



Thinset Mortar: Premium Polymer-Modified Versus Unmodified

M-D recommends the use of premium polymer-modified thinset mortar for the installation of all PROVA products. The benefits of using polymer-modified thinset mortar are detailed below:

	M-D's Recommendation: Polymer-Modified Thinset Mortar	Competitor's Recommendation: Unmodified Thinset Mortar
ANSI Specification	ANSI A118.4: porcelain tile and wood substrates ANSI A118.15: porcelain tile and wood substrates	ANSI A118.1: porous tile and concrete substrates only
Tile Compatibility	Creates a better, stronger bond and is recommended for porcelain tile because of its latex additives, which act as an adhesive	Not recommended for porcelain tile, because the lack of latex additives may lead to poor adhesion
Substrate Adherence	Adheres to wood substrates	Will not adhere to wood substrates
Latex Inclusion	Contains latex in dry form—just add water to the bag of mortar Increases the flexibility and strength of mortar, which means it will better accommodate substrate movement	Does not contain latex, which means the mortar lacks flexibility Movement in the substrate can break the bond and cause the tiles to crack
Bonding Properties	Strengthens the bond to applicable surfaces by up to 50% greater than unmodified mortar	---
Curing Time	Cures in 28 days	Cures in 28 days