



SUCCESSFUL GROUTING FOR HOT CLIMATES

SikaCeram[®]-690 Elite



BUILDING TRUST



SUCCESSFUL GROUTING WITH **SikaCeram®-690 Elite** IN HOT CLIMATES

SikaCeram®-690 Elite is a technologically advanced tile and stone grout with superior performance benefits in comparison to a traditional cementitious grout.

PERFORMANCE BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Colour consistency in grout joints for a seamless finish
- ▶ Fast setting, ready for traffic after 3 hours
- ▶ Significantly reduced likelihood of Efflorescence
- ▶ Fine granulometry for a smooth and fine visual appearance
- ▶ Dustless technology reduces airborne particles during the mixing phase by up to 80%
- ▶ Exceptional hydrophobic performance and water repellent for a longer time to clean

THE EFFECT OF HOT CLIMATES, DIRECT SUNLIGHT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES DURING THE GROUTING PROCESS.

As **SikaCeram®-690 Elite** is a fast-setting grout, so additional care needs to be considered when using faster drying technology. **As a general rule, Portland cement-based materials will dry and cure at twice the speed for every 10°C above ambient temperature (21°C).** This means that environmental challenges such as temperature, direct sunlight and strong hot winds will affect the pot life, open time, and cleaning phase during the grouting process. The environment needs to be considered prior to grouting and managed onsite to ensure a successful long-lasting installation.

SikaCeram®-690 Elite FAST DRYING TECHNOLOGY

One of the main benefits of the SikaCeram®-690 Elite is that its fast drying. The fast-drying technology means that the grout is walkable after 3 hours, setting off the grout much faster than traditional cement-based grout resulting in a consistent colour finish. This supports the industry leading color consistency that SikaCeram®-690 Elite tile grout provides versus slower drying traditional cement-based grouts which are challenged with drying at slower rates leading to increased likelihood of efflorescence and colour inconsistency.

Even in hot weather the SikaCeram®-690 Elite is very manageable for a fast dry grout technology, as the viscosity of the SikaCeram®-690 Elite grout when mixed correctly is designed to remain the same viscosity for approximately 30 minutes at 21°C which provides excellent benefits for the tiling contractor during the installation phase.



SikaCeram®-690 Elite - SCAN QR CODE

for application instructions, directions for use
and detailed technical specification data

GUIDELINES FOR WORKING IN HOT CLIMATES DURING THE GROUTING PROCESS WITH SikaCeram®-690 Elite

1. Condition the grout, do not store the grouting material in direct sunlight. If the grout is too warm this will accelerate the setting times further. Grout materials should be stored out of direct sunlight and for optimal performance, in cool conditions. Optimum storage temperature is between 10°C - 30°C.
2. Water temperature: mixing or gauging water should always be cool or cold. Warm water should never be used as hot or warm water can accelerate the drying process or cause flash setting of the grout. When filling buckets of water for mixing and cleaning purposes always let the water run first so that cool or cold water is only being used. Using ice to cool water down prior to mixing can be considered **(ensure the ice has fully melted prior to use to avoid pin holes)**.
3. Slaking or standing the grout after first mix. As a part of correct mixing procedure. SikaCeram®-690 Elite is formulated to be mixed for 2-3 minutes, allowed to stand for 3 minutes, then restirred again for an additional minute. Then the grout is ready for use. Allow the grout to stand or slake is an important process in activation of all the raw materials in the formulation. Periodical stirring of the mix may assist in achieving a good pot life in hot environments. **Do not add additional water to previously mixed grout.**
4. Surface Temperature: Pre-dampen the tile surface prior to installing the grout. Hot surface temperatures can have an adverse effect of grout if surface temperatures are too hot, flash setting on the face of the tile may occur. Applying a wipe with a clean sponge and cold water can reduce surface temperature and improve the ease of cleaning in hot climates.
5. Grouting in direct hot sun, when grouting in hot direct sun this poses a challenge with all installation materials, working in cooler periods of the day is preferred or tenting the area, or providing shade with tarpaulins can significantly assist in the managing the grouting process in hot direct sunlight.
6. Grout in smaller areas, making allowances for hot climates or hot winds if grouting in external environments such as mixing in smaller quantities and grouting smaller areas allow for better management of the area being worked on in hot environments.
7. Clean the mixing pail between mixes, left over grout will accelerate the newly mixed grout. Always mix subsequent batches of grout in clean mixing pail.
8. Low humidity also accelerates the curing process of cement-based installation materials.
9. Highly porous tiles should also be pretreated with dampening of the joint. This can be undertaken with a sponge and cold water. Ensure there is no standing watering in the joint prior to starting the grouting process.
10. It is always best practice to seal porous stone tiles prior to grouting, as this will reduce the chance of picture frame staining from grout.



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WE ARE SIKA

Sika is a specialty chemicals company with a leading position in the development and production of systems and products for bonding, sealing, damping, reinforcing and protecting in the building sector and the motor vehicle industry. Sika's product lines feature concrete admixtures, mortars, sealants and adhesives, structural strengthening systems, flooring as well as roofing and waterproofing systems.

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