



Ultimate 6 Plus Mortar

Updated September 2025

1. PRODUCT NAME

TEC® Ultimate 6 Plus Mortar
(487)

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

TEC Ultimate 6 Plus is a high performance, polymer-modified mortar designed for the installation of ceramic, porcelain and natural stone tile. Unlike other mortars, Ultimate 6 Plus has a unique combination of features that allow grouting in 6 hours while providing extended open time. It is ideal for all gauged porcelain tile panels/slabs and large heavy tile (LHT) installations. Ultimate 6 plus significantly reduces the need for back buttering and has exceptional non-sag / non-slump characteristics for wall and floor applications.

Key Features and Benefits

- Approved for all sizes of porcelain, ceramic and natural stone tiles
- Ideal for all gauged porcelain tile panels/slabs and LHT installations
- Approved for indoor glass applications with intermittent water exposure (see page 2)
- Approved for setting and tiling under and over uncoupling membranes
- Extended open time and pot life
- Accelerated set – grout in as little as 6 hours
- Superior transfer – full coverage with minimum effort
- Non-sag for wall applications and non-slump for floor applications
- Mixes to an extremely smooth, creamy consistency providing superior handling
- Exceeds ANSI A118.4HTE and A118.11 specifications
- Interior/exterior use
- Zero VOC

Packaging

40 lb. (18.14 kg) moisture-resistant bags
40 lb. (18.14 kg) plastic bags

Product #15036116
Product #15030010

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 40 lbs. (18.14 kg)
¼" x ⅜" (6 x 4.7 mm) V-notch trowel	182-204 sq. ft. (16.9-19.0 m²)
¼" x ¼" x ¼" (6 x 6 x 6 mm) square-notch trowel	91-102 sq. ft. (8.4-9.5 m²)
¼" x ⅜" x ¼" (6 x 9 x 6 mm) square-notch trowel	75-85 sq. ft. (7.0-7.9 m²)
⅜" x ⅜" x ⅜" (9 x 9 x 9 mm) square-notch trowel	60-68 sq. ft. (5.6-6.3 m²)
⅜" slant notch trowel	45-51 sq. ft. (4.2-4.7 m²)

In an effort to improve coverage achieved by installers, TEC Specialty is not recommending the use of a ½" x ½" notch trowel due to the challenges in fully collapsing the ridges. In place, a ⅜" slant notch can be used. If using a ½" x ½" notch trowel, the coverage for a ⅜" slant notch is similar for material calculations.

Trowel Size	Approximate Coverage per 40 lbs. (18.14 kg)
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¾" x ⅝" x ⅝" (19 x 14 x 9 mm) rounded-notch trowel	30-34 sq. ft. (2.8-3.2 m²)
Euro-notch trowel	26-33.5 sq. ft. (2.4-3.1 m²)*
¼" (6 mm) slant-notch trowel	25-30 sq. ft. (2.3-2.8 m²)*

*Based on application to both the substrate and tile back

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). Mechanically remove the adhesive to expose at least 80% of the concrete surface. Random specks of adhesive and the appearance of a brown surface stain are acceptable
- Extruded foam waterproof tile board
- Uncoupling membranes

TEC Specialty Products LLC ("HBF-CP") will warrant Ultimate 6 Plus with the use of ¾" floor-rated underlayment OSB as an approved substrate for the installation of uncoupling membranes.

For gypsum underlayments, TEC® Multipurpose Primer must be applied directly to the gypsum underlayments prior to application of Ultimate 6 Plus for bonding of the uncoupling membrane. Please see the Multipurpose Primer product data sheet for dilution ratios and application instructions.

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. After preparation, remove all dust by vacuuming.

For Gauged Porcelain Tile Panels/Slabs installation, reference the TEC® Thin Porcelain Panel Installation Guide on tecspecially.com.

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** ¼" 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 large non-level, interior floors use an appropriate 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.

Glass Tile Installation

Ultimate 6 plus, with its proprietary formulation, has been tested and approved to be

Product Data

used with glass tile for the following applications:

- Indoor applications only
- Wall applications only
- Intermittent water exposure (not for use with submerged applications).
Example such as:
 - Kitchen Backsplash
 - Shower wall

Note: When installing clear glass tile over waterproof membranes, visible mortar shadowing may occur.

