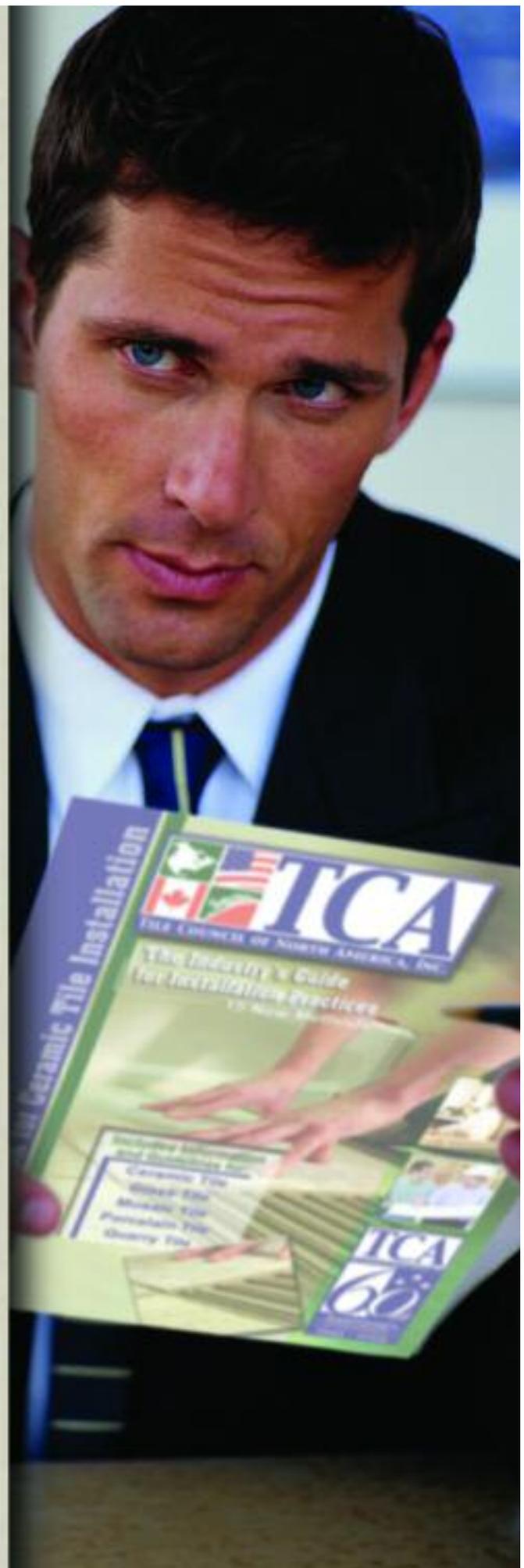


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Do you find it difficult to keep abreast of the latest in tile technology? Do you know how to install new installation systems, or when they should be used? Where do you find industry-tested, tried and true guidelines?

New Industry Guide for Ceramic Tile Installation Methods

Introduced at Coverings 2005, the 42nd edition of the Tile Council of North America's (TCNA) Handbook includes more than 300 updates, 15 new methods and three new sections – each having been reviewed by the Handbook Committee of 32 industry experts.

According to Noah Chitty, Director of Product Standards and Laboratory Services, "Each of the 15 methods is backed by

- Methods using poured gypsum
- Additional radiant heat systems
- New backerboard and plywood underlayments
- New crack-isolation methods

According to Eric Astrachan, Executive Director of the Tile Council of North America, "Not only did the Handbook Committee add 15 new methods, they also made a concerted effort to add more explanatory language and to make the book more consistent. Additionally, TCNA staff indexed the book by method number and category, added clearer drawings, larger text, and reformatted the layout significantly, all making the book more complete and easier to use."

TCNA Handbook Chosen by Industry as Consensus Guide

This industry-consensus guide is referenced in commercial and residential projects by more than 100,000 tile professionals every year.

According to Sharon Jones, TCNA's Director of Installation Standards and Research, "For more than 40 years, the Handbook has had a vital role in clarifying and identifying ceramic tile installation methods. The discussion and review process used by the Handbook Committee creates the industry consensus that the TCNA Handbook represents."

Trade Organizations Advocating Use of the Handbook

Many trade organizations are working

The Quest for Up-To-Date Installation Guidelines - 15 New Methods in the 2005 Handbook

By Shannon Woodmansee

extensive field service and laboratory testing - only methods with proven track records are considered for inclusion in the *TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation*."

Some of the changes introduced in the 2005 Handbook include (see chart for complete list of new methods):

- A glass tile section
- A porcelain tile section
- A sound-rated floors section
- Methods using cementitious self-leveler

Left: This chart summarizes the new tile installation methods in the 2005 TCNA Handbook. Refer to the 2005 Handbook for additional information regarding recommended uses, limitations, requirements, materials, preparations by other trades, movement joints, and installation specifications.

New Explanatory Sections

New information about glass tile, porcelain tile, and mounted tile is given in this edition of the Handbook. Importantly, substrate limitations are discussed and setting material recommendations are given.

An explanatory section on sound-rated floors is also included for the first time. This section reviews sound control in general, sound transmission class (STC) ratings, and impact isolation class (IIC) ratings. A discussion of STC and IIC ratings, relative to building codes, is included, as well as challenges in this area and key points to remember.

This explanatory information should allow a greater understanding of the products discussed, and can aid in selecting appropriate products and installation methods.

together to educate thousands of professionals each year about the TCNA Handbook.

"Previously, in our experience, some professionals were first introduced to the Handbook when they were being questioned about an installation failure in court," said Mr. Astrachan. "We now present over 50 seminars a year on how to use the Handbook when specifying or installing tile projects."

Professionals have the opportunity to learn about the TCNA Handbook from many sources. For example, Dal-Tile's "Architectural Sourcebook" includes a copy of the Handbook and is distributed to thousands of architects yearly. Also TCNA members Crossville, Inc., Schluter Systems, and TEC are partnering with TCNA to present AIA/CEU seminars in 34 U.S. cities this year.

According to Bart Bettiga, Executive Director of the National Tile Contractors Association, "We always teach our students to first become acquainted with the Handbook and to always be wary of alternative methods not currently supported in it. We encourage them to get written warranties when proposed methods not in the Handbook are being considered for a par-

ticular installation. We treat the Handbook as the most important document available to our members when considering the method of installation for a job."

"When contractors follow the methods outlined in the TCNA Handbook, they can feel assured they are using procedures that work and can stand the test of time. In addition, they are protecting their compa-

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2005 TCA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation

ny by having a highly reputable document in their file indicating they have followed their industry's recommended methods," concludes Mr. Bettiga.

For more information regarding how you can order a print or CD-ROM copy of the 2005 Handbook, visit www.tileusa.com or call the TCNA Headquarters at 864-646-8453. **TILE**

Editor's note: _____
For a summary of changes, please see the chart on page 38.

About the Author

Shannon Woodmansee is the Director of Membership and Public Relations for the Tile Council of North America (TCNA). TCNA publishes the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) Specifications for the Installation of Ceramic Tile and the TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation, the industry's guidelines for ceramic tile installation.