

# POWER SHOWERPROOF

Power Showerproof is a specially prepared tile adhesive suitable for use as a thin bed adhesive. It can be used for most applications of ceramic wall tiles to a variety of substrates such as masonry, sand cement plaster / render, existing tiles and tile backer boards.

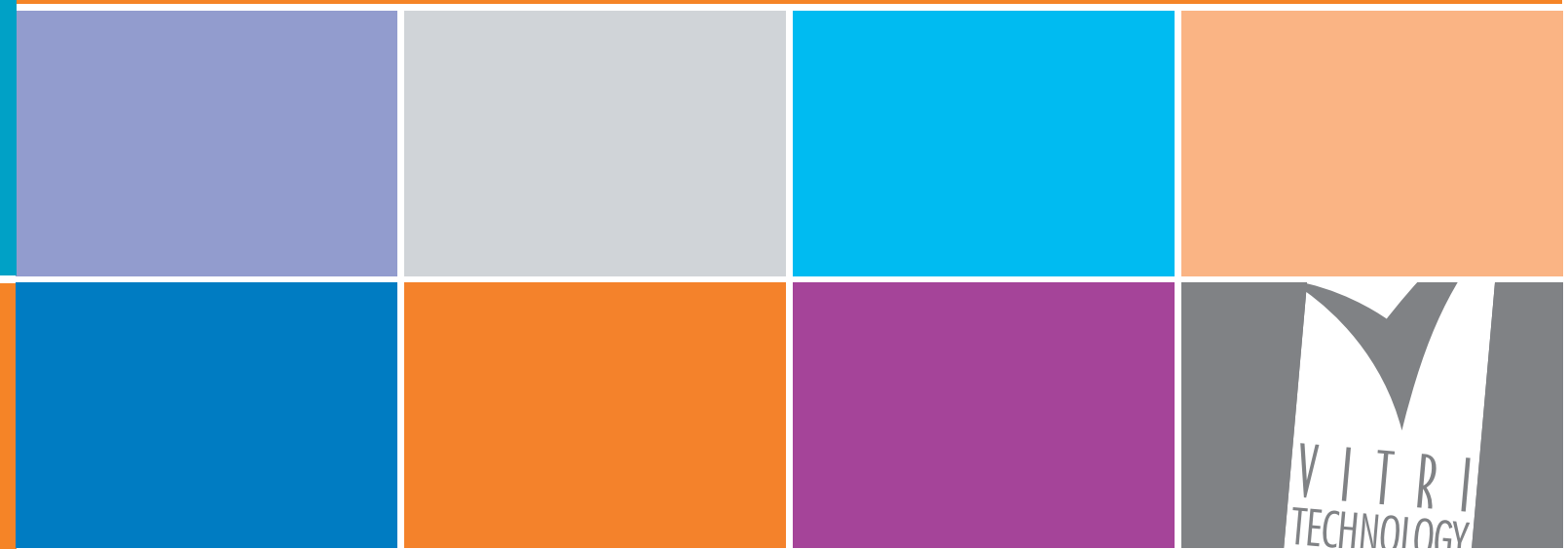
Power Showerproof tile adhesive is suitable for use in internal wall applications, such as kitchens, worktops, bathrooms and is ideal for use in power showers.

The application is simple, only requiring stirring in the tub prior to usage.

- White in colour
- Ready-to-use: is user friendly being completely factory batched.
- Easy to Spread: is designed to be highly workable.
- Versatile: can be applied onto most sound and rigid substrates.
- Non-slip: good non-slip properties from a high degree of initial grab to absorbent and some non-absorbent backgrounds.



## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHROMIUM (VI)



## TECHNICAL HELP'S NOW JUST A CLICK AWAY

**BISCEM** has launched a new website to give comprehensive specification and usage advice for all tiling situations.

The new Grout Colour Selector allows you to click on different tiles and grout colours and preview combinations in the sample area provided. This useful tool provides help with colour scheming and allows you to visualise the finished look at just the click of a button.



