absolute grout

Waterproof, hygienic, chemically resistant Epoxy Grout for walls & floors

DESCRIPTION

High strength epoxy grout suitable for grouting wall and floor tiles for applications in which cement-based adhesives and grouts do not have sufficient chemical resistance or where increased adhesion strengths are required.

Use as an adhesive for

Fixing WALL and FLOOR tiles where high levels of adhesive and/or chemical resistance are required.
BAL ABSOLUTE GROUT is classified by EN 12004 as a R2 Improved Reaction Resin Adhesive
Most types of tiles including:

- Ceramic
- Porcelain and fully vitrified tiles
- Resin backed tiles (contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE)
- Mosaics and glass

INTERNAL and EXTERNAL walls and floors

DRY and WET environments.
Recommended for:

- Domestic kitchens and worktops
- Bathroom, domestic and commercial showers including power showers
- Swimming and hydrotherapy pools
- Commercial food preparation areas
- Sports Centres
- Hospitals and industrial/chemical plants
- Breweries and Dairies

MIX/USAGE DATA

Pot Life	Cure Time	Specific Gravity
Up to 60 minutes	Foot traffic - 16 hours	1.5

Curing time will be extended in colder temperatures, when fixing to impervious backgrounds or when fixing tiles of low porosity.
Full cure achieved after 7 days.

TEMPERATURE RESISTANCE**

Up to 100°C intermittent

*** Cured adhesive and grout.*

Use as a grout for

Grouting WALL and FLOOR tiles in environments where chemically resistant joints are required or where a hygienic, **durable, abrasion-resistant, waterproof finish** is required.
Whilst BAL ABSOLUTE GROUT is not recommended for direct food contact, it's use is recommended for food preparation areas where a hygienic, easily cleaned surface is required.
Most type of tiles including:

- Ceramic
- Porcelain and fully vitrified tiles
- Mosaics

Recommended for:

- Domestic kitchens and worktops
- Bathroom, domestic and commercial showers including power showers
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- Commercial food preparation areas
- Sports Centres
- Hospitals and industrial/chemical plants
- Breweries and Dairies

NOTE: For further information, contact the BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE.

Restrictions: NOT suitable for

Metal decor/lustre etc.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Composition: Epoxide resin-based
Colours: White/Smoke/Ebony
Pack sizes: 2kg
Key features: Chemical-resistant. Easy to apply and clean. Waterproof and Frostproof. Durable and abrasion-resistant.
Cures in: Foot traffic 16 hours. Full cure achieved after 7 days.
Joint widths: 2-12mm

SURFACE PREPARATION

General as an adhesive

Before fixing wall and floor tiles, ensure that:
Surfaces to be tiled are flat, clean, dry, sound and free from contamination and all barriers to adhesion. Profiled tiles and porous tiles may result in traces of adhesive on the tile surface – if in doubt conduct a trial evaluation before proceeding.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Ensure adequate ventilation – and do NOT use in temperatures below 10°C, above 30^0C or in damp conditions.
If grouting externally, provide protection against inclement weather during grouting and for as long as possible afterwards.
If grouting adjacent to food preparation areas, ensure physical segregation of work area before fixing or grouting.

If fixing onto plaster/plasterboard, check that tile weight (INCLUDING adhesive) will NOT exceed 20kg/m^2 (plaster) or 32kg/m^2 (plasterboard). Note that battens will be required if fixing tiles to walls.

MIXING

Thoroughly mix the hardener and the resin into the empty larger outer bucket until a uniform mixture is produced. Add all the filler and then continue to mix until a smooth, homogeneous mortar is produced. The use of a propeller type stirrer in a slow speed drill is advantageous.
Mix slowly and thoroughly to a uniform colour. Avoid entraining air by mixing at too high speed or by over-mixing.
Note: Back-mix resin and hardener pots to ensure that no un-reacted resin and hardener remains before disposing, after curing, as non-hazardous waste.
Mixed epoxy adhesive or grout working time/Pot life at 20°C: approx. 60 minutes. This is reduced at higher temperatures and extended at lower temperatures. At high temperatures it is recommended that the mortar is spread out immediately after mixing as self-heating in the container will reduce the working time/pot life.

