



Keraflex



**High performance
cementitious adhesive
with no vertical slip
and extended open
time for ceramic tiles
and stone material**

CLASSIFICATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH EN 12004

Keraflex is an improved (2) slip resistant (T) cementitious adhesive (C) with extended open time (E) as class C2TE.

WHERE TO USE

Interior and exterior bonding of ceramic tiles, stone materials and mosaics of every type on floors, walls and ceilings. Also suitable for spot bonding of insulating materials such as expanded polystyrene, rock and glass wool, Eraclit® (wood-cement panels), sound-deadening panels, etc.

Some application examples

- Bonding ceramic tiles, stone materials and mosaics on the following substrates:
 - Cement or mortar wall renders.
 - Interior aerated concrete block walls.
 - Gypsum or anhydrite after having first applied **Primer G**.
 - Gypsum board.
 - Underfloor heating installations, only with tiles less than 900 cm².
 - Cement screeds, as long as they are sufficiently cured and dry.
 - Interior painted walls, as long as the paint is firmly anchored.
 - Waterproofed membranes in **Mapelastic** or **Mapegum WP**.
- Tile on tile of existing flooring with tiles up to 900 cm².
- Bonding small sized tiles in swimming pools and basins.
- Bonding floors subject to heavy stress.



Keraflex



Single-fired tile on terrazzo tile of an external wall



Installation of pre-glossed marble on floors



Installation of single-fired tile on expanded foam concrete block walls

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Keraflex is a grey or white powder composed of cement and graded aggregates. It contains a high quantity of synthetic resins and special additives according to a formulation developed in MAPEI's research laboratories. A mortar with the following features is obtained when mixed with water:

- Easily workable.
- Highly thixotropic; **Keraflex** can be applied on a vertical surface without dripping or letting the tiles slip, even for heavy tiles. Tiles can be installed from the top towards the bottom without using spacer pegs.
- Perfect adherence to all materials normally used in building.
- Hardens without appreciable shrinkage.
- Extended open time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Do not use **Keraflex**:

- On concrete subject to strong shrinkage.
- On walls and floors subject to strong movement or vibration (wood, fibre-cement, etc.)
- On metal surfaces.
- For installation that require an adhesive thickness greater than 5 mm.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Preparing the substrate

The substrates must be flat, mechanically resistant, free of loose parts, grease, oils, paints, wax, etc. Damp substrate could slow down the setting of **Keraflex**.

Cement substrates should not be subject to shrinkage after the installation of the ceramic tiles, therefore during spring and summer, renders must cure at least one week for each cm of thickness and cement screeds must have an overall cure time of at least 28 days, unless they are made with special binders for MAPEI screeds such as **Mapecem**, **Topcem** or **Topcem Pronto**.

Dampen with water to cool surfaces which have become heated from exposure to sunlight. Gypsum substrates and anhydrite screeds must be perfectly dry (max. residual moisture 0.5%), sufficiently hard and free from dust. It is absolutely essential that they be treated with **Primer G** or **Mapeprim SP**, while areas subject to extreme dampness must be primed with **Primer S**.

Preparing the mix

Mix **Keraflex** with clean water until a smooth, lump-free paste is obtained. Leave to rest approximately 5 minutes and re-stir. Use 30-32 parts water for every 100 parts by weight of **Keraflex**, which is equal to 7.5-8 litres of water for every 25 kg of powder. Mixed this way, **Keraflex** has a pot life of approximately 8 hours.

Applying the mix

Keraflex is applied to the substrate using a

notched trowel. Choose a trowel that allows for a complete coverage of the backs of the tiles to be installed.

To achieve a good adhesion, spread a first thin layer of **Keraflex** on the substrate using the flat side of the trowel. Immediately after, apply the desired thickness of **Keraflex** using a suitable notched trowel, depending on the type and size of the tiles (see "Coverage").

For external ceramic tile floors and walls, sizes greater than 900 cm², floors that must be smoothed at installation or subject to heavy loads, when applying in swimming pools and basins filled with water, spread the adhesive on the back of the tile (back-buttering) in order to ensure a complete coverage.

Installing the tiles

There is no need to wet the tiles before installing them. Only with very dusty backs is it recommended to dip the tiles in clean water.

Tiles should be installed under a firm pressure to ensure a good coverage of the adhesive.

In normal temperature and humidity conditions, the open time of **Keraflex** is approximately 30 minutes. Unfavourable weather conditions (strong sun, drying wind, high temperatures, etc.) or a highly absorbent substrate can reduce the open time, even to just a few minutes.

