



# tiling in educational environments

**Designing safe and inspiring tiling solutions are key for education and community facilities.**

You can trust BAL for unmatched product quality, industry-leading specification and on-site support to ensure your projects not only meet your design expectations, but also last the test of time.

**YOU +  BAL**

[bal-adhesives.com](http://bal-adhesives.com)



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## Total Support

Educational establishments are unlike any other tiling environment. Whether a nursery, school or university, the unique combination of circumstances present specific challenges.

Health and safety are paramount. Tightening budgets, for initial installation and ongoing maintenance mean that value and quality are equally critical. Demands for the necessary speed of project completion can also add increased pressures on projects.

BAL's market leadership and enviable reputation have been earned by supporting specifiers in ensuring that they select the right products to meet the needs of the project; first time, every time. Total support, for every specifier.



## Only BAL offers complete specifier support

### Problem-solving expertise

Informed, intelligent answers to overcome problems in unusual or challenging educational situations.

### Full technical support

From immediate answers to telephone queries to comprehensive site inspection for full written reports. If needed, industry-leading training is readily available.

### Complete solutions

No product gaps: adhesives, grouts, drainage, waterproofing and associated preparation products for exact matches to specific tiles and tiling environment needs – including external areas.

### Unquestioned quality

Universally trusted by professionals, reflecting decades of proven performance consistency.

### Real on-site benefits

Products created in partnership with installers for optimum performance, including fast-track and high-yield technologies.

Short-notice visits easily arranged as needed, for real in-person expertise on site.

### Guaranteed results

Have confidence in the industry's leading written guarantee: 25 years, without quibbles. It covers every adhesive, grout or other product bearing the BAL name, subject to normal 'correct use' conditions.

In specifying tiling for any educational establishment, it pays to rely on the quality that only the market leader can offer. From drawing board to sign-off, your chosen BAL products are guaranteed to deliver the desired results.

Put it all together and it means that, for quality that will endure, you should choose BAL for your education sector tiling.

## Tiling matters

Excellence is the lowest acceptable standard when specifying tiling in the education sector. If problems arise, the impact can be significant.

For example lifting or cracked tiles can cause immediate safety concerns, with any serious injury to pupils, students or staff not only meaning expensive compensation claims but also significant damage to reputation and possible investigations.

The development of mould in a kitchen or canteen for example may lead to closures due to the strict hygiene rules that education establishments have to abide by.

Once diagnosed, these problems can be rectified, but the remedies may not be cheap – and prevention is possible at the product specification stage.

In every case, problems can be avoided by specifying different materials to suit the environment as recommended by our experienced technical teams.

## Let BAL help

Education sector tiling involves more than selecting durable but attractive tiles. Specifiers have to ensure lasting performance and full compliance with such standards as BS 5385, BS EN 12004, BS EN 13888 and others.

With the help of BAL, they can select from many task-specific adhesive types, our internal and external levelling compounds, numerous grouts, including a rainbow of anti-mould products, and every necessary ancillary product including drainage mats, sealants, waterproofing, guttering and more.

Nobody needs to hope that contractors will choose the best materials. BAL can help. Producing the best professional tiling fixing products, it has led the market for five decades. BAL experts give free, impartial tiling consultancy to 50,000 callers annually.

It is expert, experienced and specialist: the BAL name will never be seen on products unrelated to tiling. Above all, every single BAL product carries an unequivocal 25-year guarantee.

Have full confidence in your education sector tiling specification, by calling the BAL Technical Advisory and Specification Service.



BAL Case Study: South Thames College.





## Proven Quality

BAL's expertise has been proven, time after time, on real education sector projects. At one end of the tiling spectrum, the refurbishment of the 21,000-student South Thames College included new wall and floor tiling in 12 disparate areas. It meant fixing more than 15,000 tiles of numerous types and sizes to a wide variety of backgrounds.

Environments ranged from toilet blocks and a laundry to hairdressing salons, to be tiled with everything from standard wall ceramics to elegant large-format floor tiles. Almost every possible tiling challenge had to be considered and overcome.

To illustrate the scale, there were never fewer than four tilers at work. Altogether, around ten BAL products were used, including four different adhesives. The result was a project completed without a single problem, to a standard worthy of TTA Awards entry. The contractor said: "After 30 years of using BAL, I confidently expect quality and value and, without exception, that is exactly what the specified products delivered, as always."

At the other end of the scale, BAL regularly advises on relatively small jobs at nursery, elementary and secondary schools. These may not be highly visible flagship projects, but there is just as much need to get everything right, first time. Smaller practices are entitled to exploit the same level of expertise as the largest groups.

Whatever the scale or nature of a tiling project for the education sector, future problems can be avoided at the outset with correct specification. BAL has the answers.



### Key basic needs for Specifiers:

- Adhesive, grout and preparations products compatibility with tiles/ location.
- Correct substrate preparation.
- Consistent product quality.
- Reliable bonding.
- Assured performance and durability.
- High standards of workmanship.