APPLICATION

Adhesive procedure

Depending on substrate and tile type. Apply using an appropriate wall or floor tiling trowel.
1. Apply adhesive to a suitably prepared wall or floor surface and comb out with a notched trowel to give a ribbed adhesive bed.
2. Press tile firmly into the ribs of the adhesive and into position, with slight twisting/sliding action to ensure optimum adhesive contact. For floor applications, solid bed fixing should be achieved, ensuring that any voids beneath the tiles are eliminated. The minimum bed depth for floors is 3mm.
3. Fix tiles before adhesive forms skin, typically 10 minutes at 20°C (this is reduced at higher temperature and extended at lower temperatures). At high temperatures it is recommended that the mortar is spread out immediately after mixing as self-heating in the container will reduce the working time. If adhesive is no longer wet, remove adhesive and apply fresh layer.
4. Remove any excess adhesive residue from tile surface as work proceeds.
5. Suitable for grouting after 16 hours at 20°C.

USAGE & SERVICE CONDITIONS

Walls	✓	Floors	✓
Interior	✓	Exterior	✓
Dry	✓	Wet	✓
Worktops	✓	Showers Including Power Showers (2)	✓
Swimming Pools (1)	✓	Heated Screeds	✓
Hydrotherapy Pools (1)	✓	Limited Movement / Vibration	✓
Hygienic / Sterile Areas	✓	Chemical Resistance	✓

(1) Do not fill pool for at least 3 weeks following completion of grouting – in accordance with BS 5385 Part 4
(2) Do not use shower for at least 2 weeks after completion of grouting – in accordance with BS 5385 Part 4

Concrete (3)	✓	Plaster	✓
Rendering	✓	Plasterboard	✓
BAL BOARD/Tile Backer/Fibre Cement Boards (6)	✓	Unglazed Ceramic Tiles	✓
Cement:Sand Screed	✓	Lightweight Blockwork/Brick (7)	✓
Anhydrite/Calcium Sulfate Screeds	✓	Overlaid Timber Floors (i.e. tile backer board). (4)	✓
Mastic Asphalt (5)	✓	Single Layer Timber Floors	✗
Vinyl Tiles	✓	Glazed Tiles	✓
Steel	✓		

(3) Provided the surface is sufficiently flat.
(4) Seal back face and edges with undiluted BAL BOND SBR.
(5) Check suitability of the grade of asphalt (flooring grade only).
(6) Check suitability for the intended purpose with the manufacturer or check BAL TECHNICAL DATA SHEETS on any BAL Products.
(7) Apply a cement: sand render e.g. BAL QUICKSET RENDER or a suitable tile backing board prior to tiling.

BAL UNCOUPLING/ANTI FRACTURE SYSTEMS

BAL RAPID-MAT	✗
BAL FLEXBONE VAried	✗
BAL FLEXBONE 2Easy	✗
BAL SINGLE PART FASTFLEX	✗

BAL ABSOLUTE GROUT is not recommended as an adhesive to install tiles onto uncoupling mats above. Contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE for further advice.

COVERAGE as adhesive

Typical coverage for a 2kg pack is approx. 0.7-1.1m²
Note: May vary dependent on nature and flatness of surface, and on trowel used.

APPLICATION

Grouting procedure

Before grouting wall and floor tiles, ensure that:
Surface and joints are clean, dry and free from contamination or loose debris.

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. For glass, some natural stone, profile trims, absorbent, textured or soft ceramic tiles which may be vulnerable to surface scratching, test in a small inconspicuous area to ensure compatibility, or consult the tile manufacturer/ distributor for further advice. See also BS 5385: Part 1 2018 for further information.
3. Work in small areas using a Hard Rubber/ Grout Float. Completely fill tile joints with mixed grout and compact well, removing excess grout from tile surface as work proceeds.
4. Clean off within the working time; usually 15-60 minutes. Using a white emulsifying pad or fine Scotchbrite pad with a little water (clean cold water) and applying gentle pressure, working in circular movement to emulsify the residues on the face and provide uniform grout joints.
5. Using a clean damp sponge, remove emulsified epoxy/water residue, cleaning diagonally to grout lines.
To avoid surface discolouration, do not allow excess water to pool/sit on the grout joints after cleaning off.
6. Clean any remaining light haze from the surface next day, using a damp sponge or if required a white emulsifying pad or Scotchbrite pad.
NOTE: Do not allow any surplus grout or haze to remain on the surface for more than 24 hours.

