

# Usage Guidelines

## PRODUCT NUMBER AND CONTAINER SIZE

**WATER BASED/COVERAGE:** 50-60 square feet per gallon with 1/8" notched trowel. 100-120 square feet per gallon with 1/16" notched trowel.

71210 (quart) 71110 (gallon)  
71310 (5g pail)

### DESCRIPTION:

Safecoat 3 in 1 Adhesive is a multi-purpose low odor, not toxic, formaldehyde free, water-based mastic adhesive.

### USE ON:

Safecoat 3 in 1 Adhesive is recommended for adhering floor tiles made of ceramic, vinyl, parquet, and slate; for lightweight wall tiles; and for any carpet application where a typical carpet adhesive would be used.

### PREPARATION:

Surface must be level before application, as use of Safecoat 3 in 1 Adhesive will not substitute for a leveling compound, especially over surfaces such as concrete. All substrates to receive adhesive and overlays must be sound and intact. Any loose areas should be repaired or anchored to produce a firm footing for adhesion. All surfaces must be cleaned of any grease, oils, dust, dirt, wax, unsound prior adhesive and other foreign materials. Washing with a low odor, not toxic cleaner like SafeChoice Cleaner is recommended. Best results can be obtained if non-porous surfaces are dry and stable prior to application. Porous surfaces will benefit from a coat of Safecoat Safe Seal prior to application of 3 in 1 Adhesive (for maximum adhesion, even non-porous surfaces benefit from the application of a thin coat of Safecoat Safe Seal to the substrate and if possible the surface to be adhered – for example the back of the tile - before spreading adhesive and laying the tiles). 3 in 1 can be applied over slightly tacky SafeSeal. Use adequate ventilation. Refer to flooring manufacturer's specific recommendations. Adjust the temperature of the area to be installed, adhesive, and flooring to at least 65°F (18°C) or above for 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation.

**APPLICATION:** Always have adequate ventilation. Stir any liquid on the surface into the adhesive. For carpeting, cementitious and ceramic tile, application should be made with 1/8" or larger notched trowel (commonly v- notched for walls and square notched for floors, but consult your installer). A 3/16" notched trowel should be used for wall tiles. All other applications require 1/16", including residential felt-back rotovinyl sheet flooring. Due to rapid cure do not spread the adhesive over areas larger than 16-20 square feet. Allow adhesive to set up or "tack-up" for a few minutes (typically not more than 10-15 depending upon temperature and humidity), and then insert tiles into mastic. Maintain a wet, tacky surface during installation of the tile. Do not allow adhesive to skim over. If a film forms or adhesive skims over, or sets up so that it is no longer sticky, scrape all adhesive off the surface and reapply. Allow 24 hours for 3 in 1 Adhesive to cure out before opening to traffic or for any further surface filling. A trial application is recommended to assure proper adhesion can be obtained. Testing is particularly important for parquet and wooden floor material, which varies considerably in consistency and may have a tendency to warp. Again, seal the bottom of the material with Safecoat Safe Seal to help provide a moisture barrier. Roll flooring in both directions with a 75–100 lb. roller and seal seams as recommended by the flooring manufacturer. Stiff carpets/sheet goods should be rolled again after 2 hours. Restrict heavy traffic for 24-48 hours. Protect adhesive (specifically carpet installations) from exposure to water from cleaning and other sources for a minimum of 30 days after installation.

**CLEAN UP:** Clean tools and equipment while they are still wet with a solution of SafeChoice Cleaner and warm water.

**DRY/CURE TIME:** 24 hours for full cure.

**HEALTH PRECAUTIONS:** As with all adhesives, keep container tightly closed and out of the reach of children. Do not take internally. Keep from freezing. Always use adequate ventilation. **If you are chemically sensitive, always test for personal tolerance. Test samples available here: [www.thegreendesigncenter.com/product/afm-2oz-samples/](http://www.thegreendesigncenter.com/product/afm-2oz-samples/). See SDS data@[www.afmsafecoat.com](http://www.afmsafecoat.com)**

**LIMITED LIABILITY:** Liability, whether express or implied, is limited solely to replacement of product shown to be defective when applied in accordance with instructions and shall under no circumstances include liability for labor costs or consequential damages. It is the user's responsibility to determine the suitability and safety of the product for its intended use. This limited warranty may not be modified or extended by manufacturer's representatives, distributors, or dealers of AFM products. We particularly recommend that users always test in small inconspicuous areas before application to the entire surface. **American Formulating and Manufacturing** 3251 Third Ave., San Diego, CA 92103 [www.afmsafecoat.com](http://www.afmsafecoat.com).

