

# SPIDERWEB™ UNCOUPLING MAT

## 1. Product Name

SpiderWeb™ Uncoupling Mat

## 2. Manufacturer

Custom Building Products  
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## 3. Product Description

SpiderWeb™ Uncoupling Mat is a waterproof, vapor-proof uncoupling membrane that can be used for crack-suppression in most tile, porcelain or natural stone installations, and can be applied over challenging substrates such as installation over green concrete (young) and single ply 19.2" (49 cm) supported floors. SpiderWeb is designed differently than bonded membranes, with a sacrificial layer of fabric that shears away, or "uncouples", when exposed to excessive substrate movement, absorbing stress and preserving the surface and integrity of the tile. SpiderWeb's mesh layer has reinforced strands which lock mortar into the mat, ensuring strong, reliable installations.

### USES

SpiderWeb Uncoupling Mat is elastic, rot proof and resistant to aggressive substances and liquids such as alkalis, solvents and oils. SpiderWeb bridges cracks, uncouples floor coverings from their substrates, and is suitable as an underlayment for all floor tiles. When used with a qualifying mortar, SpiderWeb is protected by a 7 or 10 year system warranty based on the mortar selected. 7 year warranties require a qualifying polymer-modified mortar to be used when installing tile. 10 year warranty requires the use of SpiderWeb Mortar which has been specifically formulated for use in this system.

### USES — TILE TYPES

- Ceramic tile, all types including impervious porcelain
- Natural stone
- Precast terrazzo tile

### AREAS OF USE

- Interior and exterior applications
- Green concrete
- Concrete, mortar beds, masonry
- Lightweight concrete and/or air entrained concrete
- Primed gypsum underlayment (minimum 2000 PSI cured)

- Post-tension concrete
- Exterior Grade Plywood
- Primed OSB
- Exterior decks
- Ceramic tile
- Resilient flooring
- Cutback adhesive
- Poured asphalt tarmac

### LIMITATIONS

- Do not bond tile directly to hardwood, lauan plywood, particle board, parquet, cushion or sponge-back vinyl flooring, metal, fiberglass or plastic.
- Do not apply at temperatures below 50° F (10° C).
- Do not use as a wear surface. Mat must be covered with tile or wood flooring.
- Not for controlling vertical movement cracks or cracks greater than 1/4" (6 mm).
- When setting dimensional stone larger than 12" x 12" (30 x 30 cm) contact Technical Services for recommendations regarding subfloor deflection requirements.

## 4. Technical Data

### APPLICABLE STANDARDS

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) — ANSI A108.4 and ANSI A118.11 of the American National Standards for the Installation of Ceramic Tile ASTM International (ASTM)

- ASTM C109 Standard Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars (Using 2-in. or (50-mm) Cube Specimens)



- ASTM C627 Standard Test Method for Evaluating Ceramic Floor Tile Installation Systems Using the Robinson-Type Floor Tester

Resilient Floor Covering Institute — (RFCI) Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings  
 Tile Council of North America (TCNA) — TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation, TCNA Method EJ171

**TECHNICAL PROPERTIES**

Results based on applicable ANSI test specifications

Property	Results
Thickness	2 mm
Weight	<.1 lbs./sq. ft.
Robinson Floor Test (Concrete)	Heavy
Bacteria and Fungus Resistance	No Growth

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Custom Building Products is committed to environmental responsibility in both products produced and in manufacturing practices.

**5. Installation**

**PREPARATORY WORK**

**General Surface Preparation:**

Surfaces must be structurally sound, clean, dry and free from grease, oil, dirt, curing compounds, sealers, adhesives or any other contaminants that would prevent a good bond. Glossy or painted surfaces must be sanded, stripped and cleaned of waxes, dirt or any contaminants.

**Existing Ceramic Tile or Resilient Flooring:**

Resilient flooring or plastic laminates must be well bonded, clean and free of all contaminates. Roughen the surface by sanding or scarifying, rinse and allow to dry. Do not sand flooring containing asbestos. For existing well-bonded ceramic tile, mechanically abrade with carborundum stone. Rinse and allow to dry. When sanding we recommend the use of an approved respirator.

**Cutback Adhesive over Concrete :**

Adhesive layers must be removed as they reduce mortar bond strength to cement surfaces. Use extreme caution as adhesives may contain asbestos fibers. Do not sand or grind adhesive residue, as harmful dust may result. Never use adhesive removers or solvents, as they soften the adhesive and may cause it to penetrate into the concrete. Adhesive residue must be wet-scraped to the finished surface of the concrete, leaving only the transparent staining from the glue. Do a test bond area first, to determine desirable results. Refer to the RFCI Pamphlet, "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" for further information.