NOTE: If completing a shower, do NOT use for at least 2 weeks (as required by BS 5385 Part 4 2015 clauses 7.2.1).
Protection (food preparation/ storage areas): Tiles/mosaics to be kept dry and not brought into service until the epoxy grout has cured and hardened. Not recommended for grouting tiles with soft-glazed wall tiles or tiles with metal décor or lustre.
NOTE: As for all epoxy grouts, BAL ABSOLUTE GROUT may yellow on exposure to sunlight or UV light or strong heat. Where strong exposure is anticipated, consider the use of black or dark coloured grout.
NOTE: Ensure that when installing in large areas that the grout is from the same batch to ensure consistency.
Spillages of e.g. coffee and fruit juices may stain the surface of the grout if not cleaned immediately.

NOTE: Chemical resistance is achieved approximately 7 days after application at 20^0C.

APPLICATION AREAS

Bakeries/Breweries	✓
Cafes/Pubs/Restaurants	✓
Chemical Plants	✓
Changing Rooms (Spas, Jacuzzis)	✓
Dairies/Food/Drink Processing Plants	✓
Kitchens Commercial/Domestic	✓
Hospitals/Medical/Dental/Veterinary Surgeries	✓
Abattoirs	✓
Industrial Plant Rooms	✓
Shopping Malls/Supermarkets	✓
Sports/Leisure Centre	✓

COVERAGE as grout

Tile Size	Joint Width	Typical Coverage
150x150x5mm	2mm	5m² per kg
300x300x9mm	3mm	3.7m² per kg

Depending on tiles and working method, an additional 0.1 to 0.2kg/m² of material may be required.

TILE TYPES

Glazed Ceramic	✓	Mosaic – Ceramic	✓
Unglazed Ceramic	✓	Mosaic – Glass	✓
Porcelain	✓	Mosaic – Porcelain	✓
		Mosaic – Stone	✓
	✓	Resin agglomerate Stone	✓

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.*

BAL UNCOUPLING/ANTI FRACTURE SYSTEMS

(When Grouting with BAL ABSOLUTE GROUT)

BAL RAPID-MAT	✓
BAL FLEXBONE VAried	✓
BAL FLEXBONE 2Easy	✓
BAL SINGLE PART FASTFLEX	✓

RESISTANCE TO CHEMICALS
Resistant to:
Hydrochloric acid 37%
Nitric acid 10%
Sulphuric acid 50%
Cillit Bang
Flash Bleach Cleaner
Sodium hypochlorite >10% active chlorine
Hydrogen peroxide 25%
Lubricant oil
Olive oil
Deionised water
Tap water
Diesel
Phosphoric acid 10%
Citric acid 10%
Tartaric acid 10%
Lactic acid 5%
Acetic acid 2.5%
Ethylene glycol
Note that some discolouration may occur with mineral acids

Short-term resistance to:
Acetic acid 5%
Lactic acid 10%

Not resistant to: Acetone
Methyl alcohol
Petrol

NOTE: For the latest technical or health and safety information on this product, consult the current technical or health and safety datasheet online at www.bal-adhesives.com

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 591100 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.

ARDEX GROUP WARRANTY
ARDEX Group supplies products under a range of Brands into the UK and Ireland markets. This Warranty applies to BAL, ARDEX, Gutjahr, Wakol, Loba, wedi or Knopp products whether used individually or in combination provided they are used in accordance with the relevant product datasheets and the warranty terms and conditions are available on the website. This Warranty applies only to Products purchased and used in the UK and Ireland directly from one of the Brands or a Brand authorised stockist.

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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