

Dekhte reh jaoge



How to Set Tile the Right Way

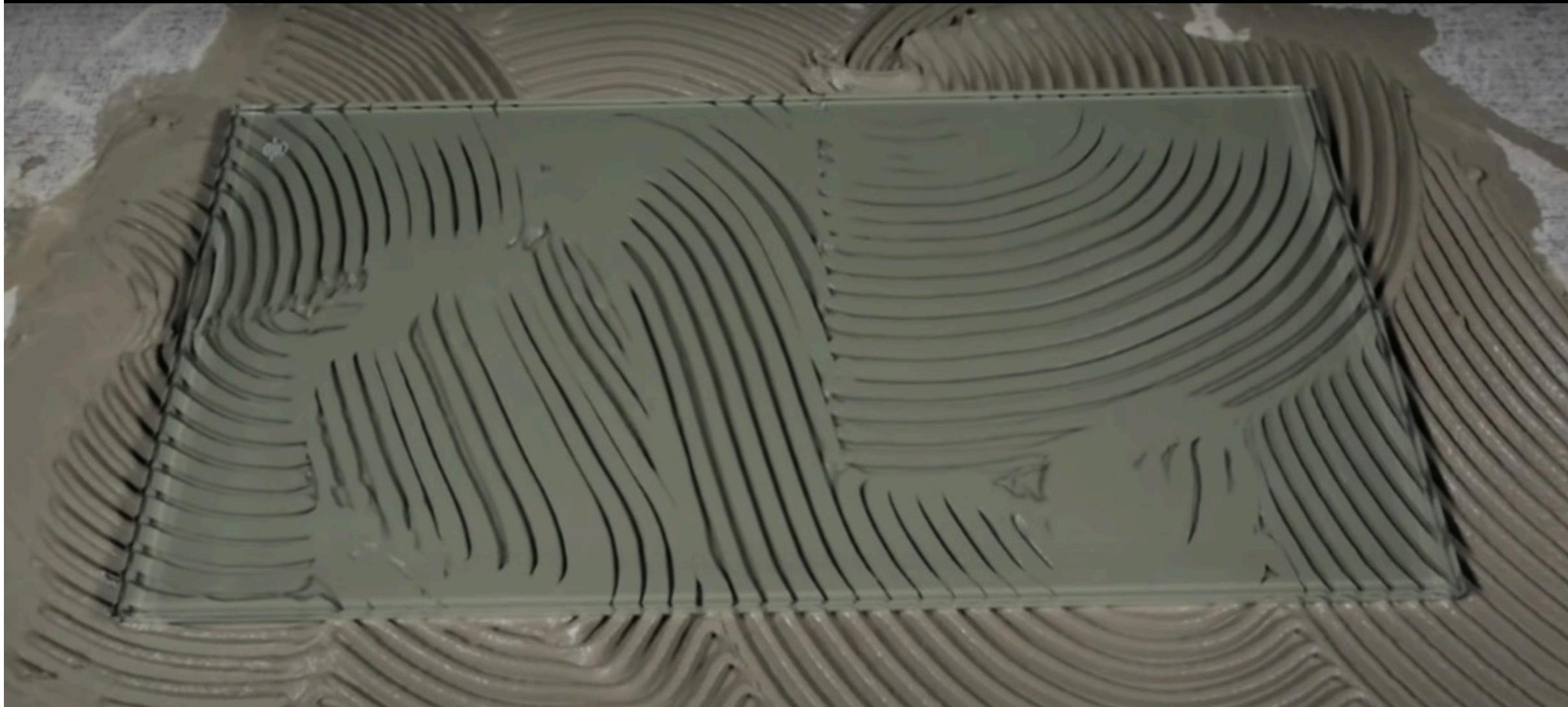
- How to install tile the right way!
- Learn globally approved, correct trowel techniques to set large format tile and how to create a stronger bond between the tile and the substrate. Prevent crack transmission, lippage, tile breakage and other costly tile installation repairs.

