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## BONDING TILE DIRECTLY TO ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB)

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Bonding ceramic tile or natural stone to Oriented Strand Board (OSB) panels is not recommended nor recognized as an acceptable installation method by the ceramic tile industry. The only wood product accepted as a substrate for direct thin-set application of tile is APA rated exterior grade plywood meeting Product Standard PS 1-95.

OSB panels are manufactured under the provisions of APA PRP-108 or PS 2-92 and are comprised of thin wood strands or chips, which are held together with fully waterproof adhesives. Plywood panels are thin veneers of wood glued together to form the desired panel thickness. Although both panels would perform equally from a structural standpoint, it is the surface of each which must be considered for a direct bonding of tile. Exterior grade plywood is an acceptable substrate because the latex or polymer-modified mortar is bonding directly to a continuous wood surface. With OSB panels, the modified mortar has to bond to several strands or chips as well as the glue, which binds these pieces together.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) specifically states the underlayment to which tile will be bonded with a latex-portland cement mortar must be exterior grade plywood. OSB panels are available in an exterior grade but technically, they are not considered or referred to as plywood.



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