

grout flex

Tile grout for joints up to 5mm

DESCRIPTION

Highly flexible, water/frost-resistant cementitious tile grout for walls.

Use for

- Grouting porcelain, glazed and fully vitrified, glass and ceramic mosaics, marble and natural stone in dry and wet interior and exterior environments. Follow guidelines to BS Standards (minimum 2mm joints for walls, size can change depending on size of tile and environments), Contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE for more information.
- For Joint widths: up to **5mm**
- Recommended for (hard water swimming pools and power showers)

Restrictions: NOT suitable for

- *Food preparation/*storage areas,* Spas,* Jacuzzis, *Chemical Plants, Power Showers with body jets and areas requiring *waterproof grouting.

*Further applications by using a BAL ABSOLUTE GROUT.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Composition: Highly polymer-modified cement-based powder.

Colours: White, Jasmine Cream, Light Grey, Mid Grey, Dark Grey.

Type/Classification: Exceeds BS EN 13888 **CG2** Cementitious Grout with Improved / Additional Characteristics, Reduced Water Absorption and High Abrasion Resistance.

Pack sizes: 10kg and 3.5kg

Key Features:

- Water/frost-resistant
- Built-in admixture
- Highly polymer- modified for increased flexibility and high bond strength
- **Set in:** 24 hours (at 20°C)

MIX/USAGE DATA

Powder:Water Ratio	Pot Life at 20°C	Cure Time at 20°C **	Specific Gravity
4:1 (by weight)	2 hours	24 hours	1.40/cm ³

** Drying time will be extended in colder temperatures, when fixing to impervious backgrounds or when fixing tiles of low porosity.

COVERAGE

Tile Size	Joint Width	Coverage ^^
150x150x5.5mm	2mm	4.79m ² /kg
200x200x5.5mm	2mm	6.35m ² /kg

^^ Coverage may vary dependent on mixed grout and application.

TEMPERATURE RESISTANCE***

-30°C to 100°C

*** Cured grout.

SURFACE PREPARATION

General

Before grouting, ensure that:

1. Tile adhesive has fully set, as indicated on adhesive packaging or BAL TECHNICAL DATA SHEET.
2. Open joints clear from excess adhesive and are protected from contamination – and are clean, dry and free from loose debris.
3. Be consistent with the amount of clean cold water used with the cement-based grout from mix to mix when grouting larger areas.
4. Lighting conditions during the installation of tile fixing and grouting should not be ‘appreciably different’ from the final (permanent) lighting. Where possible, check the grout colour with the final lighting conditions.
5. Check colour consistency when using the same grout when applied between different tile types i.e. porous bodied or porous stone tiles vs. porcelain or denser stone.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Do NOT use in temperatures below 5°C or in damp conditions.

If grouting porous tiles in temperatures above 25°C, dampen joints with clean water prior to grouting.

If grouting externally, provide protection against inclement weather during grouting and for as long as possible afterwards. It is recommended that all external tiling applications include a DPM or a surface DPM can be applied prior to tiling (e.g. BAL DPM).

If grouting shower installation, BAL GROUT FLEX is water-resistant but NOT impervious to water and not a substitute for waterproof systems.

Recommendations:

- Provide waterproof tanking protection for tiling all background substrates, (e.g. by using BAL TANK-IT or BAL WATERPROOF 1C.
- Ensure tiles are fixed with a solid bed with a water-resistant adhesive (e.g. BAL WHITE STAR PLUS, BAL FLEX ONE, BAL MAX FLEX FIBRE or BAL RAPID FLEX ONE).

APPLICATION AREAS

Leisure Centres (1)	✓
Bathrooms	✓
Changing Rooms (1)	✓
Restaurants/Food Consumption Areas (1)	✓
Domestic Kitchens	✓
Shopping Malls	✓

USAGE & SERVICE CONDITIONS

Walls	✓	Floor (4)	
Interior	✓	Exterior	✓
Dry	✓	Wet (3)	✓
Worktops (1)	✗	Showers (a)(1)(3)	✓
Swimming Pools (b)(2)(4)	✓	Limited Movement / Vibration (4)	✓

(1) Tiles must be grouted using BAL ABSOLUTE GROUT for food preparation/storage areas power showers with body jets/Spas/Jacuzzis/Chemical Plants.

