

## I. PRODUCT NAME

TEC® Sturdi Flex™ Latex Modified Thin Set Mortar

## 2. MANUFACTURER

Specialty Construction Brands, Inc.  
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## 3. DESCRIPTION

Sturdi Flex latex mortar (TA-345/346) offers steady, reliable bonding performance in most latex mortar tile applications, commercial or residential.

### Key Benefits and Features

- Good handling
- Interior/exterior use
- Meets ANSI A118.4 and ANSI A118.11 specifications

### Packaging

50 lb. (22.68 kg) moisture-resistant bags  
 Gray Product #33-0025-3111  
 White Product #33-0026-3111

### Coverage

Coverage will vary with condition of substrate. Required trowel size will vary with the tile size, type and substrate uniformity. Select the trowel size that will ensure 100% coverage. Figures below are presented only as guidelines.

Trowel Size	Approximate Coverage per 50 lbs. (22.68 KG)
1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" (6 x 6 x 6 mm) square-notch trowel	80-90 sq. ft. (7.4-8.4 m <sup>2</sup> )
1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" (6 x 9 x 6 mm) square-notch trowel	55-65 sq. ft. (5.1-6 m <sup>2</sup> )

### Suitable Substrates

When properly prepared, acceptable substrates include:

- Cured concrete, cured mortar beds, brick and masonry (interior and exterior installations)
- APA Grade Trademarked Exposure I Plywood [Underlayment grade or better, two layers, 1 1/8" (28 mm) total minimum thickness, 16" OC (40 cm), interior floors only].
- Gypsum wallboard (dry interior wall areas only)
- Water resistant gypsum wallboard (e.g.: greenboard, interior walls only, dry to intermittent water exposure only)
- Cementitious backer units (CBU) or glass mat backer board
- Existing ceramic tile and natural stone, provided existing flooring is well-bonded to an approved substrate.

- Vinyl composition tile, asphalt tile, linoleum or non-cushioned vinyl sheet goods, provided such surfaces are single-layered, well-bonded to an approved substrate and properly prepared.

- Adhesive residue (except tacky or pressure-sensitive adhesive)

All substrates must be dry, structurally sound with maximum deflection per industry standards of 1/360 for ceramic tile installations and 1/720 for natural stone installations; and free from oil, grease, dust, paint, sealers or concrete curing compounds. All contaminants should be removed prior to installation of tile. Surface protrusions and tile glazes shall be removed by sanding, scraping or scarifying. After preparation, remove all dust by vacuuming. *Note:* Vinyl asbestos tile or any substrate containing asbestos shall not be sanded, scored or scarified because of the potential health hazard of breathing dust. Any substrate containing asbestos must be handled in accordance with existing EPA regulations. Contact your local EPA office.

**Notes:** Expansion joints must be provided in the tile work over all construction or expansion joints in the backing and where backing materials change. Follow ANSI A108.01 Section 3.7 Requirements for Expansion Joints.

Maximum variations in all substrates must not exceed 1/4" in 10 ft. (6 mm in 3 m) or 1/16" in 1 ft. (1.5 mm in 0.3 m) from the required plane. For non-level, interior surfaces use TEC® EZ Level® Self Leveling Underlayment.

### Storage

Store in cool, dry location. Do not store open containers.

### Shelf Life

Maximum of 1 year from date of manufacture in unopened package.

### Limitations

Not for installing green marble, other moisture-sensitive stone tile or resin-backed marble; use TEC AccuColor EFX® Epoxy Grout and Mortar. For non-green marble tile applications, use white thin set mortars. Not for use over rubber, strip wood floors, oriented strand board, particle board, lauan plywood. For CDX plywood, use Super Flex™ mortar. Do not apply over single-layer wood floors. Temperature of area to be tiled must remain above 50°F (10°C) for 72 hours. Certain natural stone tiles may be affected by mortar shadowing or staining. Test a small area prior to use to determine suitability.

### Cautions

Read complete cautionary information printed on product container prior to use. For medical emergency information, call 1-888-853-1758.

This Product Data Sheet has been prepared in good faith on the basis of information available at the time of publication. It is intended to provide users with information about and guidelines for the proper use and application of the covered TEC brand product(s) under normal environmental and working conditions. Because each project is different, Specialty Construction Brands, Inc. cannot be responsible for the consequences of variations in such conditions, or for unforeseen conditions.

