Installing Porcelain, "Granito" and Similar Tiles

TDS 119

Large module porcelain type tiles and similar vitrified low absorption tiles produced by the single fire process in roller hearth kilns require extra care and provide a challenge to the tile installer.

These tiles are fired once in a kiln at very high temperatures with a special release powder on the tile back to prevent the tiles from sticking to the rollers and kiln.

The release material, a white clay slurry, does not fuse and often remains on the back of the tile as a whitish powder. This chalky white powder interferes with a proper and complete bond of ANY MANUFACTURER'S mortar or adhesive to the tile backside.

When the back is wiped with the hand, some of the "white" may come off easily like dust.

To provide proper adhesion:
1. Scrub tile backs with water and bristle brush;
2. Rinse with clean water;
3. Use a minimum ¼" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) notched trowel for 24" (60cm) tiles;
4. Use a LATICRETE Latex Thin-Set Mortar (e.g. 254 Platinum or 211 Powder gauged with 4237 Latex Additive) NOT plain sand/cement or thin-set;
5. Work mortar onto surface and comb with notched trowel;
6 "Back butter" cleaned tile and place tile into mortar spread on the wall or floor;
7. Beat tiles into wet, tacky mortar using a beating block and hammer to fully imbed and level the tiles;
8. Verify minimum mortar bed thickness after "beat-in" is 3/32" (2-3 mm).