



BALTIMORE

# spec NEWS

# Felt Tips

09300  
Feb 1974  
Issue 21

## DO'S, DON'TS FOR THIN-SET MORTAR

The following practices are recommended by the Mortar Manufacturers Standards Association, Palatine, Illinois.

1. Do use a factory prepared sanded dry set mortar for all installations. Do not job mix uncertified concentrates with sand and cement or cement alone.
2. Don't apply thin-set Portland Cement mortar to concrete that has been treated with a sealer or curing compound until the surface has been properly prepared. Thin-set mortars will stick to clean concrete but any foreign material must be removed first by sand blasting, power sanding or grinding, etching, etc., whichever will work best.
3. Do install all quarries, vitrified tile and pavers with a latex mortar over concrete or similar Portland Cement back-up surface, particularly where the surface is subject to shock or weather.
4. Don't grout thin-set mortar installations while the mortar is still plastic or before it has cured sufficiently to prevent breaking the bond during the grouting procedure - usually two days or more.
5. Do use latex mortars and grouts for all exterior installations subject to exposure to weather.
6. Don't use thin-set Portland Cement mortars over back-up surfaces that are not compatible, such as plywood, masonite, particle board, metal, etc.
7. Do spray or dampen dry, porous concrete before installing ceramic tile with thin-set Portland Cement mortar. Do not leave puddles of standing water - broom sweep the surface dry.
8. Don't apply thin-set Portland Cement mortar over a Portland Cement float coat, unless the float coat is still plastic or has cured a minimum of 24 hours under normal job conditions. When used as a neat cement bond coat over a plastic bed, a 1/16" layer is sufficient. When used in connection with "Hard-walling" the float coat should be a lean mix, 1" maximum thickness, and sufficiently dry to prevent a failure due to excessive shrinkage - a minimum of 24 hours is recommended.