



# Keracolor™ U

## Premium Unsanded Grout with Polymer



### DESCRIPTION

*Keracolor U* is a premium-grade, preblended, polymer-modified unsanded Portland-cement tile grout that requires only the addition of water for mixing. It will grout joints from 1/16" to 1/8" (1,5 to 3 mm).

### FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- For interior/exterior floors and walls
- Contains BioBlock™ technology for mold and mildew resistance

### INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND APPROVALS

**ISO 13007:** Classification CG2WA

**ANSI:** Meets or exceeds ANSI A118.6 industry standards

<u>LEED (Version 3.0) Points Contribution</u>	<u>LEED Points</u>
MR Credit 5, Regional Materials* .....	Up to 2 points
IEQ Credit 4.1, Low-Emitting Materials – Adhesives & Sealants .....	1 point
IEQ Credit 4.3, Low-Emitting Materials – Flooring Systems .....	1 point

\* Using this MAPEI product may help contribute to LEED certification of projects in the categories shown above. Points are awarded based on contributions of all project materials.

### WHERE TO USE

- For grouting interior/exterior residential and commercial floor and wall surfaces in dry or wet conditions
- For grouting dimensional stone, slate, granite, stone agglomerates and most types of ceramic, ceramic mosaic, quarry, brick paver, porcelain, glass and clay tiles
- For joint widths from 1/16" to 1/8" (1,5 to 3 mm)
- For application in submerged conditions (swimming pools, spas, water features and fountains), once fully cured (after 21 days)

### LIMITATIONS

- Do not install over substrates containing asbestos.
- Do not use to grout joints greater than 1/8" (3 mm) wide. Instead, use *Keracolor S* sanded grout or an appropriate MAPEI epoxy grout (see the respective Technical Data Sheet [TDS] for details).
- Do not use when a highly chemical-, impact- and stain-resistant grout is required or in heavy industrial tile installations. Instead, use an appropriate MAPEI epoxy grout (see the respective TDS for details).
- When grouting in temperatures above 80°F (26°C), see the Technical Bulletins at [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com) or consult MAPEI's Technical Services Department.

Consult MAPEI's Technical Services Department for recommendations regarding installation over substrates and conditions not listed.



## SURFACE PREPARATION

- Certain tiles with high absorption, surface porosity or rough surfaces may require sealing before grouting to prevent permanent staining.
- The application of a grout release over certain types of porcelain or textured surface tiles or stone may be advantageous where a fine surface porosity might trap fine cement particles or color pigments. Seek the advice of the tile or stone manufacturer and site-test (mock up) on separate samples before grouting.
- Caution: Some types of glazed ceramic tiles, marble, granite and marble agglomerates can be permanently stained, scratched, dulled or damaged when grouted with pigmented grout or sanded grout formulas. Generally, white grout is best suited for grouting white or light-colored marble or granite. Take all the necessary precautions to ensure that the marble, granite or tiles are compatible with colored grouts. Check the tile or marble manufacturer's literature and test grout on a separate sample area before grouting to determine the suitability of the product with colored and/or sanded grouts.
- Before grouting, make sure the tiles or stones are firmly set and the adhesive or mortar is completely dry.
- Remove all spacers, pegs, ropes and strings.
- Grout joints must be clean and free of standing water, dust, dirt and foreign matter. Remove excess adhesive or mortar from the joint area so that 2/3 of the depth of the tile is left available for grouting.
- Clean the tile or stone surface thoroughly to remove dust, dirt and other contaminants that may cause grout discoloration.
- Refer to MAPEI's Surface Preparation Requirements document for tile and stone installation systems at [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com).

## MIXING

Note: Choose all appropriate safety equipment before use. Refer to MSDS for more information.

1. For best results, have the same person mix all of the grout. Consistent mixing techniques will promote more uniform results.
2. Before mixing the grout with water, dry-blend the product to avoid color variations in the finished grout, which may arise from pigment settling during shipment. If two or more bags are to be used, dry-blend all of the contents together.