It is therefore necessary that careful checks be made to ensure that a skin does not form on the surface of the spread adhesive, which should stay fresh. If not, re-freshen the adhesive by re-spreading with a notched trowel.

It is not recommended to wet the adhesive with water once a skin has formed because, instead of dissolving the skin, the water will form an ant-adhesive film. If necessary, tiles should be adjusted within 60 minutes after installation.

Tiling installed with **Keraflex** must not be washed or exposed to rain for at least 24 hours and must be protected from frost and strong sun for at least 5-7 days.

Spot-bonding insulating materials

For spot-bonding sound-deadening or insulating panels, apply **Keraflex** with a trowel or a float.

GROUTING AND SEALING

Wall joints can be grouted after 4-8 hours and floor joints can be grouted after 24 hours with the specific MAPEI cementitious or epoxy grouts, available in different colours.

Expansion joints must be sealed with the specific MAPEI sealants.

READY FOR USE

Floors are ready for traffic after approx. 24 hours.

Basins and swimming pools can be filled after 21 days.

TECHNICAL DATA (typical values):

In compliance with:

- European EN 12004 such as C2TE
- DIN 18156-M
- BS 5980-1980 type 1 class AA
- American ANSI A 118.1-1999
- Canadian 71 GP 30 M type 2

PRODUCT IDENTITY

Type:	powder
Colour:	white or grey
Density (apparent) (g/cm ³):	1.3
Dry solid content (%):	100
Storage:	12 months in a dry place in original packaging
Health hazard acc. To EEC 88/379:	none
Customs class:	3824 50 90

APPLICATION DATA at +23°C and 50% R.H.

Mixing ratio:	100 parts Keraflex with 30-32 parts water by weight
Consistency of mix:	pasty
Density of mix (g/cm ³):	1.50
pH of mix:	13
Pot life:	over 8 hours
Application temperature:	from +5°C to +40°C
Open time (acc. EN1346):	> 30 minutes
Adjustability time:	approx. 60 minutes
Ready for grouting on walls:	after 4-8 hours depending on absorbency
Ready for grouting on floors:	after 24 hours
Set to light foot traffic:	24 hours
Ready for use:	14 days

FINAL PERFORMANCES

Bonding strength in compliance with EN 1348 (N/mm²):	
- initial bonding after 28 days:	1.8
- bonding after heat exposure:	1.7
- bonding after immersion in water:	1.2
- bonding after freeze/thaw cycles:	1.4
Resistance to alkali:	excellent
Resistance to oils:	excellent (poor to vegetable oils)
Resistance to solvents:	excellent
Temperature when in use:	from -30°C to +90°C



Ceramics onto existing ceramic tiles with Keraflex grey

Keraflex



GROUTING AND SEALING

Wall joints can be grouted after 4-8 hours, floor joints can be grouted after 24 hours with the special MAPEI cementitious or epoxy grouts which are available in different colours. Expansion joints must be sealed with the special MAPEI sealants.

SET TO LIGHT FOOT TRAFFIC

Floors are set to light foot traffic after approx. 24 hours.

READY FOR USE

Surfaces are ready for use after approx. 14 days. Swimming pools and basins can be filled after 21 days.

Cleaning

Tools and containers should be cleaned with plenty of water while **Keraflex** is still fresh. Surfaces should be cleaned with a damp cloth, before the adhesive dries.

COVERAGE

Bonding ceramic tiles

- Mosaics and small sizes in general (trowel n. 4): 2 kg/m²
- Normal sizes (trowel n. 5): 2.5-3 kg/m²
- Large sizes, exterior floors (trowel n. 6): 5 kg/m²

Spot-bonding insulating material

- Foam, etc. approx. 0.5-0.8 kg/m²
- Gypsum board panels, cellular concrete: approx. 1.5 kg/m²

PACKAGING

Keraflex white and grey are available in 25 kg bags and in 4x5 kg boxes.

STORAGE

Keraflex can be stored 12 months in a normal environment in original packaging.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION AND APPLICATION

Contains cement that when in contact with sweat or other body fluids produces an irritant alkaline reaction. Use protective gloves and goggles.

For further information, consult the safety data sheet.

FOR PROFESSIONALS.

WARNING

N.B. - Although the technical details and recommendations contained in this product report correspond to the best of our knowledge and experience, all the above information must, in every case, be taken as merely indicative and subject to confirmation after long-term practical applications: for this reason, anyone who intends to use the product must ensure beforehand that it is suitable for the envisaged application: in every case, the user alone is fully responsible for any consequences deriving from the use of the product.

All relevant references of the product are available upon request



Laying polystyrene foam slabs with Keraflex white



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