

# rapid mat

## Uncoupling Matting for floors with limited movement

### DESCRIPTION

BAL RAPID MAT is an uncoupling matting to accommodate lateral movement for tile installations on floors with limited movement when used as a system, with a recommended BAL flexible cementitious adhesives.

### Use for

- Installation of ceramic and porcelain tiles, slabs, natural stone and concrete pavers.
- Counteracts and therefore minimises tension stresses between the substrate and the floor to be installed.
- Prevents reflective cracking caused by shrinkage cracks, board joints and lateral movement.
- Provides crack bridging and allowing a safe installation onto challenging substrates.
- Suitable for internal flooring; renovation and new construction, domestic and commercial areas in medium/heavy duty applications.
- Suitable for bathroom and kitchen areas
- Recommended for heated floors and timber floors.

### Restrictions: NOT suitable for

- Exterior environments
- Permanently wet environments
- Substrates with deflection (vertical movements).
- Use on parquet flooring.
- Bridging movement joints.

### PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Composition:** Two layers of non-woven polypropylene with an inner layer of glass filament.

**Colour:** Red

**Pack sizes:** 30m rolls

**Sheet Width:** 1m

**Sheet Thickness:** 0.85 mm

**Sheet Weight:** approx. 270g/ m<sup>2</sup>

**Roll Weight:** approx. 8.5kg

#### Additional Benefits:

- Fast-track system: tiling can be carried out immediately.
- Reduced adhesive consumption relative to cavity based mats.
- Minimal mat compression with providing increased loading capacity on floors following installation compared to uncoupling mats with cavities.
- Lightweight matting: only 8.5kg per roll.
- Easy to install i.e. cut and place.
- Minimises height building-up with only 1mm thickness.
- Can be stored for approx. 24 months in dry rooms, away from direct sunlight.

### USAGE & SERVICE CONDITIONS

Walls	✘	Floor	✓
Interior	✓	Exterior	✘
Dry	✓	Shower	✓
		Floors (1)	
Movement	✓	Chemical	✘
Vibration		Resistance	
Medium/ Heavy Duty (2)	✓		

### APPLICATION AREAS

Leisure Centres	✓
Bathrooms	✓
Changing Rooms	✓
Car Showrooms	✓
Domestic Kitchens	✓
Shopping Malls	✓
Heated Floors	✓
Wet Rooms	✓
Timber Floors	✓

### TEMPERATURE RESISTANCE

-30°C to 90°C **N.B** Tiling should not be carried below 5°C

(1) Apply BAL TANK IT or BAL WP1 TANKING SYSTEM over matting before application of tiling (No Priming required).  
(2) Floors must be even and load bearing and prepared to SR1 standard. All tiles must be solidly bedded in a suitable BAL flexible tile adhesive.

## SURFACE PREPARATION

### General

Ensure surfaces to be tiled are flat to SR1 tolerance as recommended in BS 5385: Part 3. Substrates must be clean, dry, sound and free from contamination and stable enough to receive tiling.

The surface must be levelled to SR1 prior to installation. Uneven surfaces have to be primed and levelled with BAL primers and levelling compounds prior the installation of RAPID-MAT using suitable BAL Flexible cement based adhesive.

The BAL RAPID-MAT is suitable for bridging static cracks less than 2 mm wide if differences in height can be excluded. Always ensure the correct adhesives and grouts are selected for the installation.

BAL RAPID-MAT can be used in internal wet floor areas when used with BAL TANK-IT or BAL WP1 TANKING SYSTEM/WATERPROOFING KIT FOR SHOWERS (no priming required on to BAL RAPID-MAT).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Do NOT install BAL RAPID-MAT or tiles in temperatures below 5°C

### APPLICATION

1. The substrate must be even and load bearing.
2. If necessary the floor may require priming with BAL PRIME APD or levelled using a suitable BAL Smoothing and levelling compound such as BAL LEVEL MAX.
3. Roll out the BAL RAPID -MAT from the corner and cut them precisely to the required length and sizes as required for the floor. Trim off any excesses around up-stands using scissors or a utility knife.
4. Apply a thin bed of a suitable BAL flexible tile adhesive to bond the BAL RAPID- MAT which is appropriate for the substrate to be tiled. Use a MOSAIC TROWEL (or 4 x 4 mm notched trowel).
5. Roll back and lay the BAL RAPID-MAT into the freshly applied tile adhesive. The mat must be fully engaged into the adhesive to provide a suitable bond and applied within the open-time of the adhesive. If the adhesive has started to skin or set, remove this layer of adhesive and re-apply a fresh layer.
6. To ensure full adhesion is achieved between the BAL RAPID-MAT and the BAL tile adhesive, smooth out the matting using either the flat edge of a steel trowel or a suitable float. Eliminate any air pockets.
7. Where additional rolls / membrane are needed on the floor, ensure the separate mats are butt jointed at the edges but not overlapped. Remove any excess tile adhesive which may have squeezed through the joints. **N.B** The matting must always be separated where a change in substrate occurs or a construction/movement joint is present in the background.
8. To apply tiles, mix and apply the adhesive to the mat using a THICK BED SOLID BED TROWEL. If using a LARGE FORMAT TROWEL ensure the final bed thickness of the tile adhesive does not exceed 6mm over the BAL RAPID-MAT.
9. If a BAL flexible rapid-setting cementitious based adhesive is used the tiles can be applied immediately.

10. Always take care when applying the layer of adhesive and tiles onto the mat to avoid de-bonding the mat.
11. Ensure you follow all required fixing instructions for the adhesive used and all applicable industry standards.

