



# FlexSnap™ Installation Guide for TEC®

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## MANUFACTURER

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## 1. DESCRIPTION

FlexSnap™ is a light plastic mesh used as an installation system for FLEXTHERM's Green Cable Surface heating system, which can replace the second layer of plywood for residential or light commercial interior horizontal applications with ceramic tile [www.flextherm.com](http://www.flextherm.com).

## 2. SURFACE PREPARATION

Flooring should be free from any contaminants that may inhibit bond, including oil, grease, dust, loose or peeling paint, floor finishes, waxes, etc. Minimum tensile bond strength of 72 psi (0.5 MPa) is required. Substrate temperature should be a minimum of 43°F (6°C) during application and air temperature maintained above 50°F (10°C).

Installations over exterior grade plywood or oriented strand board (OSB) require 5/8" (16 mm) single layer minimum thickness of plywood or OSB (APA Rated Sturd-I-Floor OSB, Exposure 1 or better) on bridged floor joists up to 16" on center with a maximum deflection of L/360 of the span under live load. Wood sub-flooring must be structurally sound and securely fastened with screw type or ring shank nails and adhesive. Allow a gap of 1/8" to 1/4" (3-6 mm) between sheets of plywood or OSB. Long edges of sub-floor must be tongue and groove or supported by bridging between floor joists. Refer to the American Plywood Association for industry standards and directives for further details.

Create 1/8" (3mm) wide gaps where self-leveling underlayment abuts walls, columns, and fixtures by installing a self-sticking foam weather stripping tape or damp sand (vacuum up sand after self-leveling underlayment has cured).

Install termination dams, plug all floor openings, to prevent any seepage from occurring. Use suitable TEC® surface preparation products (TEC® PerfectFinish™, TEC® VersaPatch®, TEC® Fast Set Deep Patch) to plug all floor openings, gaps and cracks.

**Surface must first be primed with TEC® Multipurpose Primer TA560 (only applies if installed with option 1).**

See Primer label for dilution ratio and application instructions. Allow primer to dry to a clear film (forced air may be used in order to speed up the drying process).

### 3. INSTALL FLEXSNAP™

After primer has dried (only applies if installed with option 1), install FlexSnap™ with FLEXTHERM's Green Surface™ heating cable per manufacturer's instructions. Technical specifications and installation instructions can be found at [www.flextherm.com](http://www.flextherm.com).

### 4. INSTALL

#### **Option 1: Install using one of the following TEC Self Leveling Underlayments:**

##### **Smooth Start™ Self Leveling Underlayment**

Standard, fast setting self leveler. For feather-edge up to 1" in a single pour.

- Low shrinkage
- Cures quickly, walkable in 2-4 hours; install most flooring after 24-48 hours; ceramic tile installation after 12-16 hours
- Extended working times for maximum usability
- Pumpable, pourable, free flowing
- Can be used over green concrete (95% or lower)
- 4,000 psi compressive strength
- Contains 25% pre-consumer recycled content and zero VOC
- Available in 50 lb. plastic bags

##### **EZ Level® Premium Self Leveling Underlayment**

Advanced performance, fast-setting self leveler. For feather-edge up to 1-1/2" in a single pour.

- Low shrinkage
- Crack resistant
- Fast curing - walkable in 2-4 hours; install permeable coverings in 6 hours; non-permeable coverings in 12-16 hours
- Extended working times for maximum usability
- Pumpable, pourable, free-flowing
- Can be used over green concrete (RH 95% or lower)
- 5100 psi compressive strength.
- Contains 10% pre-consumer recycled content and zero VOC
- Available in 50 lb. plastic bags

Install TEC® Smooth Start or E-Z Level to fill in the plastic mesh per instructions (see label and/or product data sheet for application instructions) at the minimum thickness listed below based upon the joist spacing:

Joist Spacing	Min. SLU Thickness over 5/8" subfloor
16" (40 cm) or less	3/8" (9 mm)

**Option 2: Fill in and install tiles with 1 step**

After installing FlexSnap™ per number 3 recommendations, with light pressure, spread a layer of Fast Set Ultimate Large Tile Mortar with the flat side of the trowel onto the mesh to completely fill the mesh. With the appropriate notched trowel, immediately comb in a single direction to achieve recommended mortar coverage. Place tile in the mortar using lateral movements to ensure a good bond.

**Option 3: Fill in and install tiles with 2 steps**

After installing FlexSnap™ per number 3 recommendations, with light pressure, spread a layer of Fast Set Ultimate Large Tile Mortar with the flat side of the trowel onto the mesh to completely fill the mesh. Allow the mortar to cure per the PDS before installing the tiles. Once the mortar is cured, use the appropriate notched trowel, immediately comb in a single direction to achieve recommended mortar coverage. Place tile in the mortar using lateral movements to ensure a good bond.

**5. INSTALL TILE**

After the required self leveling underlayment cure time, install tile with a premium latex modified thin set mortar from TEC® Full Flex. See mortar label and/or product data sheet for application instructions. When installing large format tiles, use one of TEC's performance non-slump/non-sag premium mortars (3N1® Performance Mortar or Ultimate Large Tile Mortar).

Movement joints in the tile work should follow TCNA guidelines EJ 171 or TTMAC's guide 09 30 00, detail 301 MJ for tile and stone. .

**6. GROUTING**

The use of TEC Power Grout™ is recommended with this system. See Power Grout label and/or product data sheet for application instructions.

**Note:** If a fast setting mortar is used for bonding tile, then grouting can occur after 3 to 4 hours. If a standard setting mortar is used, then one should wait at least 24 hours to grout floor.

For more information on TEC premium mortars and self-leveling underlayments go to [www.tecspecialty.com](http://www.tecspecialty.com).

This **Installation Guide** has been prepared in good faith, on the basis of information available to H.B. Fuller Construction Products Inc., at the time of publication. It is intended to provide users with information about and guidelines for the proper use and application of the covered TEC product(s) under normal environmental and working conditions. Because each product is different, H.B. Fuller Construction Products Inc. cannot be responsible for the consequences of variances in such conditions, or for conditions not foreseen by H.B. Fuller Construction Products Inc.