The materials approved are as follow

- Clear Glass tiles with no backing with maximum surface area of 16 in²
- Matted Mosaic Tiles with clear or painted Mesh backing
- Matted Subway Tiles with Mesh backing
- Glass tiles with painted backing up to 16 in²

NOTE: Not all coatings used to colorize the back of glass tile are compatible with Portland cement based mortars. Please check with the manufacturer to determine if it will be compatible. For any questions on this, please call our Technical Support Hotline at 1-800-832-9023 for additional support.

Also, if you are looking to install a specific tile not listed in the above material list and would like to use Ultimate 6 Plus Mortar, please contact our Technical Support Hotline at 800-832-9023 for additional support.

In specifying a setting system for the bonding of glass tile, the following issues must be taken into consideration:

Glass Tile Type: Glass tile can be manufactured in a number of different ways such as clear, translucent with a colored body, or translucent with a colored backing. Each type has a different aesthetic appearance. The color and composition of the mortar can have an effect on the final appearance, especially with clear or translucent tile

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 ambient temperature is between 50-90°F (10-32°C).
- Not for installing green marble or other moisture-sensitive stone tile; use TEC® AccuColor EFX® Epoxy Grout and Mortar.
- For resin-backed marble see the TEC Technical Bulletin "Installation Of Resin Backed Stone Tiles" at tecspecially.com.
- Not for use over rubber, strip wood floors, oriented strand board*, particle board, lauan plywood or tempered hardboard (e.g. Masonite).
- For CDX plywood, use TEC® Super Flex™ mortar or TEC® XtraFlex™ acrylic mortar additive with TEC® Full Set Plus® thin set mortar.
- Only approved for use over single layer wood floors when using uncoupling membranes per the manufacturer's requirements.
- 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.

*Can be used over OSB with the use of ¾" floor-rated underlayment OSB as an approved substrate for the installation of uncoupling membranes

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 and A118.11 specifications
ISO 13007: Classification C2TEP1

TEC Ultimate 6 Plus (487)		
Description	ANSI Requirement	Typical Results
28 Day Shear Strength Porcelain Quarry Tile	> 200 psi (1.4 MPa) > 150 psi (1.0 MPa)	480 psi (3.31 MPa) 400 psi (2.75 MPa)
7 Day Shear Strength Glazed Wall Tile	> 300 psi (2.1 MPa)	545 psi (3.75 MPa)
Sag on Vertical Surfaces	≤ 1/16" (1.6 mm)	0-1/32" (0-0.8 mm)
Open Time at Room Temperature	20 minutes	50-60 minutes
Adjustability at Room Temperature		30 minutes
Final Set		5-7 hours
Tested in accordance with ANSI A118.11 Specifications for Latex-Modified Dry Set Mortars over Exterior Grade Plywood		
28 Day Shear Strength Quarry Tile	150 psi (1.0 MPa)	205 psi (1.41 MPa)
Greater than: > Greater than or equal to: ≥ Less than: < Less than or equal to: ≤		

Physical Properties

Description	
Physical State	Dry powder
Color	White
Pot Life	2-3 hours*
Initial Cure [at 72°F (22°C)]	6 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 and 48 hours after installation. In a clean mixing container, add TEC Ultimate 6 Plus to clean, cool water as specified in the chart.

Application	Water
LHT, Gauged Porcelain Tile Panels/Slabs or Wall Applications	6 to 6½ quarts (5.6 to 6.1 L)
Thin Set Floor Applications	6½ to 6¾ quarts (6.1 to 6.4 L)

Add 2/3 bag of TEC Ultimate 6 Plus and mix until all powder is consumed. Add final 1/3 bag and mix until powder is consumed. Be cautious not to over-water. Consistency will loosen during mixing process. Mix material for two (2) minutes to a smooth and 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 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. Irregularities in substrate may require "back-buttering" of large tiles to achieve complete coverage and firm support. Periodically

remove and check a tile to assure proper coverage. Keep a minimum of $\frac{2}{3}$ 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.**

For Gauged Porcelain Tile Panels/Slabs installation, reference the TEC Thin Porcelain Panel Installation Guide on tecspecialty.com.

For resin backed tiles, use full strength TEC Multipurpose Primer on the back of the tile, let dry, then press the tile into the setting bed.

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 6 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. Unglazed 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

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. 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.

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



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