



Uncoupling Membranes and LATICRETE® Mortars TDS 284

A recent trend in the Ceramic Tile industry is the use of plastic or other composite uncoupling membranes. The use of an uncoupling membrane (e.g. STRATA_MAT™ or STRATA_MAT XT) gives the installer peace of mind that their tile installation will be able to move independently from the substrate below.

The uncoupling membrane recommended by the manufacturer; must achieve 50 psi or greater shear bond strength in 7 days per test method in ANSI A118.12 Section 5.1.3. Prior to the installation of an uncoupling membrane, make sure the substrate meets deflection requirements for ceramic tile and stone. For general information regarding deflection, please refer to [TDS 123](#) “Deflection”, and for deflection requirements of wood substrates please refer to [TDS 152](#) “Bonding Ceramic Tile, Stone or Brick Over Wood Floors”.

For installations uncoupling membranes use the following material options for setting the uncoupling membrane and for setting tiles on top of the uncoupling membrane.

To adhere the uncoupling membrane to the properly prepared substrate, LATICRETE recommends;

254 Platinum ([DS 677.0](#)), 254 Platinum Rapid ([DS 729.0](#)), 254 Platinum Plus ([DS-65329](#)), MULTIMAX™ LITE ([DS 328.0](#))*, 4-XLT ([DS 080.0](#))*, 253 Gold ([DS 296.0](#)), or 253R Gold Rapid ([DS 296.3](#)).

To bond all ceramic tile or stone, including porcelain tile, to the uncoupling membrane, LATICRETE recommends;

254 Platinum ([DS 677.0](#)), 254 Platinum Rapid ([DS 729.0](#)), 254 Platinum Plus ([DS-65329](#)), MULTIMAX™ LITE ([DS 328.0](#))*, 4-XLT ([DS 080.0](#))*, 253 Gold ([DS 296.0](#)), or 253R Gold Rapid ([DS 296.3](#)).

LATICRETE does not recommend using an ANSI A118.1 dry set mortar mixed only with water for bonding porcelain tile in any application. As noted in the TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass and Stone Tile Installation, “...latex/polymer modified portland cement mortar is required for the installation of porcelain tile.”¹ Please note that an ANSI A118.1 compliant dry-set mortar can be used in conjunction with clay bodied ceramic tile, e.g. 272 Mortar.

Please refer to STRATA_MAT data sheet ([DS 026.0](#)) or STRATA_MAT XT technical information ([DS 028.0](#)) for warranty information and specific installation guidelines.

The use of other manufacturer’s thin-sets, grouts, membranes, or other products will affect the warranty, as will the use of a competitor’s uncoupling membrane in conjunction with LATICRETE® installation materials. LATICRETE can only provide a one-year product only warranty for the LATICRETE materials used with competitive products. Warranty information can be found online at <https://laticrete.com>.

* For residential installations only

¹ TCNA [Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation \(2019\)](#). Tile Council of North America, Inc. Anderson, SC, 2019, pg. 15.