(2) Tiles must be grouted using BAL ABSOLUTE GROUT for wave pools.

(3) In wet conditions tank out with BAL TANK IT or BAL WATERPROOF 1C

(4) Contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE for further advice.

NOTE:

(a) Do not use shower for at least 2 weeks after completion of grouting – BS 5385:Part 4.

(b) Do not fill pool for at least 3 weeks after completion of grouting - BS 5385:Part 4.

TILE TYPES

Glazed Ceramic	✓	Mosaic – Ceramic	✓
Unglazed Ceramic	✓	Mosaic – Glass	✓
Porcelain	✓	Mosaic – Porcelain	✓
Natural Stone – Translucent (4)	✓	Mosaic – Stone (4)	✓
Natural Stone – Non- Translucent	✓	Resin agglomerate Stone (4)	✗

NOTE: When grouting soft glazed tiles or tiles with a metal decor or lustre, care should be taken to ensure they are not damaged/scratched. If there is any doubt, a test area should first be grouted in an inconspicuous area.

MIXING

Use a BAL MIXING BUCKET or other suitable bucket.

1. Slowly add approximately 3 parts powder to 1 part clean cold water by weight. (see table). Never add more water than recommended as this may lead to colour inconsistencies in the finished grout.
2. Mix until lump-free mortar achieved.
3. Allow mixed grout to stand for 2-3 minutes before re-mixing for 30 seconds. No further water should be added after original mixing. Avoid entraining air by mixing at too high speed.

Product Size	Usage	Approx., clean cold water required per size
5kg	Wall areas	1.5 – 1.7 litres
10kg	Wall areas	3 – 3.4 litres

NOTE: If using electric drill mixer, blend at slow speed (i.e. under 300rpm). Ready for immediate use. Pot life at 20°C: approx. 2 hours
NOTE: Pot life/setting time will vary slightly with temperature: higher temperatures = shorter; lower temperature=longer.
Do NOT add more water to mixed grout as this would reduce final strength.

APPLICATION

Grouting procedure

1. Check potential staining risk: apply grout to a few tiles in small trial area. If discolouration occurs or difficulties are encountered with cleaning off (surplus grout), apply BAL PROTECTIVE SEALER and repeat trial.
2. Work in small areas with a grout float or squeegee. Completely fill tile joint with mixed grout and compact well, removing excess grout from tile surface as work proceeds.
3. Allow approx. 15minutes for grout to dry (at 20°C) or when the surface of the grout joints is dry enough to be touched (NOT fully set/cured).
4. Using a dampened sponge or sponge board, clean surface diagonally to grout lines. Use as little water as possible to wash off the grout but rinse out sponge/sponge board frequently with clean water.
NOTE: Do NOT allow water to enter un-grouted joints.
5. When grout has set sufficiently within joints, polish tile surface with dry clean cloth.
6. Clean any remaining light haze from the surface next day, using water and a white emulsifying pad and gripper.
7. Wait minimum 24 hours before subjecting tiles to normal service conditions.

NOTE: If completing a swimming pool, do NOT fill pool for at least 3 weeks after grouting (contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE for further advice).
If completing a shower, do NOT use shower for at least 2 weeks.

CLEANING

Always use cleaning products suited to the tile type. For best long-term protection, regular clean using a general alkaline cleaner such as BAL MICROSIELD TILE CLEANER (with Microban® antimicrobial protection).

HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION / GOOD PRACTICE ADVICE

For detailed information and safety guidance, please refer to Product Material Safety Data Sheet [MSDS].

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 03330 030160 or Email: info@building-adhesives.com

SHELF LIFE

12 months under normal dry conditions. Protect from frost and damp.

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. While products may be suitable for installations internally or externally, products when used externally are exempt from cover under the BAL 25 Year Guarantee. Terms and conditions apply. Full details are available for your review at www.bal-adhesives.com.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

Sold subject to the Company's Conditions of Sale. Available on request.

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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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