



SCREW DRIVER TEST

It has been noticed that sales people have come across Owners, builders, contractors and engineers using the screwdriver/metal rod/hammer prying test to determine the strength of the adhesive, this article is a reproduction of the article written by Mr Henry M.Rothberg, Chairman Laticrete International Inc.

It is written in order to clear the misconception among the builders and contractors as well as educate our sales force towards the danger of such illegitimate testing.

Beware the dangerous (and useless) Screwdriver test

I take this opportunity to reconfirm that prying a tile up with a screwdriver is not a legitimate test of the installation.

There are several standard test procedures that may be followed if you or the owner wish to test the performance of a particular adhesive installation.

We would be pleased to provide information on these industry standard test procedures if you like.

In regards to the concern the **“tile came clean”** we provide the following information:

It is expected and normal when a very hard and strong tile such as a porcelain type tile is installed in a strong adhesive for the tile to “come clean” when it is forcibly tested until bond destruction. This demonstrates that the tile is strong internally and the adhesive mortar is strong internally. It does not demonstrate a weak bond but a strong internal (cohesive) strength for the adhesive.

We, as well as the Ceramic Tile Industry recommend the cleaning and back buttering as well as beating in of low absorption porcelain type tiles to insure the best possible installation.

For over 45 years, throughout the US and worldwide, architects and contractors have field proven the superior performance, capabilities and long term durability of the bond of Laticrete materials to Vitrified and other type of Ceramic tile and stone.

Please be sure when installing these porcelain type tiles that industry standard installation procedures are followed. This includes

- 1 Use of proper grade of adhesive
- 2 Cleaning the back of tiles
- 3 Back buttering of tiles
- 4 Beating in the tiles immediately after placement
- 5 Installation of properly placed and spaced expansion joints

Note: The same is true with other type of tiles including stone tiles.

Over the years we have received several reports from the field regarding contractors trying this test.

The fact that tile came up only shows the massive force that can be exerted with a 'lever'.

Archimedes states that "give me a long enough lever and a place to stand and I will move the Earth"

Hope it will clear the misconception of the 'screwdriver' test.

