

Tiling to External Asphalt

External Asphalt

External grade roof asphalt is not suitable to receive direct tiling. Designed for uses on flat roofs and some balconies as a waterproof membrane, roofing grade asphalt is intended to be soft to deform with changes in temperature. As it does not supply a rigid base it will be an unsatisfactory substrate therefore remove the asphalt where possible. In such situations consideration should be given to covering the surface with a cement sand screed which will be suitable to receive tiles directly or alternatively use a reinforced decoupling matting system such as **Watec@3E**. (Call 0208 7789000 for more information).

If the area to be tiled is of timber construction and any movement is evident the joists will need to be rebraced to bring them up to flooring grade. Then made rigid by either covering with materials such as a cement sand screed. If the weight of an unbonded or 'self-supporting' cement sand screed is considered too great, the use of a Lytag (lightweight aggregate) screed should be considered, a suitable thickness tile backer board or a reinforced decoupling matting system such as **Watec@3E**. **Call 0208 778 9000 for more information.**

Smaller, lighter coloured tiles will have a greater chance of proving successful in balcony situations owing to the reduced heat absorption and greater facility to allow movement than a darker tile. **SEE BTB5 External Timber Walls & Balconies.**

Polymer modified external grade adhesives and grouts can then be used to fix the tiles which should be a frost resistant external grade.

Even when all of these instructions have been followed there is always a risk of failure when fixing ceramic tiles on external asphalt surfaces.