3. Mix *Keracolor U* with cool, clean water only or approved MAPEI additives. Mix by using the following water-to-grout proportions:

<u>Water</u>	<u>Keracolor U powder</u>
4.8 to 5.4 U.S. oz. (0,14 to 0,16 L).....	1 lbs. (0,45 kg)
24 to 27 U.S. oz. (0,71 to 0,80 L).....	5 lbs. (2,27 kg)
48 to 54 U.S. oz. (1,42 to 1,60 L).....	10 lbs. (4,54 kg)
3.75 to 4.22 U.S. qts. (3,55 to 3,99 L).....	25 lbs. (11,3 kg)

4. Pour the required measured amount of clean, cool water into a clean mixing container. Gradually add the proportionate amount of *Keracolor U* while slowly mixing. To avoid shade variation of the finished joint, always add the powder to the water while being consistent in the mixing process and the quantity of water used from batch to batch.
5. Mix thoroughly with a low-speed mixer (at about 350 rpm) for about 3 to 5 minutes, or until obtaining a smooth, creamy, homogenous paste consistency and a uniform shading of the colored grout.
6. Avoid air entrapment from prolonged mixing, which will shorten the pot life.
7. Allow the grout to sit ("slake") in the container for about 5 minutes.
8. Remix for about 1 to 2 minutes without adding more liquid or powder.
9. Wash hands and mixing tools with water immediately after mixing.

## PRODUCT APPLICATION

1. Read all installation instructions thoroughly before installation.
2. Use only at temperatures between 50°F and 100°F (10°C and 38°C).
3. Using consistent application and cleaning procedures will produce consistent results.
4. To aid in spreading the grout, slightly moisten the tile or stone surface with a damp sponge just before application. Do not flood the tiles or allow water to stand in the ungrouted joint areas.
5. Force *Keracolor U* into the joints with a rubber grout float. Make sure all joints are well-compacted and free of voids and gaps.
6. Remove excess grout from the tile surface, moving the grout float diagonally to the joints while the *Keracolor U* is still fresh.

7. The grout surface should be flush with the tile edge.
8. Some stiffening may occur before all material is used (usually within about 1 hour at room temperature). If this occurs, simply remix but do not add any liquid.
9. Provide for expansion and control joints as specified per TCNA Detail EJ171 or TTMAC Specification Guide 09300 Detail 301EJ.
10. Allow the *Keracolor U* to firm up in the joints sufficiently to avoid damaging the grout surface, usually in 15 to 30 minutes depending upon the temperature, humidity and absorption rate of the tile or stone.
11. Use two buckets of cleaning water: one for rinsing the majority of the grout residue from the grout sponge, and one for moistening the sponge in clean water.
12. Dip the sponge in a bucket of water and wring out the excess, so that the sponge does not drip water. Using very little pressure, pull the sponge diagonally across the grout joints to remove the excess grout from the tile surface. Also use the sponge to smooth the surface of the grout joint. Turn the sponge over and make another pass in an adjacent area. After using both sides, rinse the sponge in one bucket and wring out the excess water. Dip the sponge in the second bucket of water, wringing out the excess and continue the process.
13. Change the water in the buckets frequently to help limit the amount of haze that forms on the tile or stone surface.
14. To prevent efflorescence, discoloration and soft/powdery joints, avoid cleaning with excessive water.
15. To control color variations and minimize efflorescence, buff the grouted surface with cheesecloth or a clean, dry cotton cloth when a haze is visible on the tile surface, usually one to two hours after grouting. This should remove any remaining surface water or grout residue.
16. Clean hands and tools with clean, soapy water while grout is fresh.
17. Never use acid for cleaning marble, glazed tile or pigmented grout surfaces. If a persistent haze remains after normal cleaning, see the Technical Bulletins at [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com) or consult MAPEI's Technical Services Department.