Spot bonding is not recommended



- Spot bonding with mortar is not recommended to set tile. It may be easier to set tiles flat to each other during the installation, but it's only a matter of time before just the slightest force causes a failure!
- Unfortunately, many tiles are being installed incorrectly, especially very large tiles, and this can result in costly breakage! You get the job done more quickly, but you can't get proper mortar coverage. Air gets trapped with nowhere to go and leaves the tile unsupported.

Swirled mortar creates weak spots

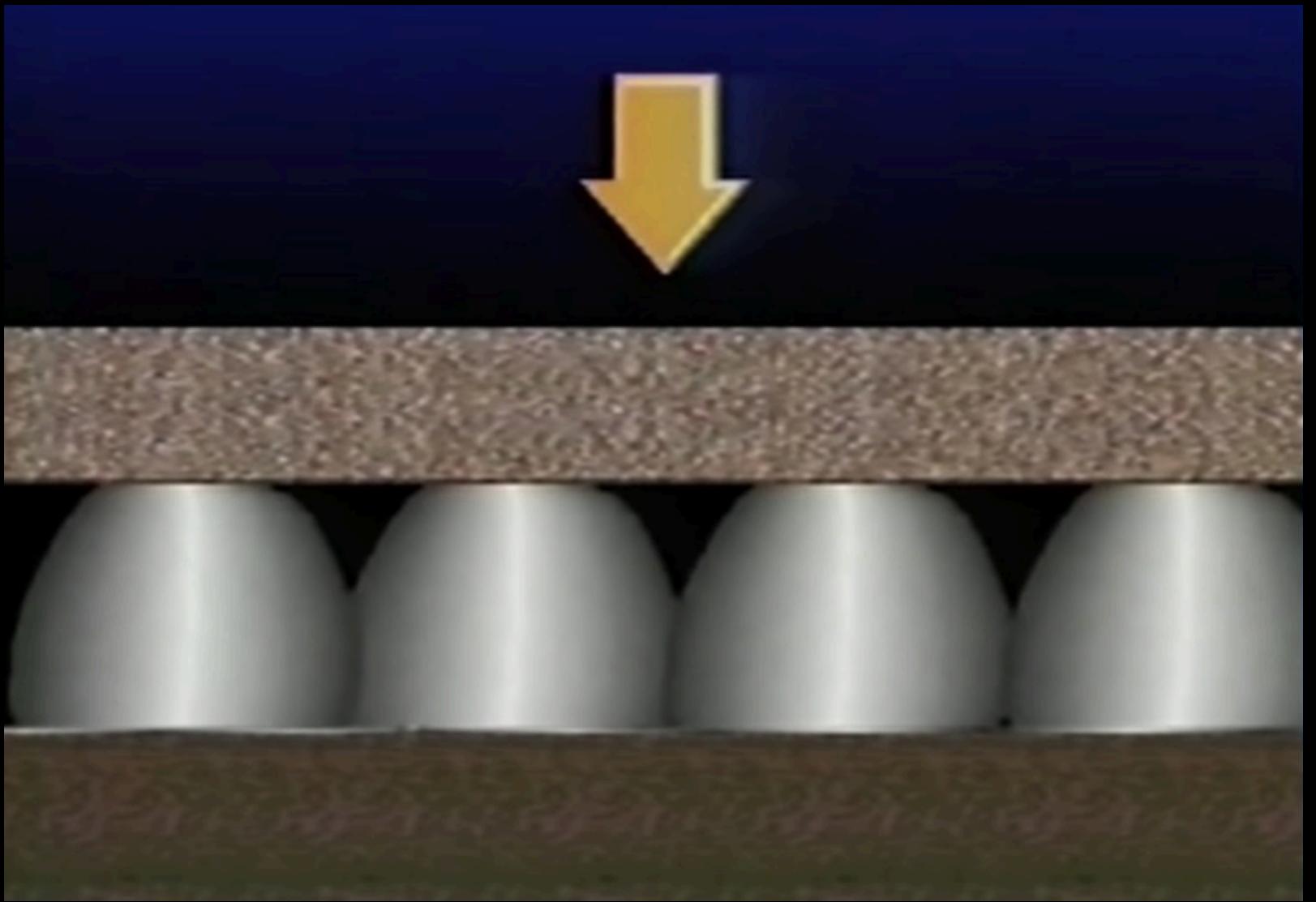


- Swirling the mortar causes voids where the tile is not bonded to the substrate. These voids can result in cracked tile and bond failure under normal use but especially under point load or impact.
- In addition to impact and heavy loading, tiles set without proper mortar coverage are more likely to fail under many conditions! To name a few - substrate deflection; shrinkage or creep; thermal expansion in high temperatures; and freeze/thaw applications.