## Key Differences

Tiling replacement and repairs are rarely cheap and can cost more than the original installation. Simply specifying a good product is not enough: it has to be exactly the correct product for the task. Cracked, lifting, warped or completely de-bonded tiling is invariably due to use of the wrong adhesive or incorrect substrate preparation.

Your choice of tiling fixing and preparation products will depend upon the types of tile used. For example, some natural stones require a white adhesive, while porcelain always needs a polymer-modified cementitious product.

Even the size of the tile can influence the specification. The wrong choice can mean anything from discoloured tiles to total bond failure.

The background matters. If your floor tiles are to be laid onto a timber background, you may need to specify an uncoupling mat such as BAL RAPID-MAT, as well as the correct flexible adhesive.

Otherwise, it is merely a question of time before the cracks begin to appear, heralding the need for an expensive, time-consuming replacement of the entire floor.

Even the age of the substrate can influence the suitability of adhesives.

Specifiers will understand the importance of environmental factors, fundamental to correct adhesive specification. Product choice could even be influenced by seasonal factors: the start and completion dates can be of crucial importance.

It is not necessary to know the full technical characteristics of a wide range of different professional tiling products. It is only vital to realise that the different types are all necessary and that specifying the correct products is critical.

### Typical specific needs for Specifiers:

- Fast-setting options – for earlier job completion.
- High-yield adhesives – less product, lower costs.
- Anti-mould properties – for extra hygiene.
- Extra flexibility – to accommodate movement.
- High water resistance – for shower areas/pools.



BAL Case Study: Sunderland Pool.



BAL Case Study: South Thames College.

## Particular Challenges

A school shower block in Richmond, Surrey may need to be tiled using different products from those for identical showers in Richmond, North Yorkshire.

The showers in Surrey will use hard water. In North Yorkshire, their water will be soft. In that case, an epoxy grout is needed, as dissolved  $\text{SO}_3$  sulphates attack cementitious grout.

Eventually, they will destroy it. In any area, it may be necessary to consider water chemistry beyond checking a pH value in the 7.2 to 7.6 range.

The answer is not to always specify epoxy grouts throughout for any school wet area. Firstly, this is costly and unnecessary over-specification.

In addition, some areas may require a cementitious grout with anti-mould protection, for health and safety reasons.

There may other influences on product choice, depending upon the individual circumstance of each project. Although the specifier may already be familiar with BS 5385: Part4:2009 Section 7.3.2.9, among others, they should know where to find impartial expert advice.

As for adhesives, if circumstances change mid-project, delay will be only the first challenge. The right adhesive may become the wrong product, with significant implications.

If project timings change, adhesive and grout choices always need to be re-confirmed.

External tiled areas also need to be treated differently, as drainage mats, guttering, drain edge profiles, drain grates and drainage mortar should be specified to protect coverings against water damage, frost damage, efflorescence and staining.

BAL support for specifiers goes well beyond the design phase. Our National Specification team or Product Support Technicians are always available for site visits. Free visits can be made prior to the start of tiling works to provide any support or contractor guidance needed, or if mid-project problems arise, solve them with a single call.

## Choose BAL for quality and total support

With a heritage stretching back more than half a century, and a history of innovative, market-leading products, when you specify BAL you know you are getting quality backed up with industry-leading technical and project support.

As the market-leader, BAL products are trusted by professional tilers for unmatched performance that help to ensure tiling projects look great and last the test of time.

When you choose BAL, you acknowledge the informed preference of professional tilers.

Every year, tilers and contractors make over 50,000 calls to impartial BAL experts. When you seek the advice of the same specialists, you are merely placing your trust where professional tilers place theirs.

