CertainTeed
Underlayment and BackerBoard
FiberCement

Installation Instructions

CertainTeed

Quality made certain. Satisfaction guaranteed.™

General Information

Approved Mortars:

- **Setting Backer:** Standard dryset or latex/acrylic modified thinset.

- **Setting Tile:** Latex/acrylic modified thinset or mastic.

Joint Tape: 2" wide, alkali resistant, fiberglass reinforcing tape.

Fasteners: Hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails, dimensioned according to installations below. Vertical applications must allow for a 1-1/2" framing member penetration. Floor applications must allow for full penetration of the subfloor material depth.

Cutting: Always wear approved safety glasses, hearing protection and a dust mask while cutting cement or wood-based products. Cutting methods include:

- **Score and Snap**: Score the face deeply (with a carbide tipped scoring tool) and snap upward against a straight edge. (For small holes, score the perimeter of the opening desired and knock out with a hammer.)

- **Circular Saw:** Use a circular saw with a diamond tipped blade.

- **Shears:** Use electric or pneumatic shears made for fiber cement material.

Safety

Fiber cement products should be cut in open, well-ventilated areas. When cutting fiber cement products with a power saw, workers must wear dust masks. If it is necessary to cut these products indoors or in a poorly ventilated area, you must use a NIOSH/MSHA-approved ventilator with a HEPA filter cartridge-equipped respirator. Safety glasses are also required.

Storage and Handling

Keep fiber cement products clean and protect them from direct exposure to the weather. They must be stored on a smooth, flat surface, not directly on the ground. Moisture-saturated fiber cement must not be installed. If saturated, let it dry before installation.

Floors

Subfloor: Make certain that the subfloor is structurally sound and that deflection in any plane will not exceed L/360. Make sure the subfloor is clean and flat. The framing must comply with the UBC (Uniform Building Code), all local building codes and ANSI 108.11.

- **New Construction:** Use a minimum of 3/4" plywood over a maximum joist spacing of 16" o.c.

- **Remodeling:** Remove all existing floor coverings prior to installation of CertainTeed underlayment and replace any loose, damaged or warped boards. Use wood screws to tighten subfloor to joists where necessary.

Layout: Stagger all joints, length and width. Do not align with plywood joints. Do not allow four corners at any point to meet. Leave 1/4" gaps at walls and cabinet bases for expansion joints. Do not fill these with mortar. In wet areas, a moisture barrier must be used to protect framing from moisture pass-through.

Fastening: Always use high quality, corrosion-resistant fasteners. Apply a minimum of 3/32" thick dryset to subfloor (modified thinset may be substituted), and seat board to embed it evenly into the mortar. Leave 1/8" gaps between board edges. Fasten 8" o.c. over the entire surface using (minimum) 1-1/4" hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails. Set the nail heads flush with the surface of the board — do not overdrive. Keep fasteners a minimum of 3/8" from panel edges and 2" in from all corners.

Countertop Installations

Cabinets: Shall be level and secured. A minimum of 1/2" plywood shall be securely fastened across the cabinet (more may be used to achieve desired counter height). Support spacing shall not exceed 16" o.c.

Layout: A single sheet should be used to span across (front to back) the cabinet span. Do not align the joints with plywood. All ends and edges of the board should be fully supported by framing members. In the area around the sink, a moisture barrier, such as 4 mil polyethylene, is recommended to protect framing from moisture pass-through.

Fastening: Apply a minimum of 3/32" thick dryset or modified thinset to the plywood and seat board to embed it evenly into the mortar. Leave 1/8" gaps between board edges. Fasten 8" o.c. over the entire surface using (minimum) 1" hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails. Set the nail heads flush with the surface of the board — do not overdrive. Keep fasteners a minimum of 3/8" from panel edges and 2" in from all corners.

Wall Installations

Framing: Ensure the framing is sound. Walls should be plumb to within 1/32" in 8' (use shims to correct). The framing must comply with the UBC (Uniform Building Code), all local building codes and ANSI 108.11. Framing members shall be a minimum of 2x4 nominal wood or 20 gauge metal studs. They must be straight, evenly aligned and spaced a maximum of 16" o.c. All corner framing in tub and shower enclosures must be braced.

Layout: In wet areas, a moisture barrier, such as 4 mil polyethylene, must be used to protect framing from moisture pass-through. All panel edges must have full perimeter edge support on framing members. All horizontal and vertical edges shall maintain a minimum of 1/8" gap. Boards may be used horizontally or vertically. Do not allow four panel corners to meet at any point. Pop-outs can be easily made using the score and snap method. To achieve equal appearances when abutting to 1/2" drywall, use either 1/2" backerboard or 1/4" furring strips nailed to each stud. Expansion joints shall be used at all inside and outside corners, as well as every 12' of wall.

Fastening: Fasten the board to framing (1-1/4" framing penetration) using minimum 1-1/2" hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails. Set the nail heads flush with the surface of the backerboard — do not overdrive. Keep fasteners a minimum of 3/8" from panel edges and 2" in from all corners. Fasteners are to be placed (minimum) 8" o.c. around the perimeter and on all field studs.

Finishing with Tile

Joint Preparation: Joints should be filled (except where corners meet — i.e., floor-wall, wall-ceiling, inside/outside corners) with the same mortar used to set the tile. Bed the 2" wide (minimum) alkali-resistant fiberglass tape into the wet mortar and level.

Ceramic Tile: Should meet the ANSI A137.1 strength standards.

Tile Setting: We recommend the use of acrylic modified thinset for setting of ceramic tile. Follow all mortar and tile manufacturers' written installation instructions, ANSI 108.4 and 108.5 standards. Wipe/mop surface with a wet cloth to remove any solid dirt and dust accumulated on the board immediately preceding tile mortar. Spread the mortar with the manufacturer-recommended notched trowel fitting the application (minimum 1/4" notch). Thinset should be troweled in one direction (not swirled) and tiles should be placed, twisted and pressed into wet mortar.

Grouting: A minimum of 24 hours curing time should be allowed before grouting and/or walking on the installed tiles.

Product Information

Basic Composition

The products are manufactured using a multi-step high-pressure process combining cement, fly ash and wood fiber.

Specifications

Thickness (nominal)
Underlayment: 1/4"   BackerBoard: 1/2"

Weight

Underlayment		BackerBoard	
3' x 5'	28 lbs/piece	3' x 5'	49 lbs/piece
4' x 4'	30 lbs/piece		
4' x 8'	60 lbs/piece		

Pieces/Unit

Underlayment		BackerBoard	
3' x 5'	85 pieces/unit	3' x 5'	50 pieces/unit
4' x 4'	85 pieces/unit		
4' x 8'	50 pieces/unit		

SKU numbers

10200/000	3' x 5' x 1/4"
10201/000	3' x 5' x 1/2"
10202/000	4' x 4' x 1/4"
10203/000	4' x 8' x 1/4"

Product Testing
Complies with ASTM C1288 and ASTM C1185
Tested to ANSI 118.9

Flame Spread/Smoke Development
ASTM E84 test results
Flame Spread: 0
Smoke Development: 5

Shear Bond Strength (latex/portland cement)
Greater than 280 psi

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