Trowel in one direction only

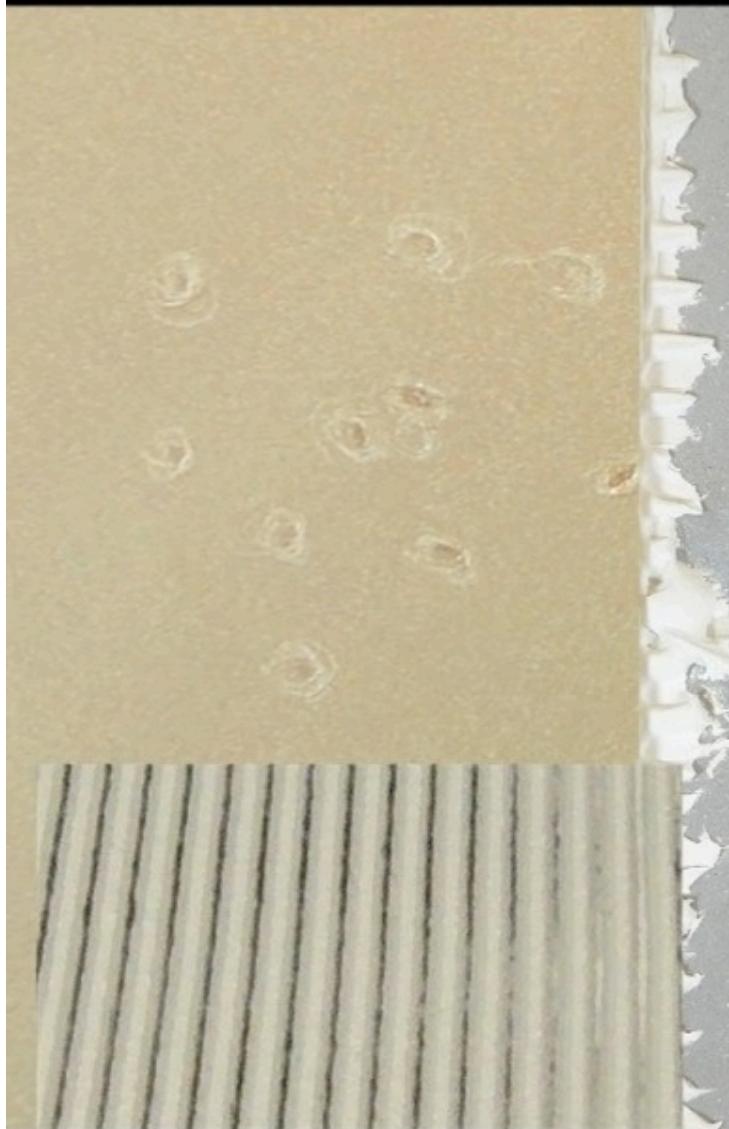


Straight lines are easier to collapse

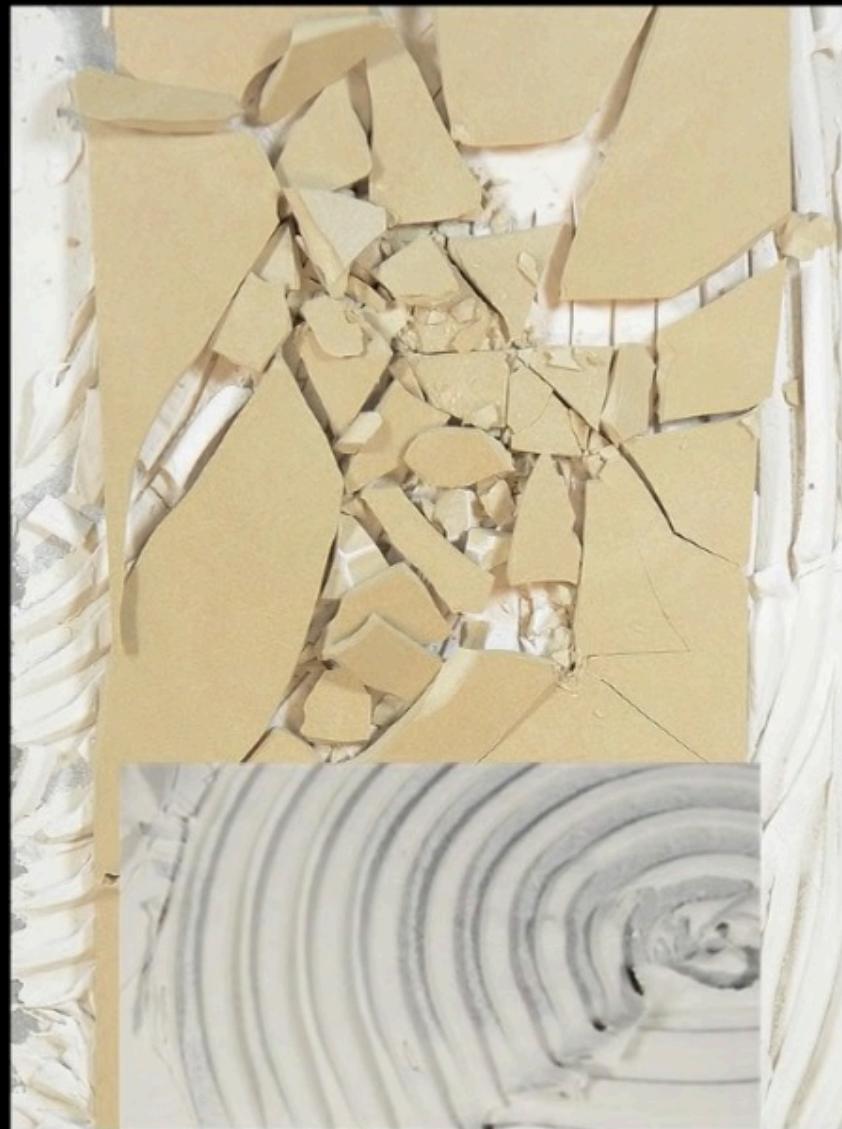


- The key to successful coverage is “Playing It Straight!” - combing the mortar in straight lines. Trowel ridges running in straight lines are much easier to collapse.
- They assist with air removal to maximize mortar coverage and ensure a strong bond to the tile and substrate. The first is to “key in” a coat of mortar into the substrate with the flat side of the trowel. Then, add more mortar to the substrate and comb the mortar in straight lines, all going in one direction. Combing the trowel ridges in straight lines provides better distribution of the mortar. With rectangular tile, trowel ridges should go across the short direction of the tile. This allows better air release when you bed the tile. Be careful not to leave any voids along chalk lines or between tiles. Larger tiles most often require deeper trowels.

See ANSI A108.5 for tile installation standards.



Straight = Correct



Swirls = Error



Spots = Error

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Back buttering is recommended for most tile



- For large format tile or any tile set on exterior surfaces, “backbuttering” the tile is recommended. Use the flat side of the trowel to get an even coat of mortar and fill all the spaces in the surface. To finish, set the tile firmly, and move it backward and forward across the trowel ridges about $1/8$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Move the tile only in one direction, perpendicular to the ridges, without moving in the opposite direction or twisting the tile.

