

# single part fastflex

## One-part elastomeric tile adhesive with acoustic properties

### DESCRIPTION

Rapid-setting, highly polymer-modified, water/frost-resistant elastomeric tile adhesive with acoustic properties. BAL 'Go Greener' range of environmentally responsible adhesives.

### Use for

- Improving sound-reduction properties of floors tiles with ceramics, porcelain and vitrified tiles, mosaics, slate and certain natural stones including marble, terrazzo in dry or wet interior and exterior environments. Contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE when recommending approved sound-reduction mat systems.  
NOTE: Certain types of natural stone (i.e. limestone, marble, travertine and some granite) may be susceptible to water staining. In this case, use of a BAL rapid-setting white adhesive is recommended i.e. BAL SINGLE PART FASTFLEX WHITE.
- Recommended for areas subjected to limited movement and vibration. Also as isolating, anti-fracture underlay for ceramic tiles.
- To help achieve requirements of Building Regulations Part E (Resistance to sound)

### Restrictions: NOT suitable for

Do NOT use with BAL RAPID-MAT,  
Note: when used on walls, battons will be required.

### PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Composition:** Rubber-based powder

**Colours:** Grey and White

**Type/Classification:** Exceeds BS EN 12004 C1S2 - Cementitious (Rubber/cement based), Normal Characteristics and Highly Deformable

**Pack sizes:** 12.5kg

### Key Features:

- Highly flexible elastomeric anti-fracture underlay
- Improved sound-reduction properties and independently tested
- Suitable for porcelain tiles

**Grout after:** 5 hours (at 20°C)

### USAGE & SERVICE CONDITIONS

Walls	✓	Floor	✓
Interior	✓	Exterior	✓
Dry	✓	Wet	✓
Worktops (1)	✓	Showers (a)(5)	✓
Swimming Pools (b)	✓	Heated Screeds (9)	✓
Hydrotherapy Pools (b) (1)	✓	Limited Movement/Vibration	✓

- Tiles must be grouted using BAL EASYPOXY AG.
- Provided the surface is sufficiently flat.
- Prime with undiluted BAL PRIME APD.
- Battons may be required on walls
- In wet conditions tank out with BAL TANK-IT or BAL WATERPROOFING KIT FOR SHOWERS.
- When fix sound-reduction underlayments to floors, using BAL MOSAIC TROWEL and tiles fixed using BAL TIPPED TROWEL.
- Check suitability of the grade of asphalt (flooring grade only).
- Prime with BAL PRIME APD or BAL PRIMER, first coat 1:1 with water, second coat undiluted 90°C to the first.
- Check suitability for the intended purpose with the manufacture.

#### Note:

- Do not use shower for at least 2 weeks after completion of grouting – BS 5385:Part 4
- Do not fill pool for at least 3 weeks after completion of grouting – BS 5385:Part 4 BAL SINGLE PART FASTFLEX is sulphate resistant.
- BAL cement-based grout modified with BAL ADMIX GT1 1:1 with Water/or BAL MICROMAX2 with BAL ADMIX GT1 1:2 with water

### BACKGROUNDS / BASES

Epoxy coatings (6)	✓
Steel (c)(4)(6)	✓
Floorboards (c)(3)(6)	✓
Plywood/Chipboard Sheets (c)(4)(6)(9)	✓
Brick/Concrete (2)(4)(6)	✓
Tile Backer/Fibre Cement Boards (4)(6)(9)	✓
Cement:Sand Screed (6)	✓
Anhydrite/Calcium Sulfate Screeds (6)(8)	✓
Glazed Ceramic Tiles/Hard Natural Stone (4)(6)	✓
Vinyl Tiles/Sheets (6)	✓
GRP (Internal only) (c)(5)(9)	✓
Lightweight Blockwork (2)(3)(4)	✓
Mastic Asphalt (6)(7)	✓

### USAGE: Bed Thickness / Time at 20°C

Bed Thickness <sup>^</sup>	Open Time*	Pot Life	Setting Time*
3-6mm <sup>^^</sup>	20 mins	45 mins	5 hours

\* Open time/Setting time will be extended in colder temperatures, when fixing to impervious backgrounds or when fixing tiles of low porosity.

<sup>^</sup> Up to 10mm in areas of limited extent.

