



# IsoLight™ 1/8" (3 mm) Crack Isolation Mortar

Updated September 2025

## 1. PRODUCT NAME

TEC® IsoLight™ 1/8" (3 mm) Crack Isolation Mortar  
(358/359)

## 2. MANUFACTURER

TEC Specialty Products LLC  
1105 South Frontenac Street  
Aurora, IL 60504-6451 U.S.A.  
800.832.9002 Customer Service  
800.832.9023 Technical Support  
tecspecialty.com

## 3. DESCRIPTION

IsoLight is a lightweight, Large Heavy Tile (LHT) mortar that protects tile from up to 1/8" (3 mm) substrate cracking from in-plane horizontal substrate movement. Its unique "lightweight" formula provides 50 lb. (22.68 kg) coverage in a 30 lb. (13.6 kg) bag. Formulated with Easy Trowel Technology™, IsoLight Mortar provides superior handling and extended open time as compared to regular mortars, improving speed and productivity. IsoLight Mortar exceeds ANSI A118.4HTE, A118.11 and A118.15HTE specifications and is rated for residential to extra heavy commercial applications.

### Key Features and Benefits

- 50 lb. (22.68 kg) coverage in a 30 lb. (13.6 kg) bag
- One-step 1/8" (3 mm) crack isolation
- Easy Trowel Technology™ provides superior handling
- Exceeds ANSI A118.4HTE, A118.11 and A118.15HTE specifications
- Suitable for glass tile
- Non-sag formulation for walls
- Interior/Exterior use
- Extended open time
- Extra Heavy Duty Commercial rating
- Recycled content contributes to LEED® certification\*
- Zero VOC

\* Gray formula contains 5% pre-consumer recycled material.  
White formula contains 4% pre-consumer recycled material.

### Packaging

30 lb. (13.6 kg) moisture-resistant bags

Gray  
White

Product #15035730  
Product #15035732

### 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 30 lbs. (13.6 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 m²)
1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" (6 x 9 x 6 mm) square-notch trowel	55-65 sq. ft. (5.1-6 m²)
3/8" slant notch trowel	40-50 sq. ft. (3.7-4.6 m²)
In an effort to improve coverage achieved by installers, TEC Specialty is not recommending the use of a 1/2" x 1/2" notch trowel due to the challenges in fully collapsing the ridges. In place, a 3/8" slant notch can be used. If using a 1/2" x 1/2" notch trowel, the coverage for a 3/8" slant notch is similar for material calculations.	
3/4" (19 mm) rounded-notch trowel	30-40 sq. ft. (2.8-3.7 m²)

### Suitable Substrates

When properly prepared per TCNA guidelines, suitable substrates include:

- Cured concrete, cured mortar beds, brick and masonry (interior and exterior installations)
- APA Grade Trademarked Exposure 1 Plywood underlayment grade or better
- Gypsum wallboard (dry interior wall areas only)
- Water resistant gypsum wallboard (i.e.: greenboard, interior walls only, dry to intermittent water exposure only)
- Cementitious backer units (CBU) or glass mat backerboard
- 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 sheetgoods provided such surfaces are single layered, well-bonded to an approved substrate and properly prepared.
- Adhesive residue (except tacky or pressure-sensitive adhesive)

### Substrate Preparation

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 must be removed prior to installation of tile. Surface protrusions and tile glazes shall be removed by sanding, scraping or scarifying. For installation over asphalt-based cutback adhesive, remove adhesive by scraping until all that remains is a thin, transparent layer of adhesive residue. After preparation, remove all dust by vacuuming.

**Notes:** Vinyl asbestos tile or any substrate containing asbestos must 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. Expansion joints must be provided in the tile work over all construction, control and 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) and 1/16" in 1 ft. (1.6 mm in 0.3 m) from the required plane for tile less than 15" (381 mm) on all sides. Maximum variations in all substrates **must not exceed** 1/8" in 10 ft. (3 mm in 3 m) and 1/16" in 2 ft. (1.6 mm in 0.6 m) from the required plane for tile 15" (381 mm) or greater on any one side. For non-level, interior floors use an approved TEC Self Leveling Underlayment. For best results over plywood and other suitable porous substrates, wipe the surface clean with a damp sponge just prior to application of mortar.

### Storage

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

### Shelf Life

Maximum 1 year from date of manufacture in properly stored, unopened package.

