



The Chemical Company

BASF CONSTRUCTION CHEMICALS AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND

APPLICATION GUIDE for PCI CARRAFLEX®

IMPORTANT: READ THIS FIRST

BASF Construction Chemicals does not warrant the performance of this product unless the instructions of this document and other related BASF Construction Chemicals documents are adhered to in all respects.

1. SURFACE PREPARATION

The substrate must be sound, clean and able to bear weight. Oil stains, bond-breaking residues and contamination (also residues of carpet glues) must be thoroughly removed.. The substrate to be tiled must be plumb and flush.

New Concrete

Minimum age of substrate:

-**PCI Novoment Z1** screed: 24 hours

-Cement screed: 7 days, concrete: 28 days

Surface Irregularities

For the installation of ceramic tiles, the substrate must be flush.

Concrete floors indoors can be levelled with the self levelling screed leveller, **PCI Periplan** and/or **PCI Periplan Fein**.

Priming

Prime very absorbent cementitious substrates and aerated concrete indoors with **PCI Gisogrund**, diluted 1:1 with water. Gypsum based floated screeds as well as gypsum based substrates, should be primed with undiluted **PCI Gisogrund**. Allow primer to dry.

Cement screeds must not have a residual moisture content of more than 4%.

Gypsum based screeds not more than 0.5% (measured with a CM moisture meter).

2. APPLICATION

Mixing of adhesive

1. Place gauging water, (approx. 7.25ltrs per 25kg bag), in a clean mixing container. Add **PCI Carraflex** and mix with a suitable mixing paddle (eg.available from Collomix) attached to an electric drill until a plastic, lump-free mortar is achieved.
2. Allow slake time of approximately 3 minutes and then remix briefly.

Laying tiles

1. Apply a thin scratch coat onto the substrate using the straight edge of the trowel.
2. Comb mortar onto the fresh scratch coat with the notched edge of the trowel. Apply only as much mortar as can be covered with tiles within the open time (approx. 15 minutes). Test the open time by touching the adhesive bed with your fingertip.
3. Staining from the ridges of the adhesive bed is prevented by void-free laying of translucent natural stone tiles in the combined method (buttering-floating). Backbutter tiles with **PCI Carraflex**.
4. Place tiles in the adhesive bed with a twist and slide motion and adjust them to correct position.

3. NOTE

- Do not apply at **substrate temperatures** below +5°C or above +25°C, or under very windy and warm conditions.
- When laying tiles on heated screeds, good tiling practice and local regulations must be followed.
- Instructions issued by the gypsum manufacturers must be followed for installations on plaster/render and gypsum-based substrates.
- Do not use **PCI Carraflex** to level irregularities in the substrate exceeding 10mm.
- It is required for the installation of marble on chipboards to use **PCI Collastic**.
- Do not add water, fresh mortar and/or powder to reconstitute a mortar mix which has already begun to set.
- Natural stones **must not** be laid with **PCI Carraflex** in the dot bonding technique.
- Marble or calcitic natural stones must not be acid-washed in any case.
- For outdoor application, only use natural stones which are suitable for this purpose.
- Clean tools with water immediately after use, once the product is hard it can only be removed by mechanical means.
- Very absorbent, thin natural stones may show a slight deepening of the colour after the installation which, however, will recede without leaving any residues-except for Padang- after **PCI Carraflex** has cured.
- Reasons for discolourings on natural stones may be:
 - Existence of coloured organic and/or inorganic substances in the natural stone which are partly water-soluble.
 - **Organic**: fossil substances
 - **Inorganic**: iron and calcium combinations
 - Due to this fact, it is impossible to predict if discolourings on the surface will or will not occur after the tiles have been installed. **PCI Carraflex**, in combination with dry substrates minimises the transportation of water to the surface of the natural stone and thus the described risk of discolouring.



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- The risk of discolouring or even efflorescence can be totally excluded only by using the water-free, 2-part polyurethane based tile adhesive **PCI Collastic**.
- Apart from the existing typical colouring substances there are some other reasons which can cause discolourings on natural stones:
 - High polymeric adhesive residues on substrates to be covered,
 - Use of colouring plasticizers for the production of screeds,
 - Damp cardboard covers for the protection of natural stone surfaces, cigarette butts etc.
- When laying natural stones which show an extreme concave arching when absorbing water (eg. Slate or Serpentinite) please contact the BASF Representative in your state

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