## GENERAL PROPERTIES AND AREAS OF APPLICATION

BAL RAPID-MAT absorbs the lateral movement tensions from the substrate and bridges stress cracks to prevent movement being transferred to the surface covering.

Its resistance to stresses should be examined separately based on the expected concentration, temperature and exposure time.

BAL RAPID-MAT can be used in a broad range of installations; however its suitability for specific mechanical conditions must be evaluated for each individual case. As some general guidelines BAL RAPID-MAT can be applied to:

### Concrete and Cement Sand Screeds

- Allow concrete to dry for a minimum of 6 weeks (at 20°C).
- Allow cement: sand screeds to dry for a minimum of 3 weeks (at 20°C).

Allow OPC based cement: sand screeds to dry to a moisture content of less than <2% Carbide Method before fixing commences

- For screeds containing BAL QUICKSET CEMENT, allow to dry to a moisture content of less than <2% w/w Carbide Method before fixing commences

Please refer to the BAL QUICKSET CEMENT data sheet for typical drying times.

All dirt, dust laitance must be removed using suitable mechanical methods followed by use of suitable vacuuming equipment. If levelling is required, prime using BAL PRIME APD (Diluted 1:1 by volume with water) followed by the application of a suitable BAL levelling compound such as BAL LEVEL MAX. Allow to dry.

### Heated Cement: Sand Screeds

- Allow cement: sand screeds to dry for a minimum of 3 weeks (at 20°C) and conditioned in accordance with BS requirements

Please refer to the BAL QUICKSET CEMENT data sheet for typical drying times.

All dirt, dust laitance must be removed using suitable mechanical methods followed by use of suitable vacuuming equipment. If levelling is required, prime using BAL PRIME APD (Diluted 1:1 by volume with water) followed by the application of a suitable BAL levelling compound such as BAL LEVEL MAX. Allow to dry before installing BAL RAPID-MAT. Ensure that the underfloor heating system has been correctly pressurised and fully commissioned in line with British Standards requirements.

### **Undertile Floor Heating**

The background must be suitably load bearing and free from any deflection. Ensure the heating system is installed correctly in accordance with the heating manufacturer's recommendations. All electrical heating elements must be encapsulated within a BAL levelling compound i.e. BAL LEVEL MAX. Allow to dry before installing BAL RAPID-MAT

### **Calcium Sulfate/Anhydrite(Gypsum)Based Screeds**

All laitance, dust, dirt or any other loose surface material incompatible with the tile adhesive must be removed i.e. using a sanding machine (rotary floor scarifier) and a 60 grit paper. Remove excess dust completely by the use of suitable vacuum equipment.

The screed must be allowed to dry to a moisture content of <75% RH as measured by use of a suitable Hygrometer or <0.5% w/w (as determined using the Carbide Method). Seek further advice on how to achieve this from the screed manufacturer.

Once tested to be dry, the surface should be treated to ensure clean and laitance free. The surface must then be primed using BAL -PRIME APD mixed at a 1:1 ratio with water with a second coat (undiluted) applied once the first is dry and at 90° to the first. The floor must be level to SR1 prior to installation.

### **Tongue and Grooved Timber/Single Layer Plywood**

Ensure all sheets/T&G boards are sufficiently rigid and free from deflection. The moisture content of the timber must be the same as moisture conditions on site and the floor must be adequately ventilated underneath.

Sheets/T&G boards must be securely fixed i.e. with suitable screws to the joist and any additional noggins which may be required at 300mm centres.

All vanishes/ lacquers and other surface coatings must be removed e.g. by sanding and all dust removed. Prime T&G Boards with 2 coats of undiluted BAL PRIME APD applied at 90° to each other. Allow to dry between coats.

Plywood sheets must be of a suitable moisture resistant grade. To BS EN Prime the back face and edges of the boards with e.g. undiluted BAL BOND SBR. Further advice should be sought from BS 5385: Part 3

### **Mastic Asphalt (Internal Grade)**

Before tile fixing commences the asphalt base should be examined to ensure that it is in a suitable condition to receive tiles; in particular, it should have adequate cohesive strength and should be laid on a firm and rigid base. Sand rubbed surfaces should be carefully examined to ensure all loose sand or debris is completely removed from the surfaces prior to the commencement of tiling. The Asphalt must be level i.e. to SR1 tolerance before application of BAL RAPID-MAT.

### **TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE**

For free expert guidance on use of this product, or any aspect of tiling, contact the BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE on Tel: 01782 591120 or 0845 600 1 222 or Fax: 01782 591121.

### **POWERSPEC**

A unique computerised online specification system for the design and installation of ceramic, mosaic and natural stone tiling.

Visit [www.powerspeconline.com](http://www.powerspeconline.com)

### **SHELF LIFE**

48 months under normal dry conditions. Protect from frost, damp and sunlight.

**QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS** Manufacturing quality assurance standards conform to BS EN ISO 9001.

Satisfies the environmental management requirements and operational scope of ISO 14001.

### **25 YEAR GUARANTEE**

All BAL products are supplied with a 25 year product guarantee to be free from manufacturing defects and to be fit for purpose. The guarantee covers materials replacement costs and labour.

This guarantee is subject to use of product in accordance with BAL's instructions and technical data, and good working practice.

No liability can be accepted for any loss or damage arising from incorrect use of products or poor workmanship, over which BAL has no control. 10 year anti-fungal guarantee subject to regular cleaning. *Contact BAL Marketing Department for full details.*

### **CONDITIONS OF SALE**

Sold subject to the Company's Conditions of Sale. *Available on request. For sales and technical queries, contact:*

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NOTE: BAL reserves the right to update instructions, technical data and other information at any time without notice.

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