Liquid applied urethane waterproof membranes are soft rubbery materials that are usually applied in a minimum thickness of 60 mil (1/16”) and may be as thick as 90-125 mil (1/10” – 1/8”). This material cures slowly and is relatively soft and tacky after placement.

However, in order to install ceramic tile, it is necessary to have a strong firm surface and to be able to walk on the surface. It is not possible to walk on the urethane membrane, because the surface remains tacky for some days or even weeks. In addition, the material is rubbery and will move under load. Therefore, ceramic tiles would not have sufficient support and consequently, under traffic and point loading or normal service requirements, could develop severe cracking of the joints and even cracked and broken tiles when installed by thin bed method directly on urethane waterproofing.

The ceramic industry recommends that a conventional thick mortar bed be placed over soft urethane waterproofing membranes and over soft built-up asphaltic waterproofing membranes.

Where full support for thin bed installations of ceramic or stone tile is required, HYDRO BAN®, HYDRO BAN Quick Cure or 9235 Waterproofing Membrane would be installed in lieu of a urethane waterproofing membrane. HYDRO BAN, HYDRO BAN Quick Cure and 9235 Waterproofing Membrane are latex based membranes which are thin, load-bearing and completely compatible with LATICRETE Latex Thin-Set Mortars (e.g. 254 Platinum, 257 TITANIUM™ and MULTIMAX™ LITE).