<sup>^^</sup> 3mm minimum thickness, when used for sound-reduction or anti-fracture underlayment.

### COVERAGE

Area	Trowel	Coverage <sup>^</sup>
Exteriors / Floors	THICK BED SOLID BED	0.52m <sup>2</sup> /kg
Sound-Reduction / Timber floors	SOLID BED TIPPED TROWEL	0.46m <sup>2</sup> /kg
Large Format (floors)	LARGE FORMAT TROWEL	0.34m <sup>2</sup> /kg
Mosaic/ fixing sound underlayment	MOSAIC TROWEL	1.15m <sup>2</sup> /kg

<sup>^</sup> May vary dependent on nature and flatness of surface, and on trowel used.

### TEMPERATURE RESISTANCE\*\*

-30°C to 60°C (up to 100°C for limited exposure)
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\*\* Cured adhesive.

## SURFACE PREPARATION

### General

Ensure surfaces to be tiled are flat, clean, dry, sound and free from contamination.

### Surface regularity:

Surface Regularity is defined as the deviation in height of the surface of a flooring layer over short distances in a local area. In simpler terms, it is the 'flatness' or 'measure of unevenness' of the screeded surface.

Class	MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE DEVIATION FROM a 2M STRAIGHT EDGE (MM)	APPLICATION
SR1	3mm	Recommended for direct fixing of tiles and slabs with a tile adhesive
SR2	5mm	For tiles & slabs bedded in a cement: sand mortar or a suitable tile adhesive (see the manufacturer's recommendations)
SR3	10mm	For tiles & slabs bedded in a cement:sand semi-dry mix.

*In shower areas:* waterproof background with BAL TANK-IT, BAL WATERPROOFING KIT FOR SHOWERS or BAL WP1 TANKING SYSTEM.

### SUITABLE SURFACES include:

#### Asphalt (suitable grade e.g. flooring)

Must be of a suitable grade, be clean, in sound condition (without brittleness, softening. etc.) and have adequate cohesive strength, a natural float finish and laid on a firm rigid base.

Ensure that surface is sufficiently regular to suit bedding depths of adhesive.

Clean thoroughly to remove surface dirt using warm water and a suitable detergent. Remove all detergent residues with clean water.

#### Concrete; cement:sand screeds and rendering

Before tiling, ensure that the substrate is flat (SR1), free from efflorescence, laitance, dirt, polished concrete and other loose materials. Remove by the use of suitable mechanical methods (see BAL TECHNICAL DATA SHEET on BAL BOND SBR or BAL PRIMER for priming information).

Allow the following minimum drying times:

- Concrete/concrete block walls/clay brickwork: 6 weeks
- Cement:sand screed: 3 weeks
- Cement:sand rendering: 2 weeks (3 weeks for swimming pools).

#### BAL QUICKSET CEMENT:sand screeds and rendering

- Bonded screeds: 4 hours\*\*
- Unbonded/floating screeds: 48 hours
- Rendering (bonded): 4 hours\*\*

#### BAL BOND SBR SLURRY

\*\*1 part sand to 1 part BAL QUICKSET CEMENT by weight, mixed with appropriate amount of BAL BOND SBR pre-diluted 1:1 with clean cold water to achieve desired consistency.

**BAL QUICKSET RENDER:** 2 hours

#### Existing glazed and unglazed ceramic tiles, quarry tiles, terrazzo and natural stone

For wall ensure existing tiles/stone are soundly bonded to a stable background that is sufficiently strong enough to support the weight of the new tiling.

For floors ensure that the existing finish is firmly adhered to the base. If areas are loose or hollow-sounding, remove and make good with BAL QUICKSET RENDER or 1:3 cement:sand mortar over a slurry bonding coat (1 part sand to 1 part cement by weight, mixed with

appropriate amount of BAL BOND SBR pre-diluted 1:1 with clean cold water to achieve desired consistency).

#### Overlaid timber floors (min. 15mm)

Ensure timber floor (i) is sufficiently rigid and stable to receive tiles; (ii) can carry the additional static and dynamic load without excessive deflection; and (iii) has adequate ventilation under the timber.

Overlay existing timber floor with e.g. a suitable water resistant grade plywood, min. 15mm thick, screwed (not nailed) at 300mm centres.

