

# CRACK BUSTER® PRO

## CRACK PREVENTION MAT UNDERLAYMENT

### 1. Product Name

Crack Buster® Pro Crack Prevention Mat Underlayment

### 2. Manufacturer

Custom Building Products  
13001 Seal Beach Blvd.  
Seal Beach, CA 90740-2757  
800-272-8786  
562-598-8808  
Fax: 800-200-7765  
Email: [contactus@cbpmail.net](mailto:contactus@cbpmail.net)  
[www.custombuildingproducts.com](http://www.custombuildingproducts.com)

### 3. Product Description

Crack Buster Pro Crack Prevention Mat Underlayment is a self-bonding, fabric-reinforced an asphaltic mat that reduces crack transmission in tile and stone floors. For both full and partial floor applications, Crack Buster Pro is an anti-fracture membrane for horizontal cracks to 3/8" (9.5 mm). Its strong self-adhesive backing and uniquely designed surface provide secure bonding for all types of ceramic tile, natural stone and terrazzo.

Areas of use for Crack Buster Pro include:

- Interior and exterior applications
- Concrete
- Masonry
- Mortar beds
- Lightweight concrete
- Air entrained concrete
- Primed gypsum self-leveling underlayment, minimum 2000 psi (13.8 MPa) cured
- Post-tension concrete
- Exterior grade plywood
- Primed OSB
- Exterior decks
- Existing ceramic tile
- Resilient flooring
- Cutback adhesive
- Radiant heating systems

#### COMPOSITION & MATERIALS

Crack Buster Pro is an elastomeric, fabric-reinforced mat underlayment, with modified asphalt and a polyurethane adhesive.

#### SIZES

Crack Buster Pro is available in 36" x 75' (.91 x 23 m) rolls with 225 ft<sup>2</sup> (20.9 m<sup>2</sup>) coverage.

#### BENEFITS

- Extra heavy duty rating for installation within diverse substrates.
- Exceeds ANSI A118.12 standards for crack isolation material.
- Eliminates crack transmission in tile and stone floors.
- Easy and quick self-adhesive installation reduces down-time for tile and stone installation.

#### LIMITATIONS

- Do not bond tile directly to hardwood, Luan 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.
- When setting dimensional stone larger than 12" x 12" (30 x 30 cm) contact Technical Services for recommendations regarding subfloor deflection requirements.

#### ACCESSORIES

Peel & Stick Primer seals porous surfaces and improves the bond of Crack Buster Pro Crack Prevention Mat Underlayment. Easily applied with a paint brush or short nap roller, a 1 gal (3.78 L) container of Peel & Stick Primer provides approximately 400 ft<sup>2</sup> (37.16 m<sup>2</sup>) of coverage.

### 4. Technical Data

#### APPLICABLE STANDARDS

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) — ANSI A108.13, A118.4, A118.11 and A118.12, of the American National Standards for the Installation of Ceramic Tile ASTM International (ASTM)

- ASTM C627 Standard Test Method for Evaluating Ceramic Floor Tile Installation Systems Using the Robinson-Type Floor Tester
- ASTM D412 Standard Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers-Tension
- ASTM D1000 Standard Test Methods for Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive-Coated Tapes Used for Electrical and Electronic Applications

Tile Council of North America (TCNA) — TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation, TCA Method EJ171

## TECHNICAL PROPERTIES

Property	Results
Thickness	0.04" (1 mm)
Weight per roll	65 lb (29.48 kg)
Weight per ft <sup>2</sup>	0.3 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> (1.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )
Roll dimensions	36" X 75" (.91 M X 23 M)
Robinson Floor Test, ASTM C627	Extra heavy duty
Elongation, ASTM D412	1200%
Bacteria and fungus, resistance, ANSI A118.12	No growth
Peel adhesion, ASTM D1000	Over 10 lb/in (68.9 kPa)

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Custom Building Products is committed to environmental responsibility in both products produced and in manufacturing practices. Use of Crack Buster Pro can contribute to LEED® certification.

## 5. Installation

## PREPARATORY WORK

## General Surface Preparation:

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

## Cementitious Surfaces:

Concrete or plaster must be porous, fully cured and must accept water penetration. Test by sprinkling water on various areas of the substrate. If water penetrates, a good bond can be achieved; if water beads, surface contaminants are present, and loss of adhesion may occur. Contaminants should be removed before installation. Concrete must be free of efflorescence and not subject to hydrostatic pressure. Concrete slabs should have a broomed or brushed finish to enhance the bond. Smooth concrete slabs must be mechanically abraded to ensure a good bond.

## Plywood Substrates:

Plywood floors, including those under resilient flooring, must be structurally sound and must meet all ANSI and deflection requirements. For questions about proper subfloor installation, call Custom Building Products.

## WonderBoard® Backerboard:

As a recommended alternative to additional layers of plywood, WonderBoard Backerboard may be installed over plywood subfloors. Refer to product data sheets and TCNA F144 for installation information.

