direction perpendicular to the trowel lines, which collapses the mortar ridges and helps to achieve maximum coverage. Ensure proper

contact between the mortar, tile and substrate by periodically lifting a few tiles to check for acceptable coverage.

6. Remove excess mortar from the joint areas so that at least 2/3 of the tile depth is available for grouting (see ANSI A108.10 guidelines).

## EXPANSION AND CONTROL JOINTS

- Provide for expansion and control joints as specified per TCNA Method EJ171 or per TTMAC Specification Guide 09 30 00, Detail 301MJ. Do not cover expansion joints with mortars.

## CLEANUP

- Use only water to clean tools and tiles while the mortar is fresh.

## PROTECTION

- Wait at least 24 to 48 hours after installation before grouting, so that the mortar is sufficiently set.
- Protect from heavy traffic, rain and frost for 7 days.
- Immersion in water requires mixing *Kerabond T* with *Keralastic*. Wait at least 21 days before allowing full immersion.
- Large-format tile and low-absorption tile may require a longer time to fully set before tiles can be grouted.

### ISO 13007 Classification

Classification Code	Classification Requirement
CIT (cementitious, standard adhesion)	≥ 72.5 psi (0.5 MPa) after standard aging, heat aging, water immersion and freeze/thaw cycles

### ANSI Specifications

Test Method	Specification Standard	Test Results
ANSI A118.1 – shear strength, impervious ceramic (porcelain) mosaics	> 150 psi (1.03 MPa) at 28 days	200 to 280 psi (1.38 to 1.93 MPa)
ANSI A118.1 – shear strength, glazed wall tile	> 250 psi (1.72 MPa) at 28 days	300 to 380 psi (2.07 to 2.62 MPa)
ANSI A118.1 – shear strength, quarry tile to quarry tile	> 100 psi (0.69 MPa) at 28 days	250 to 350 psi (1.72 to 2.41 MPa)
ANSI A118.1H – mortar for large and heavy tile	ASTM C627 Robinson Floor Test lippage change < 1/64" (0.4 mm)	Pass
ANSI A118.1T – sag on vertical surfaces	< 0.02 in. (0.5 mm)	Pass

## Shelf Life and Product Characteristics

before mixing

Shelf life	1 year when stored in original, unopened packaging at 73°F (23°C)
Physical state	Powder
Colors	Gray and white

Protect containers from freezing in transit and storage. Provide for heated storage on site and deliver all materials at least 24 hours before work begins.

## Application Properties\*

at 73°F (23°C) and 50% relative humidity

Open time*	20 to 30 minutes
Pot life*	> 2 hours
Time before grouting*	24 to 48 hours
VOC content	0 g per L

\*Open time, pot life and time before grouting vary based on jobsite conditions.

## Approximate Coverage\*\*

per 50 lbs. (22.7 kg)

Typical Trowel	Coverage
1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" (6 x 6 x 6 mm), square-notch	85 to 95 sq. ft. (7.90 to 8.83 m <sup>2</sup> )
1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" (6 x 10 x 6 mm), square-notch	65 to 75 sq. ft. (6.04 to 6.97 m <sup>2</sup> )
1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" (12 x 12 x 12 mm), square-notch	40 to 50 sq. ft. (3.72 to 4.65 m <sup>2</sup> )
3/4" x 9/16" x 3/8" (19 x 14 x 10 mm), U-notch	35 to 40 sq. ft. (3.25 to 3.72 m <sup>2</sup> )

\*\*Trowel dimensions are width/depth/space. Actual coverage will vary according to substrate profile and tile type.

## Packaging

### Size and Color

Bag: 50 lbs. (22.7 kg), gray

Bag: 50 lbs. (22.7 kg), white

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Reference guide: “Surface preparation requirements” for tile and stone installation systems\*\*\*

\*\*\* At [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Refer to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for specific data related to health and safety as well as product handling.

For information on MAPEI's commitment to sustainability and transparency, as well as how MAPEI products may contribute to green building standards and certification systems, contact [sustainability-durabilite@mapei.com](mailto:sustainability-durabilite@mapei.com).

## WARNING

The test results shown in the TECHNICAL DATA table were obtained in compliance with test methods and curing cycles, if applicable, defined in the industry standards referenced on the Technical Data Sheet. Please note that the use of test procedures or methods other than those indicated in the table could lead to different values and that, in such cases, any liability of our company is excluded.

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The contents of this Technical Data Sheet ("TDS") may be copied into another project-related document, but the resulting document shall not supplement nor replace requirements per the TDS in effect at the time of the MAPEI product installation. For the most up-to-date TDS and warranty information, please visit our website at [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com). **ANY ALTERATIONS TO THE WORDING OR REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN OR DERIVED FROM THIS TDS SHALL VOID ALL RELATED MAPEI WARRANTIES.**

Before using, the user must determine the suitability of our products for the intended use, and the user alone assumes all risks and liability. **ANY CLAIM SHALL BE DEEMED WAIVED UNLESS MADE IN WRITING TO US WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM DATE IT WAS, OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN, DISCOVERED.**

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For the most current product data and BEST-BACKED<sup>SM</sup> warranty information,  
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