Seal timber surface on the underside and edges with undiluted BAL BOND SBR. Allow to dry.

#### Tongued and grooved floorboards

Ensure boards are flat (SR1) dry, rigid and securely fixed (screwed to joints at 300mm centres, including cross-noggings, if necessary). Sand (abrade) surface and ensure any surface coatings removed, e.g. varnish, lacquers, etc.

Before priming with 2 coats of (second coat applied at 90° to the first):

- BAL PRIME APD (undiluted) or
- BAL BOND SBR (diluted 1:2 by volume with clean water)

Allow each coat of primer to dry.

#### Existing vinyl tiles

Ensure these are in good sound condition and securely bonded to their base.

Remove loose or damaged tiles/areas of sheet along with any loose or soft adhesive.

Remove any polishes, wax, grease etc. with a suitable proprietary cleaner.

NOTE: Cushioned types of flooring are not suitable and must be completely removed along with the adhesive residue prior to tiling.

#### Fibre reinforced cement boards and lightweight tile backer boards

Install boards to BS 5385 – i.e. moisture-resistant boards screwed to seasoned timber or suitable proprietary framework at maximum 300mm centres vertically and horizontally or as per the board manufacturer's recommendations. Ensure no fixings protrude. Some boards may require priming, prior to tiling with a cementitious based tile adhesive. Use a suitable primer from the BAL range. Please refer to the relevant BAL Technical Data Sheets for further information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Obtain manufacturer's confirmation that boards are suitable for tiling and for relevant fixing instructions.

#### Plywood walls

##### (internal dry areas only)

Note: when used on walls, battens may be required. Ensure boards (i) capable of supporting the tiled finish i.e. the weight of tiling should not exceed 30kg per m<sup>2</sup>; (ii) are sufficiently dry, rigid and securely fixed, with no protruding fixings (iii) are free from any surface contamination incompatible with adhesion. Using a suitable water resistant grade plywood, min. 12mm thick, Insert noggings to support all board edges and to allow screw (not nailed) fixing at 300mm centres. Seal timber surface on the underside and edges with undiluted BAL BOND SBR. Allow to dry.

Do NOT prime surfaces to be tiled.

#### Plaster (finish coat only)

Must be at least 4 weeks old before tiling. Ensure that the plaster is free from dust, laitance and friable material.

If plaster is shiny or polished, brush thoroughly with a stiff bristled brush.

The plaster must always be primed with 2 coats of (second coat applied at 90° to the first):

- BAL PRIME APD (undiluted) or
- BAL BOND SBR (diluted 1:2 by volume with clean water)

Allow each coat of primer to dry.

Weight restrictions for tiling onto plaster i.e. a maximum weight of 20kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

### Anhydrite/calcium sulfate and hemi-hydrate screed

Allow the screed to dry out in accordance with manufacturer's instruction example: moisture content below 0.5% w/w or 75% RH (Relative Humidity). Mechanically remove top surface to remove weak/dusty surface layer(s) as per the screed manufacturer's recommendations. Remove all dust and loose material e.g. by vacuum etc. before priming with 2 coats of (second coat applied at 90° to the first):

- BAL PRIME APD diluted 1:1 with clean water and second coat undiluted or
- BAL BOND SBR diluted 1:4 with clean water and second coat diluted 1:2 with clean water.

Allow each coat of primer to dry.

NOTE: For further information on other backgrounds and preparation, contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE.

### Dense concrete/blockwork walling

Allow new block mortar to dry for minimum 6 weeks before rendering /plastering. If direct fixing tiles, wall must be smooth-faced and providing the surface is sufficiently flat (SR1).

### Lightweight blockwork/walling

Allow new block mortar to dry for minimum 6 weeks before rendering /plastering. If direct fixing tiles, wall must be smooth-faced and providing the surface is sufficiently flat (SR1) before priming with 2 coats of (second coat applied at 90° to the first):

- BAL PRIME APD diluted 1:1 with clean water and second coat undiluted or
- BAL BOND SBR diluted 1:4 with clean water and second coat diluted 1:2 with clean water.

Allow each coat of primer to dry.

NOTE: Only suitable for internal dry environments unless rendered.

