



Dave's Diary

Issue 3 - 2003

News

Welcome to Issue 3 of Dave's Diary.

We recently attended Designbuild 2003 in Sydney and we showed a number of new products relating to natural stone fixing systems. These new products were very well received by those who attended the show and you will find a feature on them, as well as some photos of our stand at the show, on page two of Dave's Diary.

In this issue you will also find a feature on surface preparation of concrete. Correct surface preparation is an essential ingredient to the success of your tile installation. We hope you find this feature useful and informative.

We have recently had a former staff member come back into the fold, who I am sure many of your from NSW will remember. Peter Hollins left Davco about three years ago to pursue other career opportunities and has recently returned to us in the

role of State Manager - Technical Mortars. His role includes the representation for our customers in the country areas of NSW, as well as Canberra. He will particularly be concentrating on the Handymix and Lanko technical mortars range. We would like to welcome Peter back to Davco and wish him every success in his new role.

We hope you enjoy Issue 3 of our newsletter.

Kind regards,

Davco Dave

PS. If you wish to be removed from the Dave's Diary mailing list, please let us know by emailing marketing@davco.com.au or fax (02) 9725 5551.



**Peter Hollins -
State Manager,
Technical Mortars,
Davco NSW**

Qld tiler on the road ...



Norm Vickers, a tiler from Townsville, and a loyal Davco customer of many years, has retired recently. Norm has custom built a bus and camper to tour around Australia !! This is no ordinary vehicle - it is fitted out complete with all your mod cons including TV, stereo, air conditioning and even has a jet ski fitted onto the hinged roof rack !! Norm's retirement is a great loss to the tiling industry but Davco wishes him well on his trip - be sure to give him a wave when you see him driving through your part of Australia.

This Issue...

Surface Preparation

Porcelain Grout

SMP 2010

New Products...

The Ultimate Natural Stone Fixing System...

At the recent Designbuild Expo in Sydney, Davco launched their latest products, SMP 2010 and Sanitized® Porcelain Grout. These premium products have been designed specifically for high quality natural stone, marble and porcelain installations and are the products to use if you want to ensure the best result from your installation. These products will be available in August 2003.

SMP 2010

* Stone * Marble * Porcelain *

SMP 2010 is a white, premium grade, polymer fortified and reinforced adhesive specifically designed for high quality porcelain, stone and marble installations.

- Polymer fortified - provides high bond strength and gives excellent adhesion to all types of porous and non-porous tiles and stone.
- Reinforced - much lower shrinkage than other cement based adhesive systems - which is required for natural stones, as they are more prone to shrinkage/expansion than ceramic tiles.
- High bond strength.
- Long repositioning allowing more time to move tiles/natural stone into the correct position.



Sanitized®
THE BUILT-IN ANTIMICROBIAL PROTECTION



Porcelain Grout

* Unsanded * For joints 1 - 3 mm * Available in 7 colours * For walls and floors *

Davco Sanitized® Porcelain Grout is an unsanded grout designed for use with polished porcelain, soft glazed tiles or any other ceramic and natural stone tile that requires a grout that will not scratch the surface. Being Sanitized®, the grout also contains a biocide, which provides it with a resistance to a broad spectrum of moulds and bacteria.

Available in 7 colours, Davco Sanitized® Porcelain Grout will suit a wide variety of tastes and decor with the range of colours including; black, silver grey, vanilla, antique white, ivory, sandalwood and light grey.

Davco Sanitized® Porcelain Grout can be used internally or externally, on wall or floor grouting applications.

Surface Preparation ... Concrete

The performance of Davco Tile Adhesives largely depends on the standard of preparation of the concrete floor surface. Sound performance over a weak substrate is generally not achievable, as premature failure in the substrate will occur. Conversely, poor bonding to sound substrates can occur if surfaces are not properly prepared. The main problem in practice is a lack of effective penetration of the coating into the substrate.

In recommending what type of preparation is required for concrete there are many factors which need to be considered:

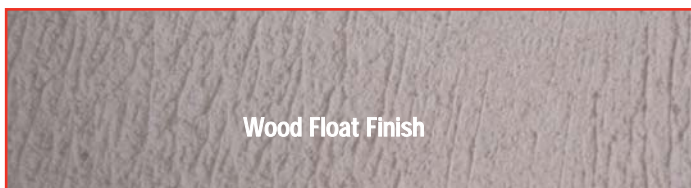
- **Age of Concrete** - Typically, the concrete needs to be a minimum of 28 days old, to allow for proper cure to take place, and for the residual moisture level to drop to an acceptable level.
- **Type of Concrete** - There are many types which generally are rated in accordance to their rate of set, and ultimate strength.
- **Surface Finish of Concrete** - Two generic types of finish cover most concrete surfaces, these being a float finish (generally referred to as wood float), and a steel trowel finish.
- **Presence of Contaminants** - These can be present in many forms and types, but the most common are curing compounds, laitance, release agents, sealers, grease, oil, wax, and construction site dirt/dust.

But the end result that needs to be achieved is simple; A clean dry surface of sufficient porosity to allow penetration. A rule of thumb often used is that the surface of the concrete should have 80% of the sand/aggregate exposed or alternatively the surface of the concrete should have a texture similar to 80 grit (medium grade) sandpaper.