**Cementitious Surfaces:**

Concrete slabs must be cured a minimum 24 hours and accept water penetration. Test by sprinkling water on various areas of the substrate. If water penetrates, then a good bond can be achieved. If water beads, surface contaminants are present and loss of adhesion may occur. The contaminants should be removed before installation. Concrete must be free of efflorescence and not subject to hydrostatic pressure. Can be used over exterior concrete where moisture (vapor transmission) never exceeds a reading above 12 lbs. (5.4 kg). Concrete slabs should have a broomed or brushed finish to enhance the bond. Smooth concrete slabs must be roughened to ensure a good bond.

**Gypsum Substrates:**

Gypsum substrates must have a PSI greater than 2000 and must first be primed or sealed per manufacturer's instructions. When using thin-set applied SpiderWeb, all gypsum substrates must be coated with RedGard® Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane or Custom® 9240 Waterproofing and Anti-Fracture Membrane.

**Wood Substrates:**

Plywood flooring including those under resilient flooring must be structurally sound, built to industry standards, and deflection should not exceed L/360 for tile or L/720 for stone.

**METHODS**

**Mortar and Notch Requirement**

Using a thin-set mortar that meets ANSI A118.4 and/or A118.11, apply the thin-set mortar using a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 x 4.8 mm) v-notch trowel to the substrate. Be careful not to trowel out more mortar than you can cover in the specified open time with SpiderWeb Uncoupling Mat.

**Installing SpiderWeb Uncoupling Mat**

Apply the SpiderWeb Uncoupling Mat to the floor, fleece side down. Embed the matting into the bonding mortar using a float or screed joining sections of mat, simply align end and side sections of adjacent sheets. Make sure to occasionally check the transfer of the bonding mortar to the mat. Lift up a corner of the matting to check coverage. Proper installation results in full contact between the fleece webbing and the thin-set mortar.

**Waterproofing**

Each roll of SpiderWeb Uncoupling mat is waterproof and creased on one side allowing it to easy fold up the wall. For a waterproof installation, start by installing SpiderWeb Uncoupling Mat on the perimeter on the floor and folding it up the wall before filling in the center portion of the floor. Inside corners can be pieced together by cutting two mats at a 45° and joining them. Make as few cuts as possible and join all seams with SpiderWeb Seam Sealing Tape or RedGard Waterproofing and Crack Isolation Membrane to completely waterproof the installation.



**Installing Tile Over SpiderWeb Uncoupling Mat**

Tile can be installed over SpiderWeb as soon as it has been pressed into place. While working on the mat, place boards on the mat directly under you to prevent damage. Flat coat a mortar such as VersaBond® Fortified Thin-Set Mortar through the mesh being sure to completely fill all of the depressions in the mat first. Then, thin-set and comb additional mortar over the matting using a trowel that is appropriate for the size of the tile. Completely embed the tiles in the setting material. Periodically remove and check a tile to ensure that full coverage is being attained.

**Mortar Selection**

As described in the TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation (2009), a polymer modified (ANSI 118.4) mortar is “required for the installation of porcelain tile”, and an ANSI A118.11 mortar should be used when bonding to exterior glue plywood. Custom Building Products supports the use of polymer modified mortars whenever required. SpiderWeb Uncoupling Mat is also compatible with ANSI A118.1 qualified non-modified mortars for basic tile installation.

**Coverage**

1 M x 30 M roll will cover 323 square feet.

**BUILDING CODES**

Installation must comply with the requirements of all applicable local, state and federal code jurisdictions.

**6. Availability & Cost**

Contact the manufacturer or visit [custombuildingproducts.com](http://custombuildingproducts.com) for information about product cost and availability.

ITEM CODE	SIZE	PACKAGE
SWM323	1 M X 30 M	Roll

**7. Limited Product Warranty**

This product is eligible for Custom Building Products 10 Year Installation Systems Warranty and a Lifetime Residential warranty.

Custom Building Products warrants to the original consumer purchaser that its product shall be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal and proper usage for a period of one year following the date of original purchase. Custom’s sole liability under this warranty shall be limited to the replacement of the product. Some states, countries or territories do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty will not extend to any product which has been modified in any way or which has not been used in accordance with Custom’s printed instructions. Custom makes no other warranties either expressed or implied. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights that vary from state to state or from one country/territory to another.

For details and complete warranty information, visit [custombuildingproducts.com](http://custombuildingproducts.com).

**8. Maintenance**

Properly installed product requires no special maintenance.

**9. Technical Services**

For technical assistance, contact Custom Building Products or visit [custombuildingproducts.com](http://custombuildingproducts.com).

**10. Filing Systems**

Additional product information is available from the manufacturer upon request.