### Undertile electrical heating systems

Can be used onto electrical undertile heating systems encased within an appropriate BAL leveller. Over suitable boards/exterior grade plywood overlays (minimum 15mm thickness) use BAL LEVEL MAX.

BAL LEVELLER	THICKNESS	SETTING TIME
BAL LEVEL MAX	2mm – 80mm	3 – 4 hours
BAL ACRYBASE	Up to 20mm	3 – 4 hours

See BAL TECHNICAL DATA SHEET for further information on suitable surfaces and application.

### Heated Screeds

Suitable for sand/cement screeds with water fed underfloor heating encased within.

NOTE: For further information on other backgrounds and preparation, contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE.

### OTHER SUBSTRATES that may be suitable include

Chipboard/plywood  
GRP (Internal only)  
Epoxy coatings  
Steel

NOTE: For further information on other backgrounds and preparation, contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE.

### Plasterboard (If required)

Ensure boards are dry, securely fixed and rigid and suitable thickness used.

NOTE if the plasterboard are dot and dabbed at 300mm centres and around the perimeter, leave to dry before fixing tiles.

Weight restrictions for tiling onto plasterboard i.e. a maximum weight of 32kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

### SUITABLE SURFACES

(with acoustic mat fitted)

#### Concrete and timber

Tiles to be fixed should ideally be 11mm thick (although 8mm tiles may be used) and larger than 100mmx100mm.

Ensure both acoustic mat and substrate have been tested/approved by BAL, are sound and free from contamination.

NOTE: For further information on other backgrounds and preparation, contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE.

### MIXING

Use a BAL MIXING BUCKET or other suitable bucket.

1. Add approximately 3.6 parts powder to 1 part clean cold water by weight. (see table below)
2. Mix until lump-free mortar achieved.
3. Allow mixed adhesive to stand for 2 minutes before re-mixing for 30 seconds.

Product Size	Usage	Approx., clean cold water required per size
12.5kg White	Floor Tiling	4.1 litres
12.5kg Grey	Floor Tiling	4.5 litres
5kg Grey	Floor Tiling	1.8 litres

NOTE: If using electric drill mixer, blend at slow speed (i.e. under 300rpm).

Ready for immediate use. Pot life at 20°C: approx. 45 minutes.

NOTE: Pot life/setting time will vary slightly with temperature: higher temperatures = shorter; lower temperatures = longer.

### APPLICATION/USAGE

Do NOT use in temperature 5°C or damp conditions.

### Trowel recommendation

Area	Trowel
External/large format Wall Tiles and Floors	<b>BAL THICK BED SOLID BED</b>
Mosaics/Fixing Sound Underlayment's	<b>BAL MOSAIC TROWEL</b>
Large Format (floors)	<b>BAL LARGE FORMAT TROWEL</b>
Sound-Reduction/Timber Floors	<b>BAL SOLID BED TIPPED</b>

NOTE: ensure you achieve the correct contact of adhesive to both the background and tile in line with BS 5385, Parts 1-5.

### Fixing procedure

1. Apply adhesive to wall or floor surface and comb to required bed thickness ensuring the ribs of adhesive all run in one direction. The adhesive may be applied in bed thickness of 2- 10mm. NOTE: If bonding sound-reduction matting to the substrate with BAL SINGLE PART FASTFLEX, use a BAL MOSAIC TROWEL.

*If fixing large/heavily-patterned tiles, additional adhesive to tile reverse.*

2. For *mosaics*: using a rubber tile float, press mosaics into adhesive and beat into required position. NOTE: Mosaic tiles are NOT recommended to be fixed on to sound-reduction matting (minimum 100x100mm tiles 11mm thick (although 8mm tiles may be used).

For *tiles*: press tile firmly into the ribs of adhesive and into position, with slight twisting/sliding action to ensure optimum adhesive contact.

3. Fix mosaic/tiles before adhesive forms skin (typically over 20 minutes at 20°C, depending on surface porosity/atmospheric conditions). If skin has formed, remove adhesive and apply fresh layer). Discard any adhesive that has begun to set. Do not add further water.

