

## EASYGrout

A non-permeable\* slurry grout for use on exterior and interior porcelain paving



### All colours:

EASYGrout mixes readily with water to give a highly flowable joint filling, and grouting mortar is ideal for use on interior and exterior tiled floor surfaces with high early strength, resilient, compact grout joint is needed, particularly in areas subject to early and sustained trafficking. It is not suitable for use on vertical surfaces. It is designed specifically for ceramic and porcelain tiles and is not recommended for use on natural stone. Natural stone and porous materials are particularly at risk from permanent discolouration.

It is available in a range of colours and is suitable for joints from 5mm to 25mm wide with a minimum depth of 20mm. (maximum joint dimensions should not exceed 25mm x 25mm)

EASYGrout has a workable open time of up to 1 hour (depending on weather conditions) and can be walked on within 3 hours. It cures quite rapidly to give a high early strength, shrinkage compensated durable mortar.

### Before you start to use the product

#### 1. Check the weather forecast

EASYGrout is a "fair weather" product and should not be used if either rain is forecast or the weather is set to be hot or very cold. It has a variable working time according to the ambient and surface temperature. Hot air and surface conditions will noticeably reduce the working time and can make application and clean-up problematic. Prolonged air temperatures exceeding 20°C will cause surface temperatures to rise dramatically. **If the surface is hot to touch do not apply.** It is also important not to apply if the surface temperature is likely to exceed 35°C or fall below 5°C at any time during the first **24 hours after application.**

If it is necessary to work during a hot period always start early in the morning and monitor conditions as you work. **Stop if it gets too hot. Do not use in the rain or if it is forecast at any time before the grout has set.** If unexpected rain occurs during application, stop working. Before recommencing grouting, use a sponge or squeegee to clear the surface of standing water. It is also important that there is no water in the joints so either wait until it dries or mechanically clear it with a leaf-blower.

**Note:** A light shower will not damage freshly installed grout. However, it is important to protect the joints from heavy or prolonged rain by covering.

#### 2. Inspect the area to be grouted

Always ensure the tiled area is stable and secure before proceeding with grouting of the joints. Ensure all joints are raked clear of any loose residues and accumulations and there is an even and consistent depth of joint of no less than 20mm. Sweep the surface to clear any debris. Immediately prior to proceeding with the application, dampen the whole area to ensure the tiled surface is damp (not soaked).

### Mixing up

1. Always add the powder to the water. Pour the content of **one 5kg bag of powder to 900ml of clean, cold water.** **Trade Tip** - Mark the measuring jug on the outside with tape at the 900ml level to easily see when the water is at the required level.
  2. Using a powered paddle, slowly mix the powder for 3 - 5 minutes to give a smooth lump-free readily flowable cohesive mortar. Mixing time will vary according to temperature - in cold conditions, longer mixing is required. Do not over-mix or create excessive air bubbles.
  3. In some instances, up to an extra 100ml of water may be added to achieve a greater flow rate especially to the darker colours without affecting performance or colour.
- Avoid using partially cured grout.** This should never be "freshened up" with later water additions but should always be discarded once it appears to lose workability

### Using the product

1. Prior to applying the grout, dampen the paving using a **misting** setting on the hose nozzle. The surface should be damp (not wet) at all times during application. Avoid creating any pooled areas on the surface or standing water in the joint.
2. Work only with one bag of product at a time and fully complete the entire application process with that bag before starting another.
3. Pour some of the mixed grout over a **small** area and spread into the open tile joints using a suitable rubber squeegee tool. **Trade Tip** - Ideally work an area of about 1m<sup>2</sup> at a time.
4. Remove as much of the excess grout as possible from the tiled surface as you progress to ensure the least amount of mortar residue remains.
5. Check back over the recently filled joints and top up sections where the mortar has slumped, ensuring all joints are filled up to the level required, again cleaning the surface as you work.

**Note:** The texture of the tile will impact on the ease of application and the amount of residue which may remain. **Keep residue to a minimum.** Textured tiles will "grab" the grout and may require a damp tiler's sponge to clean it off as you go.

### DO NOT ALLOW THE PRODUCT TO DRY ON THE TILE SURFACE

## EASYGrout



### Cleaning and Finishing

1. Even with conscientious cleaning whilst working, a fine residue is likely to remain at this stage. Whilst the joints are curing it is beneficial to keep this residue damp using a tiler's sponge. Avoid dragging out the joints. If cleaning has not been so meticulous, the residue may be quite thick. It may require mechanical removal or the use of a strong or even undiluted solution of *EASYGrout Residue Cleaner*, a product specifically designed for this type of grout. Regular grout cleaning products may not give satisfactory results because of the special additives in *EASYGrout*.
2. When the grout has hardened to a point where it is firm to touch (finger pressure will not dent the surface) the paved surface must be cleaned again using a damp tilers sponge taking care to avoid any excessively wet areas from accumulating on the freshly applied joints
3. Rinse the sponge after every wipe for best results.
4. Even after this action, a fine film (haze) of residue is likely to remain visible. Do not try to remove this immediately as it is important to allow the joints to cure hard before the final clean-up.
5. Once the grout has reached a firm and final set, the remaining film of grout can be removed to achieve a clean and consistent finish by using a diluted solution of *EASYGrout Residue Cleaner*.