# Vertical Tile Installation Using Safecoat 3 in 1 Adhesive

1. Make sure that you have the proper tools necessary to install ceramic tile onto a vertical surface. You will need the following items: A clean sponge, a clean bucket, a level, a straight edge, a measuring tape, a 3/16" or 1/4" V notched trowel, a razor knife, a putty knife, tile spacers, tile wedges, tile cutter, and tile nippers. Other tools may be necessary depending on the complexity of the job. *Ceramic tiles should be no bigger than 6 inches square.*

2. Ceramic tile can be installed on different types of vertical surfaces using Safecoat 3 in 1 Adhesive, including textured, painted surfaces. On painted surfaces, the paint **MUST NOT** be flaking, cracking or otherwise unstable. Also, make sure that the texture is not so rough as to prevent the tile from laying flat and level. Generally, texture thicker (has ridges higher) than 1/8" should be sanded down.

3. Make sure that the surface is clean, dry and dust free. If dirty, the surface may be cleaned with SafeChoice Super Clean. If the surface is clean, make sure that it is dry before proceeding to step 4.

4. For a better bond, prepare the surface to be tiled with a sealing coat of Safecoat Safe Seal. Allow Safe Seal to dry at least 2 hours before proceeding.

5. Draw level baseline on the wall 2 rows of tile off the floor, or attach a straight edge, in level position, 2 rows of tile up off the floor. **DO NOT INSTALL THE TILE USING THE FLOOR OR OTHER OUT OF LEVEL SURFACE AS A BASE.** By starting your first course of tile on a level line, it will be easier to complete an even installation.

6. For the first row, trowel 3 in 1 Adhesive on the area of the wall only where the first row of tiles is to be installed. Thereafter, trowel the 3 in 1 Adhesive onto the wall in an area no bigger than 20 square feet, using the appropriate sized V notched trowel (the size will depend on the size of the tile you are installing). Working the 3 in 1 Adhesive a bit will make it smooth and easier to spread. After the 3 in 1 is spread allow it to tack up 5-8 minutes before installing the tile. Temperature and humidity will affect the tack time. **DO NOT** allow the adhesive to skim over. If it skims over before the tile is installed, the tile will not bond to the wall. If it skims over, the 3 in 1 Adhesive should be removed from the wall and fresh glue applied. When the tile is being installed on a level line, tape the first row in place, after it is glued to the wall. Allow this row of tile to set up for at least 6-8 hours before installing additional rows on top of it.

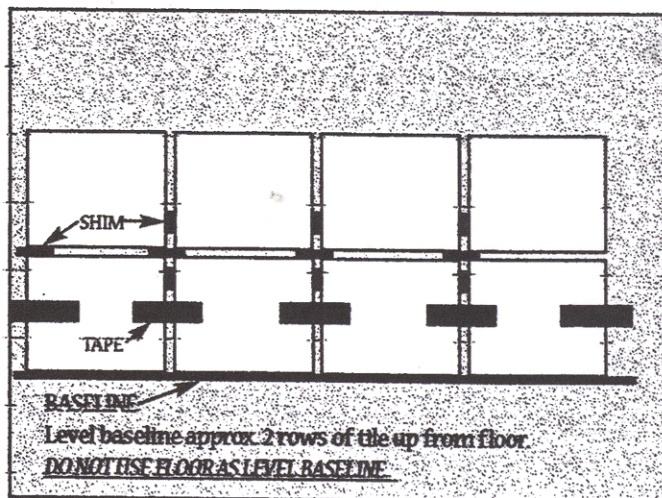
One efficient way of following this installation procedure is to install all base line tiles in one day. Allow them to dry overnight, then you will be able to install the main body of the tile on top of this row beginning the following morning.

7. Use shims or tile spacers where necessary between the tiles before the glue sets up. Generally, tiles can be adjusted and shimmed for approximately 30 minutes after they are adhered to the wall.

8. Clean any glue off the surface of tile and out of grout joints before glue sets up. If glue needs to be removed after it sets up, this can be done using a razor knife.

9. You can clean Safecoat 3 in 1 Adhesive off your trowel and other tools by using hot, soapy water.

10. Allow the tile to dry at least 24 hours before grouting. Grout the tiles following the instructions of the grout manufacturer. Seal grout after it is completely dry with Safecoat Grout Sealer.



1. Make sure surface is clean and dust free.
2. Prepare wall with a sealing coat of Safe Seal. Let dry 2 hours.
3. Draw baseline or attach base straight edge to wall.
4. Trowel 3 in 1 adhesive in an area no bigger than 20 sq ft. using a 3/16-1/4" V notched trowel. Allow to tack up for 5-8 minutes. Do not allow to skim over. Temperature and humidity will affect tack time. Affixing first row of tile on baseline and taping secure to wall is one method for application (see drawing). Place shims between rows.
5. Allow tile to dry for 24 hours before any grouting.