

# Keraflex RS

Professional, Rapid-Setting, Extra Smooth, Large-and-Heavy-Tile Mortar with Polymer



## DESCRIPTION

*Keraflex*® RS is a fast-setting, highly versatile, large-and-heavy-tile mortar and thin-set mortar for tile and stone installation on floors, walls and countertops. It is formulated as nonsag for walls and nonslump for floors, allowing tiles to be grouted in as little as 3 to 4 hours after installation. *Keraflex RS* is a polymer-modified, smooth and creamy mortar formulated with Easy Glide Technology™ for ease of application and offers excellent adhesion to substrates and tile. It can also be used as a mortar over uncoupling, crack-isolation, sound-reduction and waterproofing membranes.

## FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- High-Transfer Technology™ for superior mortar-wetting properties
- Fast-setting formulation
- Extra smooth, creamy consistency for ease of application
- Easy mixing, handling and troweling properties
- Ideal for edge-leveling clip applications
- Nonsag formula for large-format and heavy tile/stone in wall applications
- Nonslump formula for large-format and heavy tile/stone in floor applications
- For bond coats up to 1/2" (12 mm) in embedded thickness
- Polymer-enriched for high performance
- For use over plywood and a variety of membranes

## INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND APPROVALS

- ISO 13007: Classification C2TF
- ANSI: Exceeds A118.4FHT and A118.11 requirements

## WHERE TO USE

- Most interior/exterior residential installations on floors and walls
- Most interior/exterior commercial installations on floors
- Most interior commercial installations on walls
- For use in tub surrounds and showers
- For use over exterior-grade plywood
- Installation of ceramic and porcelain tile, quarry tile, pavers and Saltillo tile, as well as most types of marble, granite and natural stone

## 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 granite), agglomerate tiles, or resin-backed tiles. Instead, use suitable epoxy or urethane adhesives. See the respective Technical Data Sheets for more information.
- 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.
- For light-colored and translucent natural stone, a white mortar is recommended.
- Do not use for transparent or translucent glass tile.
- Installations of tile over nonporous surfaces, such as waterproofing membranes and existing tile, may require extended setting/curing times.
- Use with dimensionally weak stone (limestone and travertine) is limited to thin-set applications only.
- Do not use for installations subject to water immersion, such as pools and spas.
- Do not use for exterior commercial building facades, such as shopping malls, office buildings and high-rise residential buildings.
- 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.
- Use a MAPEI mortar with a liquid latex additive for areas subject to severe freeze/thaw conditions, for the best performance.

## SUITABLE SUBSTRATES

- Concrete (cured for at least 28 days)
- Masonry cement block, brick, cement mortar beds, render coats and leveling coats
- Cement backer units (CBUs) – see the manufacturer’s installation guidelines
- Gypsum wallboard and plaster – interior walls in dry areas only (priming may be required)
- Plywood underlayments must be a Group 1 exterior-grade plywood CC-plugged or better, conforming to APA classification and U.S. Product Standard PS1-95 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).

- Vinyl composition tile (VCT) and cutback residue (interior only)
- Existing ceramic and porcelain tile, cement terrazzo, quarry tile and pavers (interior in dry conditions only)
- MAPEI waterproofing, crack-isolation, sound-reduction and uncoupling membranes over recommended substrates

Consult MAPEI's Technical Services Department for installation recommendations regarding substrates and conditions not listed.

## 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.

### Tile Council of North America (TCNA) Statement on Maximum Allowable Deflection

"Floor systems, whether wood framed or concrete, over which the tile will be installed... shall be in conformance with the International Residential Code (IRC) for residential applications, the International Building Code (IBC) for commercial applications, or applicable building codes.

"The owner should communicate in writing to the project design professional and general contractor the intended use of the tile installation, including in-service loads or information. Project design professional and general contractor must make necessary allowances for the expected live load, concentrated loads, impact loads and dead loads, including maximum allowable loads during construction and maintenance. The tile contractor shall not be responsible for problems resulting from any structural subfloor installation not compliant with applicable building codes, unless structural subfloor was designed and installed by the tile contractor."

## MIXING

Before product use, take appropriate safety precautions. Refer to the Safety Data Sheet for details.

1. Pour clean, potable water into a clean mixing container.

For nonsag/nonslump applications: Use about 5.5 to 6.5 U.S. qts. (5.20 to 6.15 L) of water.

For MAPEI membranes: Use about 6.5 to 7 U.S. qts. (6.15 to 6.62 L) of water.

2. Gradually add 44 lbs. (20 kg) of 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 the mixture becomes a smooth, homogenous, lump-free paste. Avoid prolonged mixing.
4. Do not slake. Spread immediately.
5. If the mixture becomes heavy or stiff, remix without adding more liquid.