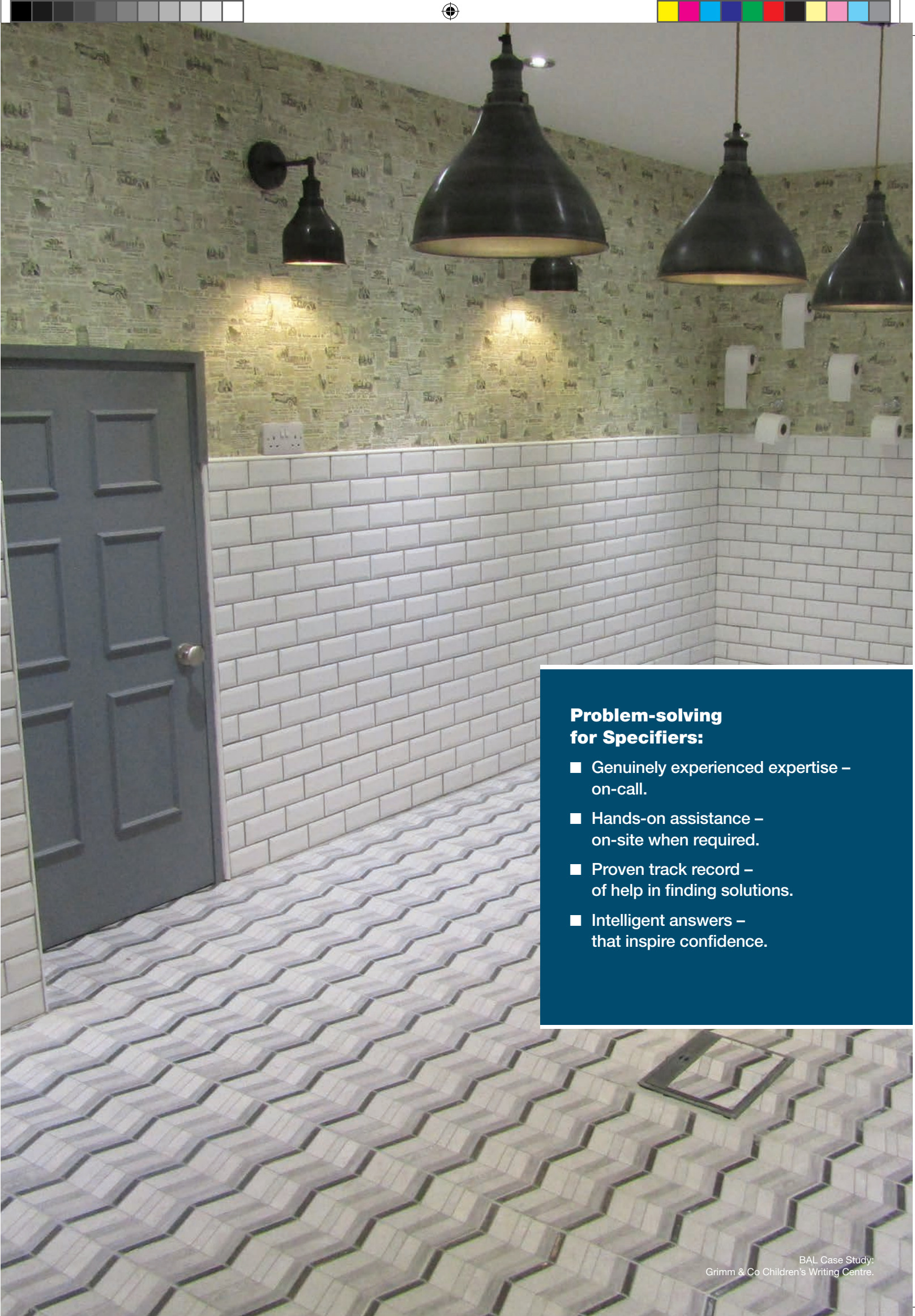
Specify BAL and you can trust:

- Education sector expertise gained through years of experience.
- Product formulations for specific tasks, delivering specified performance.
- Unbeatable support services to advise, guide and confirm your specification.
- A matchless reputation, based on five decades of unchallenged leadership.
- The industry's only comprehensive written 25-year guarantee, covering every single BAL product.

For specifiers in the education sector, it makes sense to use the most trusted expertise in full tiling solutions. Decades of education project success will mean that the impartial advice is solidly grounded in experience.







### **Problem-solving for Specifiers:**

- Genuinely experienced expertise – on-call.
- Hands-on assistance – on-site when required.
- Proven track record – of help in finding solutions.
- Intelligent answers – that inspire confidence.

BAL Case Study:  
Grimm & Co Children's Writing Centre.

## On call, on site, on line

Whenever your specification would benefit from precise tiling answers, you can trust BAL's proven expertise and experience.

### On call

Get immediate answers from our dedicated Specifier Support Line: **0845 600 1222**

### On site

Benefit from expertise in person, by calling in a BAL Product Support Technician. Start by calling the Specifier Support Line: **0845 600 1222**

### On line

A wealth of information and support tools are available from the BAL web site: **[www.bal-adhesives.com](http://www.bal-adhesives.com)**

- Product details
- Technical data
- Material safety data
- Training information
- BIM objects
- Sample Testing Service
- Grout Swatches
- Fast Track Project Enquiries
- News and events

Send your specific questions to the team by email: **[info@building-adhesives.com](mailto:info@building-adhesives.com)**

Alternatively, create your own, secure and free M40 specification with our Powerspec on-line tool: **[www.powerspeconline.com](http://www.powerspeconline.com)**

## Our free specifier support includes:

- M40/M20 specification writing service
- Fast track project enquiry and market-leading Technical Advisory Service (TAS)
- National Specification Support Team for advice or on-site consultancy
- Sample testing service
- RIBA-accredited CPDs
- BIM objects in NBS National BIM Library
- Full suite of free online tools including specification builder; Powerspec
- Innovative range of products for full tiling systems
- Leading product guarantee

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