## PROTECTION

1. Provide for dry, heated storage on site and deliver materials at least 24 hours before tilework begins.
2. For residential showers and tub surrounds, restrict use for 24 to 48 hours after grouting and for 14 days for steam showers.
3. For at least 21 days after completion, protect from freezing and do not immerse installation in water (see the TDS of the adhesive or setting system for details).
4. Floors: Keep free from heavy traffic for at least 72 hours after grouting.
5. Walls: Protect from impact, vibration and hammering on adjacent and opposite walls for 14 days after tile installation (see the TDS of the adhesive or setting system for details).
6. Because temperature and humidity (during and after installation of tile) affect the final curing time of all cement-based materials, allow for extended periods of cure and protection when temperatures drop below 60°F (16°C) and/or when the relative humidity is higher than 70%.

## MAINTENANCE

- Sealing the grout is recommended but not mandatory. When choosing a sealer, follow the recommendations and instructions of the sealer manufacturer.
- Grout must be fully cured for 21 days before regular cleaning.
- MAPEI grout products are produced to the highest quality of standards. To maintain a clean tile surface, use a neutral-pH cleaner for maintaining the floor, followed by a clean-water rinse.
- Do not use harsh chemicals to maintain the tile surface. Before proceeding with cleaning, consult the cleaner's manufacturer for compatibility, use and application instructions. Remove or rinse fatty acid residue from the grout surface to avoid potential grout deterioration caused by prolonged exposure.

## Product Performance Properties

### ISO 13007 Classification

Classification Code	Classification Requirement
CG2 (cementitious grout, improved)	≤ 0.20% shrinkage in 28 days
W (reduced water absorption)	≤ 5 g after 4 hours
A (high abrasion resistance)	≤ 1,000 mm <sup>3</sup>

### ANSI Specification

Test Method	ANSI Specification	Test Results
ANSI A118.6 – flexural strength	400 psi (2,76 MPa) at 7 days	400 to 1,000 psi (2,76 to 6,90 MPa) at 7 days
ANSI A118.6 – compressive strength	3,000 psi (20,7 MPa) at 28 days	3,000 to 5,000 psi (20,7 to 34,5 MPa) at 28 days
ANSI A118.6 – shrinkage	< 0.03% (1 day); < 0.10% (7 days)	< 0.03% (1 day); < 0.10% (7 days)
ANSI A118.6 – water absorption	< 18% (50% relative humidity to immersion); < 20% (immersion to dry)	< 18% (50% relative humidity to immersion); < 20% (immersion to dry)

### Shelf Life and Application Properties\* at 73°F (23°C) and 50% relative humidity

Pot life	About 2 hours
Compressive strength at 28 days	>3,500 psi (24,1 MPa)
Shelf life	2 years

\* Application properties vary based on jobsite conditions.

### Packaging†

Product Code – U.S.	Product Code – Canada	Size
80028	80028001	Tub: 1lb. (0,45 kg), white only
NA	8XX0521	Bag: 5 lbs. (2,27 kg), Canada only
8XX10	8XX1021	Bag: 10 lbs. (4,54 kg)
8XX25	8XX2521	Bag: 25 lbs. (11,3 kg)

† For the "XX" portion of each product code, use the two-digit number of the desired grout color.