## Gypsum Substrates:

Gypsum substrates must exceed 2000 psi (13.8 MPa) and must be fully sealed using Peel & Stick Primer.

Existing Ceramic Tile, Resilient Flooring or Plastic Laminates:

Resilient flooring or plastic laminates must be well bonded, as well as clean and free of all contaminants. Roughen the surface by sanding or scarifying; rinse and allow to dry. Do not sand flooring that contains asbestos. For existing well-bonded ceramic tile, mechanically abrade the surface. Rinse and allow to dry. An approved respirator should be used when sanding.

## Movement Joints:

Although Crack Buster Pro can go directly over control joints, and shrinkage cracks in concrete surfaces, it does not eliminate the need for generic movement joints in the tile network. Movement joints should be installed at usual intervals, in accordance with industry standards. To reduce tile cutting and preserve tile patterns, the grout joint closest to the existing crack or control joint in the concrete or substrate should be filled with flexible sealant on either side of the movement joint. This joint must be brought through the tile work and filled with an appropriate elastomeric sealant. See TCNA F125 or F125A. Construction and expansion joints just be brought through the tile assembly. Refer to TCNA EJ171 for details. For more information concerning the placement of such control joints, contact Custom Building Products.

## Cutback Adhesive Over Concrete:

Thick accumulations and powdery, brittle or weak cut back adhesive layers must be removed. Use extreme caution, as adhesives may contain asbestos fibers. Do not sand or grind the adhesive residue, as harmful dust may result. Never use adhesive removers or solvents, as they weaken or soften the adhesive and may cause it to penetrate into the concrete. The remaining residue should be no thicker than a coat of paint and should be almost transparent. Always install an adequate number of properly located test areas.

## INSTALLATION METHODS

## Application of Primer:

For proper adhesion and optimal bond, prime the substrate with Peel & Stick Primer. Using a paint brush, short nap roller or soft push broom, apply an even coat and allow it to dry until tacky to the touch, about 30 - 40 minutes. When the primer does not transfer to your finger, the surface is ready for application of Crack Buster Pro.

## Full Floor Application:

With the release sheet still attached, unroll and position the membrane over the area to be treated and cut the membrane to the appropriate length. Roll up half of the cut membrane, leaving the other half in position. Cut the release sheet from the rolled-up portion of the membrane and pull the membrane into position, exposing and unrolling the self-stick portion. Return to the unrolled portion of the membrane and follow the same procedure. Check the positioning; smooth wrinkles and bubbles with a flat trowel and roll with a 50 lb (26 kg) roller or apply 50 lb of pressure with a hand roller to ensure complete contact with the substrate. Air pockets and wrinkles should be slit then smoothed with a roller or the flat side of a trowel. Align subsequent sheets and butt join the seams tightly but do not overlap them. Clean tools with soap and warm water.

**Crack Isolation Application:**

With the release sheet still attached, pre-measure and cut the membrane to the desired length. The membrane should extend 6" - 8" (15 - 20 cm) beyond the length of the crack in both directions and should extend beyond both sides of the crack and at least 3 times the dimension of the tile used. Re-roll the membrane and center it over the crack. Remove about 2" (5 cm) of release paper and apply it firmly to the substrate. Remove the rest of the release paper, exposing and unrolling the self-stick portion of the membrane. Secure the membrane to the substrate with a 50 lb (23 kg) roller or equivalent heavy pressure from a hand roller or flat trowel. Remove fresh adhesive from tile surfaces with a damp cloth. Clean tools in warm soapy water.

**Tile Installation:**

Tile can be set with any Custom Building Products polymer-modified mortar that meets ANSI A118.4 or A118.11 standards, with Custom EBM-Lite™ Epoxy Bonding Mortar—100% Solids, CEG-2000™ Epoxy or CEG-Lite™ Epoxy which meets ANSI A118.3 standards.

**PRECAUTIONS**

Peel & Stick Primer contains acrylic emulsion. Wear rubber gloves and eye protection. Avoid eye contact or prolonged contact with the skin. If eye contact occurs, flush with water for 15 minutes and consult a physician. If skin contact occurs, wash immediately with soap and water; dried material is extremely difficult to remove. Keep these products out of the reach of children. Do not take internally.

**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 the [www.custombuildingproducts.com](http://www.custombuildingproducts.com) website for additional information about availability.

**7. Warranty**

Crack Buster Pro is eligible for Custom Building Products' Lifetime Installations Systems Warranty.

Custom Building Products ("Custom") 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 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 express or implied. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights that vary from state to state.

For details and complete warranty information, contact Custom Building Products or visit the Custom Building Products website: [www.custombuildingproducts.com](http://www.custombuildingproducts.com).

**8. Maintenance**

Properly installed product requires no special maintenance.

**9. Technical Services**

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

**10. Filing Systems**

Additional product information is available from the manufacturer upon request.

LEED is a Registered Trademark of U.S.G.B.C.