### Limitations

- Only install when the temperature is between 50°F (10°C) - 90°F (32°C).
- Not for installing green marble and 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 IsoLight Mortar.
- Not for use over rubber, strip wood floors, oriented strand board, particle board, lauan plywood.
- Do not apply over single layer wood floors.
- Substrate temperature should be a minimum of 43°F (6°C) during application and air temperature maintained above 50°F (10°C) during installation and for 72 hours after installation.
- Certain natural stone tiles may be affected by mortar shadowing or staining. Test a small area prior to use to determine suitability.

## Product Data

**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, TEC Specialty Products LLC cannot be responsible for the consequences of variations in such conditions, or for unforeseen conditions.

**4. TECHNICAL DATA****Applicable Standard**

Exceeds ANSI A118.4HTE, A118.11 and A118.15HTE specifications

ISO 13007: Classification C2TES1P2

IsoLight 1/8" (3 mm) Crack Isolation Mortar, (358/359)		
Description	ANSI Requirement	Typical Results
28 Day Shear Strength Glazed Wall Tile Impervious Ceramic Tile (Porcelain) Quarry Tile	> 300 psi (2.1 MPa) > 200 psi (1.4 MPa) > 150 psi (1.0 MPa)	> 600 psi (4.1 MPa) > 400 psi (2.8 MPa) 380 psi (2.6 MPa)
Extended Open Time	> 75 psi (0.5 MPa) at 30 Minutes	Pass
Flexibility (movement absorbed before shear) Quarry to Concrete	No ANSI spec currently available	1/8 inch (3 mm)
28 Day Shear Strength Quarry Tile to Plywood <i>Tested in accordance with ANSI A118.11 Specifications for Latex-Modified Dry Set Mortars over Exterior Grade Plywood</i>	150 psi (1.0 MPa)	210 psi* (1.4 MPa) <small>*Plywood bond data can be subject to regional variations in plywood quality.</small>

Greater than: >    Greater than or equal to: ≥    Less than: <    Less than or equal to: ≤

**Physical Properties**

Description	
Physical State	Dry powder
Color	Available in white and gray
Pot Life	1½ 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 bags.
Shelf Life	Maximum 1 year from date of manufacture in properly stored, unopened package.

\*Temperature and humidity will affect pot life and cure time

**5. INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS****Mixing**

For best results, maintain all tiling materials, substrates, room and mortars at 50°-70°F (10-21°C) for 24 hours before installation. Maintain recommended room temperature for 48 hours after installation. In a clean mixing container, pour 5½-6 quarts (5.2-5.7 L) clean, cool water. Add ½ bag of IsoLight Mortar and mix until all powder is consumed. Add ¼ bag and mix until powder is consumed. Add final ¼ bag and mix to a thick creamy consistency. Avoid breathing dust and contact with eyes and skin. Allow the mortar to stand for 10 minutes. Remix

and apply. Avoid using high speed mixing, not to exceed 300 rpm, to prevent entraining air.

**Application**

Key in 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 30-40 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.**

Note: It is the sole responsibility of the installer to determine the suitability and compatibility of the product for the intended application.

**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, working time, and pot life. Hot temperatures or low humidity may decrease curing time, working time, and pot life. Some tiles may require sealing prior to grouting so discolorations will not occur. The use of TEC brand grouts is highly recommended.

**6. AVAILABILITY**

TEC premium surface preparation, tile, stone, carpet, wood and resilient floor covering installation products are available nationwide. To locate TEC products in your area, please contact:

Phone: 800-832-9002

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

**7. LIMITED WARRANTY**

The product(s) covered by this Product Data Sheet are sold subject to a Limited Warranty and related terms. **TEC Specialty Products LLC disclaims the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose and all incidental and consequential damages arising out of the sale, purchase or use of this product.** For Limited Warranty details visit [tecspecialty.com](http://tecspecialty.com). To obtain a hard copy of the Limited Warranty call TEC Specialty Products at 800-832-9023 or mail a written request to the address in Section 2 of this Product Data Sheet.

**8. MAINTENANCE**

Not applicable

**9. TECHNICAL SERVICES****Technical and safety literature**

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

**10. FILING SYSTEM**

Division 9



Conforms with LEED v4 low emitting interiors.  
Compliant with (CDPH) Standard Method v1.2 VOC Emissions.



To learn more, visit [TECSpecialty.com](http://TECSpecialty.com)



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