



## Technical Bulletin # 107

**RE: Ceramic Tile Marble and Dimensional Stone over Vinyl Tile (VAT, VCT) or Sheet Vinyl Flooring Materials for Dry, Interior, Residential and Light Commercial Applications**  
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When considering a ceramic tile installation over vinyl tile or sheet vinyl flooring materials, it is always best that the flooring materials be removed and the substrate be cleaned. Caution should be used not to disturb, breakup or sand certain types of flooring materials that may contain asbestos. Inhalation of asbestos dust from removal or sanding may cause bodily harm.

Do not install ceramic tile marble and stone over vinyl flooring subject to hydrostatic pressure. All "cushioned-backed", "foam-backed" vinyl floor materials and perimeter bonded sheet vinyl flooring should not receive ceramic tile. The "cushioned-backed" and perimeter bonded vinyl flooring materials do not provide a rigid, sound and well bonded surface for the ceramic tile.

The use of a new, clean bond surface such as a Portland Cement mortar bed, cementitious backerboard or properly fastened and gaped exterior grade plywood sheeting (where applicable) placed over the vinyl flooring are the best options. Reference ANSI for substrate preparation when using these options.

However, some installations of the ceramic tile and new surface materials are not practical due to the increase in completed floor height. These following steps will allow for a successful ceramic tile installation directly over the vinyl tile or sheet vinyl flooring materials with a lower overall finished floor height.

Step 1. Carefully inspect all of the floor area to receive ceramic tile. The substrate must be level, rigid, sturdy and sound with no flexing.

The vinyl tile or sheet vinyl flooring must be tightly bonded to the substrate. Loose, peeling, curling, torn air-pocketed (bubbled or blistered), mildewed, water damaged and poorly bonded areas shall be cut out with a sharp utility knife and removed. Exposed old adhesive residue shall be tightly bonded or removed (reference Technical Bulletin #102 Installing Ceramic Tile Over Cut-Back Adhesive Residue).

Step 2. All vinyl tile or sheet vinyl floor coverings to receive ceramic tile shall be free of adhesives, paint, waxes, sealers, dirt, dust, oils, grease, soaps and any loose or foreign matter that will interfere with bond. Old floor finishes must be completely removed with the use of a commercial or heavy-duty liquid floor stripper. Follow the manufacturer's directions for the liquid stripper and thoroughly rinse and dry the surface. A wet/dry vacuum will aid in the removal of debris and dissolved finish during the stripping process.

Step 3. Inspect the floor again and repeat Step 1 and Step 2 if necessary.

Step 4. The surface should be clean, dry and free of any standing water and puddles. The ceramic tile can be installed with one of the C-Cure products listed:

- UniFlex 916 Elastomeric Dry-Set Mortar
- M-Flex Strata 914 Latex-Portland Mortar
- PST 948 modified mortar system

Follow the mixing instructions and application procedures found on the containers and information sheets for the chosen C-Cure product.

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