

Using Thin-set Mortar To Shim Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD over Wood Studs

INTRODUCTION

This document explains the benefit of using thin-set mortar to shim Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD over wood studs that are not straight. Some may refer to this as the “wet shim” or “liquid shim” method. The following is one method to shim KERDI-BOARD over wood studs.

BACKGROUND

One of the benefits of using KERDI-BOARD is that the installer has control over the substrate, allowing them to make it level, plumb, and flat to industry standards. We know that 2 x 4's are not always straight, which provides a challenge for wall applications when installing KERDI-BOARD on top as a substrate for tile. This is especially an issue with small format tiles, such as mosaics.

Thin-set mortar can be used to address an issue where 2 x 4's are not straight on a wall. **Installation notes:** We don't rely on the bond between the mortar and the studs because the thin-set bond to lumber may be questionable. While thin-set mortar does bond to the KERDI-BOARD, the board is fastened to the studs with screws to hold the assembly together.

METHOD

Note: This method is acceptable with Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD only. This is not an industry standard. It is not recommended for use with other manufacturers' boards.

Easy Step-by-Step Installation

- 1 Check studs with a straight edge to look for any bowing of the studs (vertically) and the wall (horizontally); marking the studs that sit high or low. Any studs that sit high should be planed down to lessen the required thickness of thin-set mortar on the adjacent studs. Also, it may be helpful to check using a sheet of KERDI-BOARD.



- 2 Mix thin-set mortar to be fairly stiff. Apply thin-set mortar to all applicable studs. Please note, thin-set mortar must be applied to the full stud (i.e., no spot bonding). Apply mortar more heavily on the bowed stud(s).
Note: When applying mortar to the studs, do not exceed the capabilities of the mortar. Follow the thin-set mortar manufacturer's recommendations.



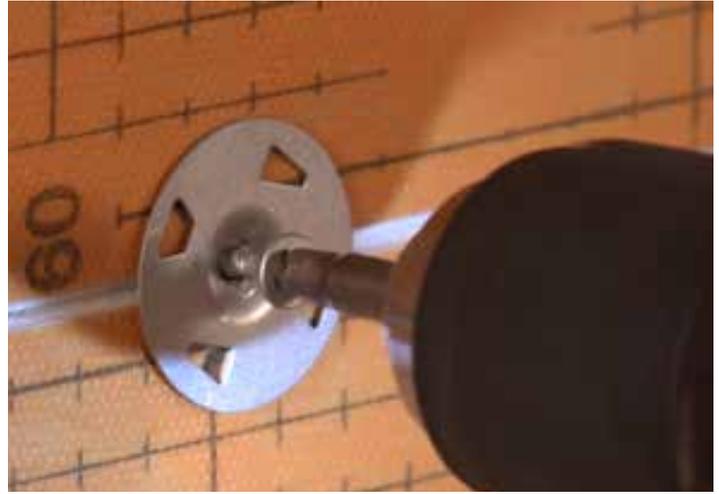
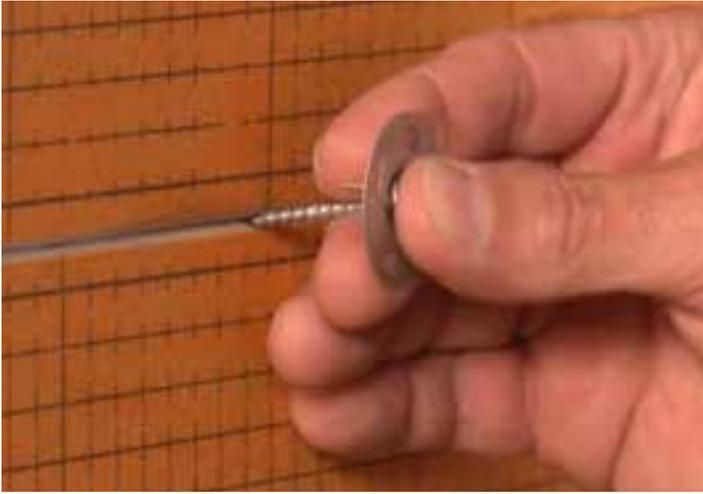
- 3 Lay KERDI-BOARD against thin-set mortar that has been applied on the studs. Press the board into the mortar using a straight edge. Make sure to apply KERDI-BOARD before the thin-set mortar skins over. If the mortar skins over, remove and re-apply.



- 4 Use a level to check the wall to ensure it is now level, plumb, and flat to industry standards.



- 5 Install Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-ZS screws or other appropriate screws and corresponding Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers to fasten the board to the studs. Screws are beneficial for holding the board(s) in place until the thin-set mortar stiffens. Do not fully tighten the screws and washers until the thin-set mortar firms up more. This may take 3-4 hours or longer, depending on installation conditions (e.g., temperature, humidity, etc). Fully tightening the screws will force the thin-set mortar out behind the board and ruin the work just completed.



Please see the Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD technical data sheet for complete installation guidelines and warranty criteria.



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