SECTION 4

PREPARING THE WALL

To create a permanent bond between your tile and the wall, you must be certain that your wall surface is flat, even and clean. Use a level to check the condition of your wall.

Homax® SPRAY & SET™ Adhesive is designed only for walls in good condition. SPRAY & SET™ Adhesive cannot fill voids or fix problems with damaged or irregular walls or tiles. In those cases, you may want to consider a traditional adhesive.

SPRAY & SET™ Adhesive is designed to be applied to walls that meet code for wall tile application. More details can be obtained from your local building code office and from the TCNA (Tile Council of North America).

Here are some steps you'll need to take to prepare your wall:

- Sheet rock should be primed and/or painted with latex – not oil-based – paint before setting tiles. Glossy paints will bond better if they are lightly sanded with a course sandpaper to de-gloss. Wallpaper should be removed and the surface repainted if damaged.

- Plaster walls should be carefully examined. You can tile directly on plaster walls if they are solid, hard and not cracked or uneven. Check if the surface is hard enough by scratching it with a screwdriver. If it powders, you should cover the plaster with sheetrock or backer board, depending on the application area. Hard plaster will not powder and, like concrete, is resistant to scratching.

- Exterior grade plywood that is smooth, flat and not full of knotholes can be tiled to directly for interior applications.

- Backer boards can be used with SPRAY & SET™ Wall Tile Adhesive if they are applied with the smooth side out and installed per manufacturers' directions. Joints must be finished smooth so that tiles do not rock on them.

- Clean your walls by using a damp – not wet – rag or sponge to remove all dust.

- If tiling a backsplash, make sure to degrease your wall if it's dirty.

- Mask off the area to be tiled to protect other surfaces from overspray – and be sure to spread drop cloths and lay out the tools you'll need.

- Design a grid pattern to determine how you will set the tiles on the wall.

- Lay out the guide lines on the wall itself.

- Lay out 10 of your tiles vertically on a flat surface with the grout line gap you want and measure the full height of this column of tiles. Divide the number by 10 and this is the average height of your tiles.

Sheet rock should be primed and/or painted with latex paint.

Remove dust from your walls with a damp rag or sponge.

Be sure to mask off the area to protect surfaces.

Lay out a grid pattern on your wall before setting tiles.

SECTION 4 - PREPARING THE WALL

SPRAY & SET WALL TILE ADHESIVE

- Using a level, find the lowest point on your wall and use this as the point to measure the height of your wall to be tiled – then, using your level, draw a horizontal line through the midpoint for the length of the wall. Measure from the midpoint line to the bottom edge of the wall to be tiled. Divide this measurement by the average height of your tiles and calculate if it will leave you with less than half a tile. If it does, move the horizontal line up or down by ½ the tile height so that your cuts leave you with a larger piece of tile.

- If the bottom surface of the wall is very straight and level, you may want to design your pattern to have a full row at the bottom or at the top for aesthetic reasons and in this case you will need to adjust your horizontal midline accordingly.

- Next, measure the width of your wall to draw a vertical line through the midpoint of your horizontal line.

- Lay out 10 of your tiles lengthwise on a flat surface with the grout line gap you want and measure the full length of this row of tiles. Divide the number by 10 and this is the average length of your tiles.

- Using your level, draw a plumb line through this point from the bottom of the tiling area to the top. Measure the distance from the midpoint of the wall and divide this measurement by the average length of your tiles to see if this will leave you with less than ½ a tile. If it does, move the line left or right by ½ of the length of the tile so that your cuts leave you with a larger piece of tile.

- Mark your design grid on the wall surface using these vertical and horizontal lines as references to keep your pattern level and plumb for a professional appearance.

- Remember, unlike mastics and thinset, SPRAY & SET™ Adhesive leaves your grid lines visible, which makes straight and decorative pattern tiling easier.

Use a level to carefully layout your grid.

A proper grid pattern will help prevent tiling mistakes.

Lay out your tiles and measure carefully to determine each tile's length with grout lines.

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