



# LATICRETE Grout Guide

## TDS 400

Grout, when properly installed, will enhance the final appearance and performance of any tile, paver, stone, or brick installation. The LATICRETE International Technical Service Dept. offers this LATICRETE Grout Guide to ensure that the project specifier is given enough information to make the best possible decision about the selection, installation and maintenance of grout.

Please refer to this guide and the specific data sheets for the LATICRETE grouts being used prior to beginning any tile installation - ideally while you are in the project design phase. This information offers general information to facilitate the many steps or decisions that must be made regarding grout type, installation and long-term performance.

### *Selection of LATICRETE Grout Colors:*

The LATICRETE® System offers readily available, factory prepared grout in a wide range of colors. LATICRETE Grouts can also be custom color matched to many colors not available in the LATICRETE Grout color spectrum. Custom color matching involves a minimum 2,000 lb/907 kg (approx.) order for SPECTRALOCK® PRO Premium Grout\*, approximately 2,000 lb (907 kg) and for SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout; or approximately 5,300 lb (2,410 kg) order for PERMACOLOR® Grout, 1500 Sanded Grout or 1600 Unsanded Grout. There is a color matching fee which is non-refundable if product is not ordered. A credit will be applied to the order when placed.

PERMACOLOR Select^ special orders require a minimum of 1 carton (10 packs) of PERMACOLOR Select Color Kits to be mixed with 10 - 25 lb. (11.3 kg) bags or 20 - 12.5 lb. (5.7 kg) bags of PERMACOLOR Select powder. PERMACOLOR Select standard colors include the 40 LATICRETE colors, any colors available in the Sherwin Williams or Benjamin Moore paint color palettes, and 10 popular colors each from some of our competitors. There is a color matching fee which is non-refundable if product is not ordered. A credit will be applied to the order when placed.

This array of colored grouts offers unlimited design freedom. Room function, exposure to chemicals, soiling, or moisture must be taken into account when selecting grout colors. Please note the following points about colored grout:

1. The LATICRETE Grout Color Chart (DS 254.3) depicts 1500 Sanded Grout & 1600 Unsanded Grout when mixed with clean potable water. Printed samples of grout colors are made as accurate as possible. Mixing with other additives will cause slight variation. The LATICRETE Grout Color Card depicts colors representative of PERMACOLOR Select; PERMACOLOR Grout; SPECTRALOCK 1, READY-TO-USE™; SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout; SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout; SPECTRALOCK Grout; LATAPOXY® SP-100; and SPECTRALOCK 2000 IG.
- IMPORTANT NOTE: Color samples are printed reproductions, and, should only be used as approximate guides to appearance. Actual shade and texture will depend on jobsite conditions, installation technique, tile characteristics, lighting and other factors beyond grout/sealant manufacturer's control. Verify appearance with a test area before main installation commences. See Grout Color Chart for color applicable to each type of grout.
2. White or lightly colored grout joints show soil readily. For example, a light-colored grout in a kitchen or entry wide will appear dirty in a shorter period of time when compared to a narrow and/or dark grout.
3. Neutral gray, dark gray or medium colored grouts are less likely to show soil than will a light-colored grout.
4. Dark joints in a shower or exterior may show water deposits and/or the natural occurrence of efflorescence more readily than a lighter colored joint.
5. For maximum color consistency always use grout with the same control/lot number. Grout colors may vary due to jobsite conditions (e.g. temperature, cure rate, moisture content, etc).
6. Some grout pigment can stain the surface of certain types of tile, etc. A grout release (e.g. STONETECH® Grout Release), sealer (e.g. STONETECH Heavy Duty Sealer) or paraffin wax applied to the top of these types of tiles prior to grout installation, may reduce staining problems. Verify compatibility with a test area.

### ***LATICRETE Grout Coverage:***

1. Coverage of LATICRETE grout products is available by referencing Data Sheet 254.3, the LATICRETE Grout packaging coverage chart, or the LATICRETE Grout Coverage Calculator located at <https://laticrete.com/coverage>.
2. Coverage may vary considerably when grout joint width varies or when cushion-edge or wave-edge tile are specified. When several tiles are used to create an overall pattern, grout width will be predetermined by any mounted tile.
3. It is customary to provide extra grout (typically 10% extra) to allow for jobsite waste. Additional grout should be provided to the building owner for future use.
4. The LATICRETE Mobile App can be accessed through the App Store for Apple devices or through Google Play for Android devices. Use keyword LATICRETE to locate the LATICRETE Mobile App. Included in the LATICRETE Mobile App is a coverage calculator for easy reference, anywhere.

### ***Criteria for Finished Grout Appearance:***

The following criteria should be used to judge the final grout installation. Finished joints must be:

1. Uniform in color, no “show through” of setting/fixing materials
2. Compacted and cured to maximum hardness (not powdery)
3. Smooth and evenly filled
4. Without voids or pinholes
5. Grout can be finished to near level of tile surfaces (except with the installation of cushioned edge tile where requirement is to depth of cushion, and epoxy grouts, where slight depression is accepted by the industry)
6. Grout should not be higher than the tile surface
7. No grout or grout haze should remain on surface of tile, etc...
8. Contact and adhesion by the grout to each tile is crucial for both long-term performance and maintenance.

Refer to ANSI A108.02 4.3.7 and 4.3.8 for industry guidelines on grout joint size.

Please refer to specific data sheet(s) for LATICRETE grout(s) being used for installation instructions and for more information. Data sheets are available at <https://laticrete.com> or by clicking on the link(s) below for each LATICRETE grout:

SPECTRALOCK® 2000 IG  
SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout  
SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout  
SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Translucent Grout  
PERMACOLOR® Select  
PERMACOLOR® Select NS  
PERMACOLOR Grout  
SPECTRALOCK 1  
READY-TO-USE™ Grout

\* United States Patent No.: 6,881,768 (and other patents)

^ United States Patent No.: 6,784,229 (and other patents)

Technical Data Sheets are subject to change without notice. For latest revision, check our website at <https://laticrete.com>  
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**LATICRETE INTERNATIONAL, INC.** ▪ 1 LATICRETE Park North ▪ Bethany, CT 06524-3423 USA  
800.243.4788 ▪ [support@laticrete.com](mailto:support@laticrete.com) ▪ [www.laticrete.com](http://www.laticrete.com)

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