Laitance

Laitance is the fine layer of cement which floats to the surface when concrete is laid. It is found on ALL poured concrete and has a poor bond to the body of the concrete and poor strength. Laitance MUST be removed to ensure a successful installation, and the best method of handling this is described below.

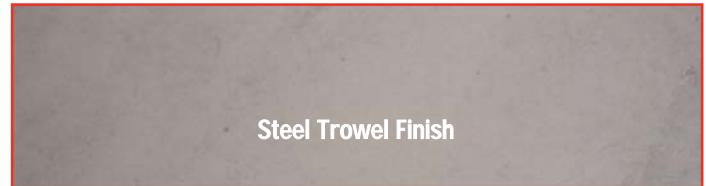
Wood Float Finish



With this type of finish, a wood trowel is worked over the surface to consolidate and embed both fine and coarse aggregate, leaving a sand paper type texture. For best results, the concrete must be at least 28 days old. As a rule of thumb, allow 1 week curing time per 25mm of concrete, refer to the

relevant Australian Standard. If any laitance is present, it is recommended to remove it from wood float concrete by etching the surface with a weak solution (5%) hydrochloric acid, then rinse off with clean water. Allow the slab to surface dry and then prime using Davco Ultraprime prior to tiling.

Steel Trowelled Concrete

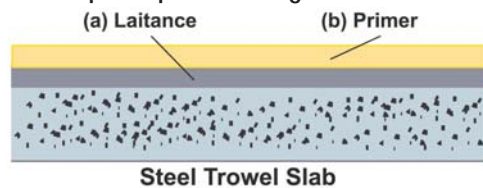


This type of floor surface is produced by multiple finishing operations with a steel trowel, which consolidates and greatly densifies the surface of the concrete, making it smooth, and difficult to bond to. If the concrete has a steel trowelled finish and assuming no surface hardeners have been used, then preparation must be made to remove the densified concrete and laitance on the surface.

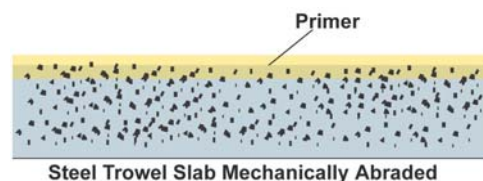
This can be done by one of two methods:

Acid Etching: Etch the surface with a weak solution (5%) of hydrochloric acid, then rinse with clean water. The surface should be allowed to dry for 24 hours and then primed with Davco Ultraprime prior to tiling.

Mechanically Abrasion: This is done by shot blasting, scabbling, or grinding the surface to expose at least 80% of the aggregate or give a finish like 80 grit (medium grade) sandpaper. After abrasion, all residual dust should be removed and the surface wiped with a damp mop. Allow the slab to surface dry and prime with Davco Ultraprime prior to tiling.



An unprepared surface, without the laitance removed (above) will not allow the primer to penetrate the surface, however a prepared surface with the laitance removed (below) will allow a sufficient bond.



Treatment of Expansion Joints and Cracks is essential. Refer to the Davco Surface Preparation Guide on www.davco.com.au or call 1800 653 347 for a copy.



Davco

EXCELLENCE IN TILING SYSTEMS

Dear Dave ...

Q. I have been asked to rectify a job, where the grout is cracking in the joints. The tiles have been laid over a timber floor. Can you advise me on the best way to do this job ?

A. Firstly you need to find out why the grout is cracking. There are a number of reasons this could be happening. 1) There may have been too much water in the grout mix, or no additive was used in the grout mix to increase flexibility of the grout. 2) There may be too much movement in the timber floor - if the floor has too much movement the grout will crack regardless of the use of an additive. 3) The joint width used is wider than that specified for the grout.

Once you have established that the timber floor is suitable for tiling (refer point 2 above), you then need to rake out the grout joints and decide which Davco grout to use based on the joint widths.

If the tiled area is larger than 5m x 5m you need to create expansion/movement joints every 5m in a grid pattern by filling these joints with Davco Davsil instead of grout.

Then mix the grout using Davco 4 in 1 Grout Additive instead of water, stirring the mix until a lump-free consistency is achieved. Allow the mix to stand for 10 minutes and then re-stir. Prior to grouting it is advisable to lightly dampen the grout joints, especially with porous tiles or in hot conditions. If the tiles are particularly porous prime the joints with Davco 4 in 1 Grout Additive after dampening to seal the edge of the tile. Using a rubber float or squeegee work the grout into the joints in a diagonal motion. Remove excess grout from the surface of the tiles with the rubber float or squeegee using a diagonal motion. Remove any excess moisture from the grout joints. Allow the grout to cure for 24 hours before cleaning the grout haze with a soft dry cloth. Hard to remove haze can be cleaned with Davco Sanitized® Tile and Grout Cleaner.

Do you have a question for Dave? Or maybe some feedback on Dave's Diary? You can contact Dave via email marketing@davco.com.au, fax to 02 9725 5551 or mail to PMB 50, Wetherill Park NSW 2164. All feedback is most welcome.

Staff Corner ...



The Old Customer Service Team

Pictured left is your Queensland Customer Service team. Melita Perro and Christine Hill.

Davco

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