

TIPS TO PREVENT EFFLORESCENCE ON FINISHED FLOORING

Efflorescence is a crystalline deposit of salts that can form on a surface after water evaporates.

In construction, efflorescence refers to the appearance of a powdery substance on floors, walls and other surfaces. This is an accumulation of salt that has two possible causes:

- **The lixiviation of the latex** present in adhesive cement as water passes through it.
- **The carbonation** of the various salts present in cement.

Water saturation, or high moisture retention, causes the soluble components of the building material to dissolve and be drawn to the surface by capillary attraction. On the surface, water evaporates and the white powdery deposit accumulates. These crystallisations in the pores of the ceramic tiles can cause micro cracks and peeling due to an increase in volume.

Efflorescence is more common in roofs finished with ceramic tiles, since both these tiles and the supporting materials have a high content of salt.

CONSTRUCTION METHODS TO BE ADOPTED AND CORRECT CHOICE OF CEMENT ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF FINISHING.

Dimension and materialize correctly slopes and expansion joints. On flat roofs, it is advisable for the slope to be greater than 1.5% at all points. The expansion joints must be configured to a grid and at a maximum distance of 5 m from each other, so that the dimensions of the panels between the joints maintain a maximum ratio of 1:1.5.

Choose the correct adhesive cement. Check with the material supplier that the adhesive is suitable for the chosen flooring. Keep in mind that the flooring will be installed on a waterproofing sheet membrane without adsorption.

Comply with curing times. On large floors, the drying time can be modified and extended. In these cases, it may be necessary to use a fast-setting adhesive cement and wait a considerable time to make the finishing joints between tiles.

Lay and adhere ceramic tiles carefully. Spread the cement in thin layers with a notched trowel on the supporting surface, and on the laying surface of the tiles in case double adhesive is necessary. Gently press the tile into the wet cement, twisting the tile back and forth to press it deeper into the adhesive, and lightly tap the tiles with a rubber mallet to level them and get rid of air that may be trapped between the waterproofing system and the tiles.

The water used to form the adhesive must be the appropriate one for this purpose. It must not be contaminated, recycled or have a high lime content.

Do not install on rainy days or when there is high humidity.

Avoid storing ceramic tiles exposed to moisture or soluble salts from external elements.
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NOTE that Revestech waterproofing system is completely watertight and non-porous. For this reason, it is of utmost importance to follow the recommended steps to lay and install the finished flooring correctly and prevent such phenomenon as efflorescence.