# Sturdi Flex™ — Latex Modified Thin Set Mortar

## 4. TECHNICAL DATA

### Applicable Standard

Meets ANSI A118.4 and ANSI A118.11 specifications.

Sturdi Flex™ Latex Modified Thin Set Mortar, TA-345/346		
Description	ANSI Requirement	Typical Results
28 Day Shear Strength Glazed Wall Tile Impervious Ceramic Tile (Porcelain)	> 300 psi (2.1 MPa) > 200 psi (1.4 MPa)	> 350 psi (2.4 MPa) 325-350 psi (2.2-2.4 MPa)
Quarry Tile	> 150 psi (1.0 MPa)	375 psi (3.6 MPa)
Sag on Vertical Surfaces	≤ 1/16" (1.6 mm)	< 1/16" (1.6 mm)
Open Time at Room Temperature	≥ 50 minutes	50-60 minutes
Adjustability at Room Temperature	≥ 30 minutes	30-40 minutes
Final Set	9-15 hours	13-15 hours
28 Day Shear Strength Quarry Tile	150 psi (1.0 MPa)	215 psi (1.5 MPa)

Tested in accordance with ANSI A118.11 Specifications for Latex-Modified Dry Set Mortars over Exterior Grade Plywood

### Physical Properties

Description	
Physical State	Dry powder
Color	Available in white and gray
Pot Life	2 to 3 hours
Initial Cure [at 72°F (22°C)]	16 to 24 hours
Final Cure	21 days
Foot Traffic Rating (ASTM C627)	Residential to Extra Heavy Commercial (depending on substrate)
Storage	Store in cool, dry location. Do not store open containers.
Shelf Life	Maximum 1 year from date of manufacture in properly stored, unopened package

## 5. INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Mixing

For best results, maintain all tiling materials, substrates, room and adhesives at 50°-70°F (10-21°C) for 24 hours before and 48 hours after installation. Thoroughly mix 50 lbs. (22.68 kg) Sturdi Flex with 1 to 1½ gallons (3.8 to 5.7 L) clean, cool water.

Add powder to liquid for ease of mixing. Mix material to a thick creamy consistency, then allow the mortar to stand for 10 minutes. Remix and apply. Avoid breathing dust and contact with eyes and skin. Avoid using high speed mixing, not to exceed 300 rpm, to prevent entraining air.

### Application

Apply mortar using flat side of trowel to promote better substrate contact, then comb in one direction with the notched side of the trowel. Spread only an area that can be tiled while surface is still tacky (typically 20-30 minutes). Press tiles into setting bed, then push in a

direction perpendicular to the notched trowel ridges to achieve optimum coverage. Apply mortar in a heavy enough layer so that complete contact (no voids) between mortar and tile is accomplished when tile is positioned. It may be necessary to “back-butter” large tiles to achieve complete coverage and firm support. Periodically remove and check a tile to assure proper coverage. Keep a minimum of 2/3 of the joint depth between tiles for grouting.

Open time and tile hand adjustability may vary with job site conditions. Stir occasionally during use to maintain the smooth, creamy consistency of the product. **Do not add additional water.**

### Clean-up

Clean tools, hands, and excess materials from face of tile, while mortar is still fresh, with warm soapy water.

### Grouting/Curing

Grouting may be accomplished when tiles are held firmly in place, typically 16 to 24 hours after installation is completed. No traffic is permitted over the tiles prior to grouting. Cold temperatures or high humidity may extend curing time. Unglazed tiles may require sealing prior to grouting so discolorations will not occur. The use of TEC brand grouts is highly recommended.

## 6. AVAILABILITY AND COST

### Availability

TEC Premium Tile and Stone Installation Products are available nationwide. To locate a distributor in your area, please contact TEC.

Phone: 800-832-9002

Website: [www.tecspecialty.com](http://www.tecspecialty.com)

### Cost

Contact your local TEC Distributor.

## 7. WARRANTY

For warranty details, see your sales associate or [www.tecspecialty.com](http://www.tecspecialty.com).

## 8. MAINTENANCE

Not applicable

## 9. TECHNICAL SERVICES

### Technical assistance

Information is available by calling the SCB Technical Support Hotline.

Toll Free: 1-800-832-9023

Fax: 847-776-4452

### Technical and safety literature

To acquire technical and safety literature, please visit our website at [www.tecspecialty.com](http://www.tecspecialty.com).

## 10. FILING SYSTEM

Division 9

# TEC™