

## ▶ When can BAL Rapid-Mat be used?

BAL Rapid-Mat is suitable for use on a wide range of backgrounds, including new screeds, provided that the surface is correctly prepared. It can be used to protect tiling on:

- ▶ Tongue and groove timber floors
- ▶ Single-layer plywood floors
- ▶ Concrete floors
- ▶ Cement: sand screeds
- ▶ Anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds
- ▶ Mastic asphalt (internal grade) floors
- ▶ Primary (water-fed) underfloor heating
- ▶ Secondary (electrical) underfloor heating

For full product details, always refer to the Technical Data Sheet.

## ▶ What products can be used with BAL Rapid-Mat?

To ensure the validity of the market-leading full 25 year guarantee, BAL Rapid-Mat must be fixed within a system using a suitable BAL adhesive and BAL grout.

The choice of adhesive must be in accordance with the tile type and environmental considerations.

### Possible preparation products:

- ▶ BAL Prime APD
- ▶ BAL Bond SPR
- ▶ BAL WP1
- ▶ BAL Quickset Cement
- ▶ BAL Fibrebase

### Adhesives:

- ▶ BAL Rapidset Flexible
- ▶ BAL PTB Flexible
- ▶ BAL Stone & Tile PTB
- ▶ BAL Turbo Set

Other BAL adhesives may be suitable for certain installations. For specific guidance on selecting other BAL adhesives contact BAL Technical Advisory Service.

### Grouts:

- ▶ BAL Micromax2
- ▶ BAL Microflex Wide Joint
- ▶ BAL Superflex Wide Joint

### Sealants

- ▶ BAL Micromax Sealants

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The guaranteed answer for tiling onto problematic floors.



# BAL Rapid-Mat

Laying down a new benchmark.

## Find out:

- ▶ Why and when uncoupling is needed
- ▶ How to reduce costs with uncoupling
- ▶ How to install uncoupling quickly and easily



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**Support:** For free, unbiased advice on the use of BAL Rapid-Mat, or any other aspect of tiling, call the BAL Technical Advisory Service during normal office hours: 0845 600 1222.

## ► Uncoupling: the basics

The idea of using an uncoupling layer to protect floor tiling has been commonplace since Roman times. It is typical to specify uncoupling solutions in three situations:

- ▶ When there is a likelihood that a floor substrate could suffer lateral movement stresses;
- ▶ If the substrate already exhibits static cracks less than 2mm;
- ▶ With boarded or sheet backgrounds with joints.

The principle of uncoupling is that a layer of separating material is laid between the substrate and the floor covering. It isolates the two surfaces and allows them to move independently of each other.

So, if there is movement in the substrate it may not necessarily be transferred to the tiling above. The degree of potential movement will depend upon both the material forming the substrate, the amount of restraint within the floor and environmental factors.

## ► Uncoupling: the applications

Some types of floors will always be challenging. Any timber substrate will be vulnerable, being a hygroscopic material that is easily affected by moisture as well as heat. It will expand and contract naturally during the course of the day according to ambient temperature and humidity.

Bathrooms, kitchens and wet room areas will regularly undergo relatively fast changes in humidity. Any area with underfloor heating, whether electrical or water-fed, will have temperature variations across a broad range.

**Uncoupling: the new benchmark**  
**BAL Rapid-Mat represents a new approach to uncoupling: faster, easier, saving money – and guaranteed.**

## ► Why is BAL Rapid-Mat different?

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Traditional mats are thick, heavy and unnecessarily complicated. The typical mat is up to 4mm thick, with a lower layer of fleece, bonded by a mesh to a polyethylene upper layer. The upper side is covered with a grid of cavities or dimples.

### This old uncoupling technology is not ideal:

- ▶ Significantly raises floor height with mat thickness, plus extra adhesive layer
- ▶ Typically requires taping at the joints
- ▶ Requires three adhesive layers
- ▶ Must be laid with mat cavities uppermost
- ▶ Not normally offered with a guarantee

BAL Rapid-Mat is engineered with a structured inner mesh sandwiched between two identical outer layers, enabling substrate and tiling to move independently of each other.

### The technology delivers real advantages over old-style uncoupling products:

- ▶ Ultra-slim profile, just 1mm thick, for minimal height raising
- ▶ Requires no additional tapes for jointing
- ▶ Needs only two adhesive layers
- ▶ Can be laid either side up
- ▶ Carries BAL's full 25-year guarantee

## ► Why specify BAL Rapid-Mat?

There are two simple reasons for specifying BAL Rapid-Mat rather than older uncoupling technology: cost and confidence.

### BAL Rapid-Mat has no cavities:

- ▶ Uses 20% less adhesive, saving 45kg of adhesive per 30m roll
- ▶ Requires fewer interruptions and less time to mix adhesive
- ▶ Tiling can begin as soon as the mat is laid

### BAL Rapid-Mat is light, with a slim profile and a printed gridline cutting guide:

- ▶ Easier to transport and carry, only 8.5kg per roll
- ▶ Requires less storage space
- ▶ Easier and faster to roll-out, measure and cut

### BAL Rapid-Mat uses everyday butt-jointing:

- ▶ No need for additional tapes to seal joints

### BAL Rapid-Mat has a condensed profile and minimum compression:

- ▶ Capable of increased loading capacity on floors
- ▶ Can be used with all tile types, including mosaics
- ▶ Suitable for medium/heavy traffic installations, including vehicular traffic
- ▶ Ideal for overlaying existing floors with minimal height increase

### BAL Rapid-Mat allows a single-manufacturer, guaranteed solution:

- ▶ BAL preparation products, if required
- ▶ BAL cement-based adhesive
- ▶ BAL grout
- ▶ BAL sealant
- ▶ Fully guaranteed when used together for 25 years

## ► How easy is it to install BAL Rapid-Mat?

### BAL Rapid-Mat is extremely straightforward to use:

- 1 Prepare the floor, removing dirt and debris.
- 2 Roll out BAL Rapid-Mat from any corner and trim excess.
- 3 Lift matting and lay a bed of suitable BAL adhesive.
  - Leave gaps for substrate changes or movement joints.
  - Butt-join the edges, without overlaps.
  - Smooth out the matting to remove air pockets.
- 4 Fix the matting within the adhesive open time.
- 5 Apply the top layer of adhesive immediately and begin tiling.
- 6 Grout and seal in the normal way.