4. Occasionally lift a mosaic/tile to check adhesive contact area. When solid-bed fixing, leave no voids behind tiles.

5. Leave adequate joints between individual tiles. Install movement joints to BS 5385, Parts 1-5.

6. Clean off surplus adhesive from tile face and between tile joints before the adhesive has dried.

#### Fixing Sound-Reduction Matting

NOTE: Check application and suitability for the intended purpose with the manufacturer, contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE for approved matting systems.

1. The substrate must be even or BAL Levelling compound maybe used.

2. Apply a thin bed of BAL SINGLE PART FASTFLEX using a BAL MOSAIC TROWEL (or 4x4mm notched trowel).

3. Roll back and lay the sound-reduction matting into the fresh engaged into the adhesive to provide a suitable bond and applied within the open-time of the adhesive.

4. To ensure full adhesion is achieved between the matting and the adhesive, smooth out the matting using either the flat edge of a steel trowel or a suitable float. Eliminate any air pockets.

5. Tiles can be fixed once the matting been lay into the wet adhesive.

6. To apply tiles, mix and apply the adhesive to the mat using a BAL SOLID BED TIPPED TROWEL, ensure the final bed thickness of adhesive does not exceed 3-4mm bed over the matting.

### Grouting

1. Wait minimum 5 hours (at 20°C) after tile fixing. Select a BAL cementitious or Epoxy grout such as BAL MICROMAX2 GROUT or BAL EASYPOXY AG GROUT.

*If using paper-faced mosaics*: Pre-grout sheet and remove surplus.

Place in position and tap down to achieve full contact with adhesive.

Ensure joints between sheets match joints between mosaic tesserae (i.e. staggered). Wet paper and carefully remove before adhesive fully hardens. Clean off surplus adhesive and grout from mosaic face.

Finish grouting.

2. Fill movement joints with suitable sealant i.e. BAL MICROMAX SILICONE SEALANT. *However*, do NOT use on sensitive surfaces that could react to acetic acids released during cure.

*For intermediate movement joints*, a more durable hard wearing material may be needed e.g. an Epoxy polysulphide sealant or a suitable pre-formed movement joint strip.

NOTE:

If completing a swimming pool, do NOT fill pool for at least 3 weeks after grouting (contact BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE for further advice).

If completing a shower, do NOT use shower for at least 2 weeks (as required by BS 5385: Part 4, clause 7.2.1).

### HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION / GOOD PRACTICE ADVICE

For detailed information and safety guidance, please refer to Product Material Safety Data Sheet [MSDS].

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

For free expert guidance on use of this product, or any aspect of tiling, contact the BAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND SPECIFICATION SERVICE on Tel: 01782 591120 or 0845 600 1 222 or Fax: 01782 591121.

### POWERSPEC

A unique computerised online specification system for the design and installation of ceramic, mosaic and natural stone tiling.

Visit [www.powerspeconline.com](http://www.powerspeconline.com)

### SHELF LIFE

12 months under normal dry conditions. Protect from frost and damp.

### QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Manufacturing quality assurance standards conform to BS EN ISO 9001. Satisfies the environmental management requirements and operational scope of ISO 14001.

### 25 YEAR GUARANTEE

All BAL products are supplied with a 25 year product guarantee to be free from manufacturing defects and to be fit for purpose. The guarantee covers materials replacement costs and labour.

This guarantee is subject to use of product in accordance with BAL's instructions and technical data, and good working practice. No liability can be accepted for any loss or damage arising from incorrect use of products or poor workmanship, over which BAL has no control. 10 year anti-fungal guarantee subject to regular cleaning.

*Contact BAL Marketing Department for full details.*

### CONDITIONS OF SALE

Sold subject to the Company's Conditions of Sale. *Available on request.*

*For sales and technical queries, contact:*

### BUILDING ADHESIVES LTD

Longton Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8JB, England  
[www.bal-adhesives.com](http://www.bal-adhesives.com)

#### Sales

Tel: +44 (0) 1782 591160

Fax: +44 (0) 1782 591131

#### Technical

Tel:+44 (0) 1782 591120 or

+44 (0) 845 600 1 222

Fax: +44 (0) 1782 591121

#### Ireland

Unit 622, Phase III

Northwest Business Park

Ballycoolin, Dublin 15, Ireland

Tel: +353 (0) 1 880 9210

Fax: +353 (0) 1 880 9211

NOTE: BAL reserves the right to update instructions, technical data and other information at any time without notice.

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