### How much will you need?

The coverage of *EASYGrout* depends on a number of factors including the paving dimensions, the joint width and depth and the texture of the surface. The following table gives a rough guide as to what level of coverage can be achieved with 15kg of *EASYGrout* (all 3 bags in the tub) when used with the paving and joint dimension shown below:

Length mm	Width mm	Depth mm	Joint width mm	Area covered per 15kg
300	300	20	6	9.3
300	400	25	10	5.1
600	600	20	5	21.75
450	450	25	10	6.75

### How to store unused product

Keep the product sealed until use in dry, well ventilated conditions at ambient conditions and away from all sources of damp. When kept in its' original sealed state in a permanently dry environment, this product will retain a shelf life of up to 12 months from date of manufacture. **Do not store under water.**

### Important information

Azpects Ltd have no direct control over the application or use of the product, or of the area to which it is being used therefore cannot accept any liability or responsibility for the outcome of a project which does not meet the specifiers.

### Shade variation

Always purchase sufficient product to complete the job. The manufacturing process means different batches may have slightly different shades. Mix only sufficient material that can be applied and used within the stated working open time.

### TECHNICAL FEATURES

*EASYGrout* is a cement-based, tile grouting compound for joint widths of 5mm up to 20mm around most types of porcelain floor tiles. It mixes to a fine textured, highly-flowable grouting slurry, which can be applied using a rubber squeegee.

Rapid set

### Health & Safety

- Causes skin irritation
- May cause an allergic skin reaction
- Causes serious eye damage
- May cause respiratory irritation
- Keep out of reach of children
- Avoid breathing dust
- Wear protective gloves, protective clothing eye protection/face protection
- Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area
- **IF ON SKIN:** Gently wash with plenty of soap and water. Take off contaminated clothing and wash before reuse. If skin irritation or rash occurs seek medical advice/attention
- **IF IN EYES:** Bathe the eye with running water for 15 minutes. Promptly wash eyes with plenty of water while lifting the eye lids. Continue to rinse for at least 15 minutes and get medical attention. Remove contact lenses if possible and safe to do so
- **IF SWALLOWED:** Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting. Wash out mouth with water. If conscious, give half a litre of water to drink immediately. Transfer to hospital as soon as possible
- **IF INHALED:** Remove victim to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing. If feeling unwell, call for medical assistance

Dispose of contents/container in accordance with local regulations. This product should be stored in unopened bags clear of the ground. If stored correctly and used within 12 months of the date shown on this bag, the chromate reducing agent in this product will ensure, when mixed no more than 0.0002 % (2 ppm) soluble chromium (VI) of the total dry weight of the cement.

Use of this product after the end of the declared storage period may increase the risk of an allergic reaction.

### DANGER Contains Portland Cement



- MSDS sheet available by emailing [info@azpects.co.uk](mailto:info@azpects.co.uk)

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## EASYGrout



## Guidelines for maintaining grout colour consistency.

### Introduction

Due to the variety of application and environmental issues likely to influence the curing of a cement-based grout joint, that it is virtually impossible for the dry composition of the pre-blended grout powder to produce localised variations or patchiness in the appearance of the applied grout without first having been affected by any one of the patchiness following factors, all of which are beyond the control of the manufacturer.

### Mix Consistency

It is essential to ensure the powder is mixed thoroughly and consistently in a clean container, with clean water, to form a smooth, lump-free paste. Do not add more water than the recommended addition level.

### Joint Preparation

All joints to be grouted must be of consistent depth and raked clean of any adhesive residues as any contaminant in the open joints will consequently result in irregularities in the depth and consistency of the freshly applied grout, both of which may result in shade variation.

### Tiles Surface Cleaning and Joint Finishing

Immediately after grouting when wiping down to remove the excess mortar from the tile face around the joints, care must be taken not to "over-wet" the freshly compacted joints, as this may affect water content in some joints but not in others, leading to a higher concentration of fine surface laitance and hence raising the possibility of a lighter shaded surface appearance in these areas.

Brushing or dry-wiping over a grouted floor joint when the paste has bodied up, but is still not set, can disturb the surface finish and open up the texture of the grout to give a coarser and darker shade than when the grout was first laid and finished off with a wet cloth or sponge. Any contact with the surface at this point in time must be even and consistent over all areas to ensure the hardened appearance retains an equivalent degree of dryness and surface texture, otherwise shade variations are likely.

### General Surface Maintenance

Cleaning and maintenance of the completed tiled surface must ensure that the materials and cleaning agents used are applied consistently, are not used at excessive concentrations and are rinsed off promptly as soap and detergent residues can accumulate in joints and affect appearance, particularly when exposed to moisture.

### Substrate Type

Variations in the density or porosity of the surface beneath the tiles will encourage some areas of the grout joints to dry out at a different rate to others. This is usually illustrated where darker areas of the grout are laid over dense or impermeable section of flooring. Lighter shades will be evident over the more porous and drier sections of the substrate flooring.

### Service Conditions

The end use of the tiled location needs some consideration as this may result in some areas being exposed to wetting more frequently than others, which consequently will result in the damper sections appearing slightly darker than the drier areas. Regular and localised wetting of one area at a more frequent rate than the surrounding tiled area will result in a shade variation due to the moisture level retained within the cured tile joint.

### \*Tile Type and Finish

Porous tiles, substrates or joints adjoining the cut edge of a tile will be exposed to greater risk of moisture absorption from the wet paste than less porous surfaces or true tile edges. This can produce localised variations in moisture content and when fully cured will manifest in a shade variation from joint to joint.

### Summary

To maintain a consistent appearance in grout joints, it is essential to ensure consistency in the application process. The amount of moisture introduced and allowed to remain when cleaning will affect the final finish.

Where any one of the above precautions is not followed, then it is possible to encourage shade variation in the final colour of the hardened grout, which may only then be resolved with the application of a mildly acidic surface cleaning agent. It should be noted that in most cases the lightening of dark joints is due to blooms of efflorescence of naturally occurring lime which is released by drying cycles from within the Portland cement base. This is often a transient feature as the natural cycles of wet and dry periods following cleaning or exposure to weather (if external) will result in the surface stabilising to a consistent shade as the lime is washed away.