Simply inputting information on site conditions, surface materials and tiling products will allow the site to produce specific product recommendations from among **BISCEM'S** wide range of specialist adhesives and grouts.

In addition, the product calculator will generate the correct quantities required for each project, while a stockist finder facility will then provide instant reference on how to get hold of the products.

The site also provides comprehensive technical information, with product application data sheets and even the '**Biscem Guide to Tiling**' downloadable as pdf's. More complicated technical queries can still be referred to the Biscem technical help line on **01924 362081**.

View the site at:

[www.biscem.co.uk](http://www.biscem.co.uk)



Ian Mead talks you through the change in legislation and its affects

**Biscem**<sup>TM</sup>  
Tile adhesives & grouts

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A member of the  Group

**Biscem**<sup>TM</sup>  
Tile adhesives & grouts

# CHROMIUM (VI)

## LEGISLATION EXPLAINED

### THE FACTS

Chromium comes from the natural raw materials used in making cement. When cement is mixed with water a small amount of the Chromium (VI) (Cr VI) dissolves and can cause allergic dermatitis when in contact with some individuals with sensitive skin.



Legislation on the levels of Cr VI in cement came to pass in January of this year, limiting it to 2 parts per million (2 ppm). In order to comply with this cement manufacturers have had to add reducing agents such as ferrous sulfate to the cement before packing. This has the effect of preventing the Chromium (VI) dissolving in water, but, importantly, the effect of the reducing agent lessens with time. As a result, the cement will have a specified declared storage period, or shelf life.

### BISCHEM CEMENTITIOUS PRODUCTS

However, as formulators Biscem will be blending an additional reducing agent into our products with the aim of extending the shelf life. At this stage in time we do not expect to be able to maintain the Cr VI level below 2 ppm for longer than 6 months. In due course this may be extended further as we obtain data from storage trials.

In general terms White products are not an issue as the Cr VI levels are below 2 ppm and the ready mixed pastes do not contain cement. The products affected by the Chromium (VI) legislation are shown on the right.

### PACKAGING

A form of wording has been agreed within the industry for the wording that will appear on bags, in relation to shelf life and storage requirements.

Due to manufacturing constraints we will be supplying untreated material into the market for a period of time after January and it may be some time before existing stocks of printed bags are exhausted, even where reducing agents have been added to products. The HSE has been made aware of this fact and accepts it as unavoidable, given the short timescale imposed by the legislation.



Before



After

### FUTURE AFFECTS

The additional costs incurred from reformulation, testing and packaging upgrades, means that inevitably there will be a price increase (cement manufacturers are talking about considerable price increases). However, the increase is being put off until 1st April 2005, once we have had some experience of the longer term effectiveness of the dosing agent. Once this has been established it will form the template for the entire product range.

Whilst our raw material costs will be altering we do not intend to pass these on to our customers until we are completely confident that we are only passing on necessary additions to costs i.e. we are happy that our post January formulation meets the industry needs. So in effect we will take the hit for the increased costs initially while the situation regarding Chromium (VI) settles down.

*Ian Mead*

Ian Mead

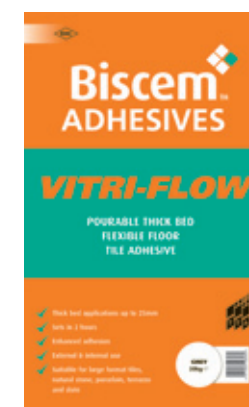
# Products containing Chromium (VI)



Thin & Thick Bed  
Grey



Bis-Xtra  
Grey



Vitri-Flow  
Grey



Vitri-Rapid  
Grey



Bis-Flex  
Rubber Crumb Adhesive



Full Joint Grout  
Grey



Bis-Grout Wall  
Natural, Grey, Ivory



Vitri-Grout Wall  
Ivory, Grey



Wide Joint Grout  
Grey, Sandstone, Limestone,  
Brown, Anthracite, Ivory



Vitri-Grout Floor  
Ivory, Grey,  
Sandstone, Limestone