Comb ridges across the short side of the tile



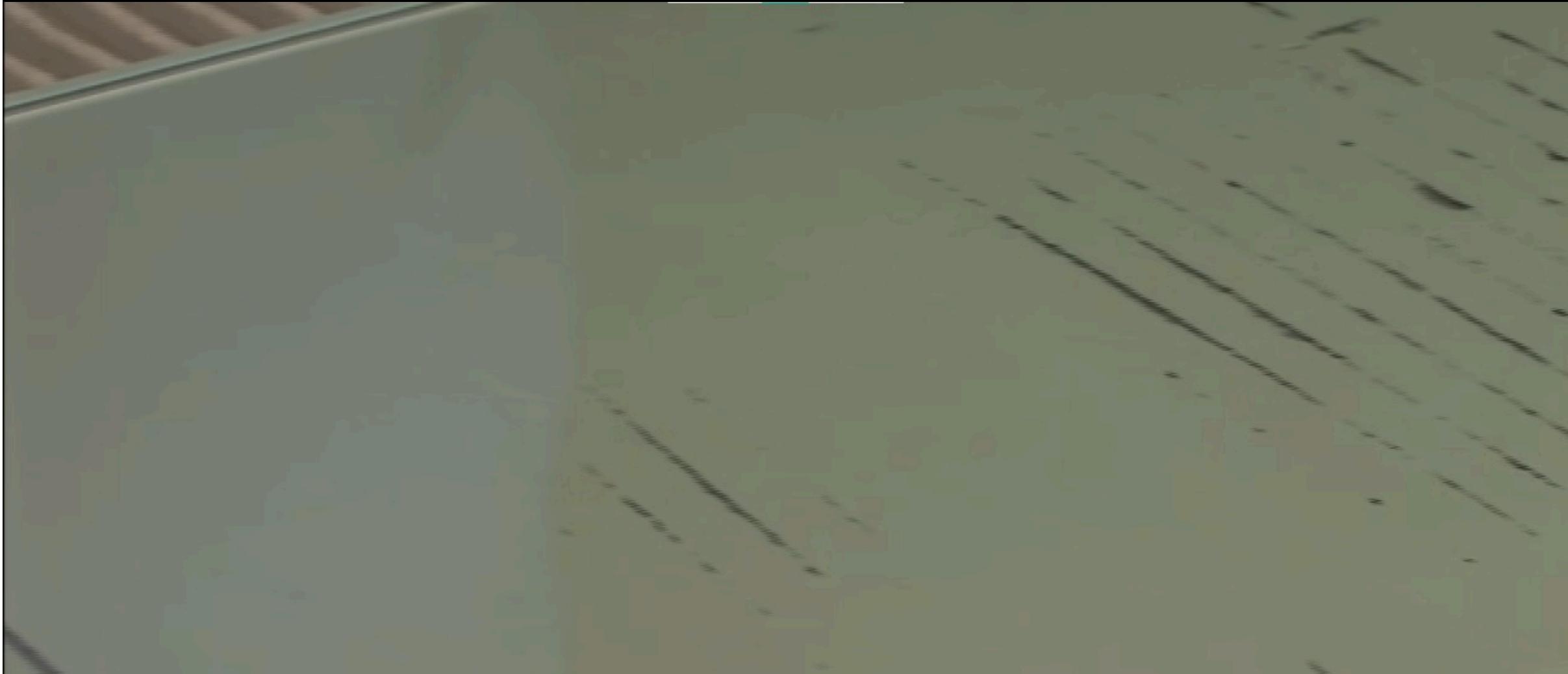
Move the tile across the trowel ridges



Periodically check for coverage



95% coverage is required as per ANSI



- When you first start setting and then periodically through the installation, remove a tile and check for coverage. Ridges should be collapsed, and you don't want the tile or the substrate to be missing mortar. Straight trowel ridges collapse with back and forth motion to eliminate voids. You will get a much stronger bond with complete mortar coverage. And remember - the larger the trowel, the more back and forth movement is needed. “Play it Straight!” and always use the recommended tile setting method!



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THANK YOU

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