## PRODUCT APPLICATION

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1. Choose a notched trowel (see the “Approximate Coverage” chart below) with sufficient depth to achieve more than 80% mortar contact to both the tile and substrate for all interior applications, and more than 95% for exterior installations and wet applications. It may be necessary to back-butter the tile in order to meet these requirements. (Refer to ANSI A108.5 specifications and TCNA handbook guidelines.)
2. With pressure, apply a coat of mortar by using the trowel’s flat side to key the mortar into the substrate.
3. Apply additional mortar, combing it in a single direction parallel to the tile’s shortest dimension, with the trowel’s notched side.
4. Spread only as much mortar as can be tiled before the 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 trowel lines, to collapse the mortar ridges and to help 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

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- Provide for expansion and control joints as specified per TCNA Method EJ171, or TTMAC Specification Guide 09 30 00, Detail 301MJ. Do not cover any expansion joints with mortar.
- When necessary, cut tiles along both edges of the expansion joints. Do not allow tile and mortar to overlap the joints.
- Protect tilework with metal strips (edge metal) along both edges of structural building expansion joints.
- Install the specified compressible backer rod and sealant into all expansion and control joints.

## CLEANUP

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

## PROTECTION

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- Protect from foot traffic for 6 hours and from heavy traffic for 24 hours.
- Protect from frost and rain for 7 days.
- Because temperature and humidity (during and after the installation of tile) affect the final curing time, allow for extended periods of cure and protection when temperatures drop below 60°F (16°C) and/or when the relative humidity is higher than 70%.

## ISO 13007 Classification

Classification Code	Classification Requirement
C2 (cementitious, improved adhesive)	≥ 145 psi (1 MPa) after standard aging, heat aging, water immersion and freeze/thaw cycles
T (vertical slip resistance)	≤ 0.02" (0.5 mm)
F (fast-setting)	≥ 72.5 psi (0.5 MPa) after 6 hours

## ANSI Specifications

Test Method	Specification Standard	Test Results
ANSI A118.4 – shear strength, impervious ceramic (porcelain) mosaics	> 200 psi (1.38 MPa) at 28 days	350 to 450 psi (2.41 to 3.10 MPa)
ANSI A118.4 – shear strength, glazed wall tile	> 300 psi (2.07 MPa) at 28 days	400 to 500 psi (2.76 to 3.45 MPa)
ANSI A118.4 – shear strength, quarry tile to quarry tile	> 150 psi (1.03 MPa) at 28 days	275 to 400 psi (1.90 to 2.76 MPa)
ANSI A118.4F – shear strength, impervious ceramic (porcelain) mosaics	> 50 psi (0.34 MPa) at 4 hours	Pass
ANSI A118.4H – mortar for large and heavy tile	ASTM C627 Robinson Floor Test Lippage change < 1/64" (0.4 mm)	Pass
ANSI A118.4T – sag on vertical surfaces	≤ 0.02" (0.5 mm)	Pass
ANSI A118.11 – shear strength, quarry tile to plywood	> 150 psi (1.03 MPa) at 28 days	150 to 200 psi (1.03 to 1.38 MPa)

## Shelf Life and Product Characteristics

before mixing

Shelf life	1 year when stored in original, unopened packaging at 73°F (23°C) and 50% relative humidity
Colors	Gray and white

## Application Properties

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

<b>Open time*</b>	10 to 20 minutes
<b>Pot life*</b>	30 minutes
<b>Time before grouting*</b>	3 to 4 hours
<b>VOC content</b>	0 g per L
<b>Application temperature range</b>	40°F and 95°F (4°C and 35°C)

\* Cold temperature or high humidity may alter these properties.

## Packaging

<b>Size and Color</b>
Bag: 44 lbs. (20 kg), gray
Bag: 44 lbs. (20 kg), white

## Approximate Coverage\*\*

per 44 lbs. (20 kg)

Typical Trowel	Coverage
1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" (6 x 6 x 6 mm)	82 to 91 sq. ft. (7.62 to 8.45 m <sup>2</sup> )
1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" (6 x 10 x 6 mm)	62 to 72 sq. ft. (5.76 to 6.69 m <sup>2</sup> )
1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" (12 x 12 x 12 mm)	38 to 48 sq. ft. (3.53 to 4.46 m <sup>2</sup> )
3/4" x 9/16" x 3/8" (19 x 14 x 10 mm)	33 to 39 sq. ft. (3.07 to 3.62 m <sup>2</sup> )

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

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Reference guide: "Surface preparation requirements" for tile and stone installation systems\*\*\*
- Technical bulletin: "Tiling over gypsum"\*\*\*

\*\*\* 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\\_USA@mapei.com](mailto:sustainability_USA@mapei.com) (USA) or [sustainability-durabilite@mapei.com](mailto:sustainability-durabilite@mapei.com) (Canada).

## 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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