## Approximate Product Coverage\*

Tile Size	Per 10 lbs. (4,54 kg). Coverages in sq. ft. (m <sup>2</sup> )		
	Grout Joint Width		
	1/16" (1,5 mm)	3/32" (2,5 mm)	1/8" (3 mm)
1" x 1" x 1/4" (25 x 25 x 6 mm)	52 (4,83)	34 (3,16)	24 (2,23)
2" x 2" x 1/4" (50 x 50 x 6 mm)	104 (9,66)	70 (6,50)	52 (4,83)
3" x 3" x 1/4" (75 x 75 x 6 mm)	158 (14,7)	104 (9,66)	78 (7,25)
3" x 6" x 1/4" (75 x 150 x 6 mm)	212 (19,7)	140 (13,0)	104 (9,66)
4-1/4" x 4-1/4" x 1/4" (108 x 108 x 6 mm)	224 (20,8)	148 (13,7)	112 (10,4)
6" x 6" x 1/4" (150 x 150 x 6 mm)	316 (29,4)	210 (19,5)	158 (14,7)
6" x 6" x 3/8" (150 x 150 x 10 mm)	212 (19,7)	140 (13,0)	106 (9,85)
8" x 8" x 3/8" (200 x 200 x 10 mm)	282 (26,2)	188 (17,5)	140 (13,0)
12" x 12" x 3/8" (300 x 300 x 10 mm)	422 (39,2)	282 (26,2)	212 (19,7)
16" x 16" x 3/8" (406 x 406 x 10 mm)	566 (52,6)	376 (34,9)	282 (26,2)
18" x 18" x 3/8" (457 x 457 x 10 mm)	634 (58,9)	422 (39,2)	316 (29,4)
18" x 18" x 1/2" (457 x 457 x 12 mm)	476 (44,2)	318 (29,5)	238 (22,1)
20" x 20" x 1/2" (508 x 508 x 12 mm)	530 (49,2)	352 (32,7)	264 (24,5)
24" x 24" x 1/2" (610 x 610 x 12 mm)	638 (59,3)	424 (39,4)	318 (29,5)

Tile Size	Per 25 lbs. (11,3 kg). Coverages in sq. ft. (m <sup>2</sup> )		
	Grout Joint Width		
	1/16" (1,5 mm)	3/32" (2,5 mm)	1/8" (3 mm)
1" x 1" x 1/4" (25 x 25 x 6 mm)	130 (12,1)	85 (7,90)	60 (5,57)
2" x 2" x 1/4" (50 x 50 x 6 mm)	260 (24,2)	175 (16,3)	130 (12,1)
3" x 3" x 1/4" (75 x 75 x 6 mm)	395 (36,7)	260 (24,2)	195 (18,1)
3" x 6" x 1/4" (75 x 150 x 6 mm)	530 (49,2)	350 (32,5)	260 (24,2)
4-1/4" x 4-1/4" x 1/4" (108 x 108 x 6 mm)	560 (52,0)	370 (34,4)	280 (26,0)
6" x 6" x 1/4" (150 x 150 x 6 mm)	790 (73,4)	525 (48,8)	395 (36,7)
6" x 6" x 3/8" (150 x 150 x 10 mm)	530 (49,2)	350 (32,5)	265 (24,6)
8" x 8" x 3/8" (200 x 200 x 10 mm)	705 (65,5)	470 (43,7)	350 (32,5)
12" x 12" x 3/8" (300 x 300 x 10 mm)	1055 (98,0)	705 (65,5)	530 (49,2)
16" x 16" x 3/8" (406 x 406 x 10 mm)	1415 (131)	940 (87,3)	705 (65,5)
18" x 18" x 3/8" (457 x 457 x 10 mm)	1585 (147)	1055 (98,0)	790 (73,4)
18" x 18" x 1/2" (457 x 457 x 12 mm)	1190 (111)	795 (73,9)	595 (55,3)
20" x 20" x 1/2" (508 x 508 x 12 mm)	1325 (123)	880 (81,8)	660 (61,3)
24" x 24" x 1/2" (610 x 610 x 12 mm)	1595 (148)	1060 (98,5)	795 (73,9)

\* Trowel dimensions are width/depth/space. Actual coverages will vary according to substrate profile and tile type.

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## RELATED DOCUMENTS

The Causes and Cure for Grout Efflorescence	010309-TB*
Grout Cleaning	041101-TB*
How to Install Grout in Hot Weather	010404-TB*

\* At [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com).

Refer to MAPEI's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for specific data related to VOCs, health and safety, and handling of product.

## STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

Before using, user shall determine the suitability of the product for its intended use and user alone assumes all risks and liability whatsoever in connection therewith. **ANY CLAIM SHALL BE DEEMED WAIVED UNLESS MADE IN WRITING TO US WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM DATE IT WAS, OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN, DISCOVERED.**

We proudly support the following industry organizations:



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**For the most current product and warranty data, visit [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com).**

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