



# ELITE RTU

## PREMIUM, READY-TO-USE GROUT

- Premium ready-to-use grout
- Stain resistant, color consistent and efflorescence free
- For 1/8" (1.5 mm) to 1/2" (13 mm) grout joints
- Exceptional workability
- Ideal for luxury vinyl tile and plank (LVT/LVP)



### 1. Product Name

Merkrete® Elite RTU

### 2. Manufacturer

**ParexUSA, Inc.**

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### 3. Product Description

Merkrete® Elite RTU Grout is a premium, ready-to-use grout designed for commercial and residential installations with porcelain, ceramic and natural-stone tiles, glass tile, Gauged Porcelain Tile Panels and Slabs (GPT), luxury vinyl tile (LVT), luxury vinyl plank (LVP). Elite RTU can be used to grout interior and exterior applications, as well as intermittent wet conditions such as bathtub, surrounds, shower walls, and shower floors. It is formulated using colored quartz technology, which ensures color consistency, excellent stain resistance, ease of cleanability and improved workability. In addition, this grout will not effloresce and does not require sealing. Used for grout joints from 1/16" to 1/2" (1.5 to 13 mm).

### Uses

- For interior and exterior applications in both residential and commercial
- For grouting floors, walls, countertops, backsplashes, and intermittent wet conditions such as bathtub surrounds, shower walls and shower floors
- For joint widths from 1/16" to 1/2" (1.5 to 13 mm)
- For grouting luxury vinyl tile and plank (LVT/LVP)

### Packaging

1 Gallon (3.78 L) Pail

### Colors

Available in 14 standard colors. Refer to Merkrete grout kit or color card for actual colors.

### Shelf Life

18 months from date of production when stored in original, sealed package.



**Limitations**

- Do not use Merkrete® Elite RTU Grout below 50° F (10° C) or above 95° F (35° C)
- Do not allow grout to freeze for the first 72 hours
- Joint width should be between 1/16" and 1/2" (1.5 mm and 13 mm)
- Tile or stone with high absorption, surfaces that are porous or rough, textured surfaces and some types of porcelain tile may require sealing prior to grouting to prevent possible staining
- Not for use in complete water submerged installations such as pools and spas, waterfalls, fountains, steam showers, or other areas with standing water
- Not for use in either industrial applications or in areas subjected to harsh or continuous chemicals, high heat, or high-pressure cleaning. For heavy industrial tile installations, use Merkrete® Pro Epoxy Grout
- Not for use in movement joints or changes of plane in the tile installation. In these areas, use an appropriate caulk or sealant such as Merkrete® MK-100% Silicone Caulk

**4. Technical Data**

**Applicable Standards**

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) — ANSI A108.3\*, A118.3\*, and A118.6\* of the American National Standards for the Installation of Ceramic Tile ASTM International (ASTM)

- Ready-to-use grouts do not yet have ANSI requirements – \*Merkrete® Elite RTU Grout meets specific tests in ANSI A118.3 and A118.6 covering other grout types.
- Resilient Floor Covering Institute - (RFCI) Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings
- Tile Council of North America (TCNA) - TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation, TCNA EJ171 Movement Joint Guidelines.

**Technical Chart**

Property	Test Method	Requirement	Typical Results
Vertical Sag in Joints	A118.3	No noticeable change in joint shape	Pass
Cleanability	A118.3	ANSI A118.3	Pass
Chemical Resistance	A118.3	Conforms to ASTM C267	Pass (see table below)
Compressive Strength @ 28 days	A118.6*	> 3,000 psi	> 3,000 psi
Hardness at 72 Hours	Shore A	---	85

\* Modified ANSI method: 28 days at 73°F (23°C) in a grout joint.

**Stain Resistance\*\***

Property	Typical Results
Coke	Pass
Red wine	Pass
Mustard	Pass
Ketchup	Pass
Olive oil	Pass
Canola oil	Pass
Coffee	Pass

\*\* Stain resistance at 10 minutes – water cleaning only.

**Chemical Resistance (ASTM C267)\*\*\***

Chemical Resistance	Typical Results
Bleach 3%	Pass
Sulfamic acid 3%	Pass
Sulfamic acid 10%	Pass
Potassium Hydroxide 3%	Pass
Ammonium chloride 3%	Pass
Ammonium chloride 10%	Pass
Acetic acid 3%	Pass
Acetic acid 10%	Pass
Muriatic acid 3%	Pass
Muriatic acid 10%	Pass
Citric acid 3%	Pass
Citric acid 10%	Pass
Ammonia 30%	Pass
Ammonia 3%	Pass

\*\*\* Testing conducted after 28-day full cure, with 24-hour full immersion.

**Environmental Consideration**

Merkrete is committed to environmental responsibility in both products produced and in manufacturing practices. Complete the LEED Product Data Request Form SikaTile.com for detailed information based on project location. Use of this product can contribute towards LEED® certification:

- Up to 2 points towards MR Credit 5, Regional Materials
- Up to 1 point towards IEQ Credit 4.1, Low-Emitting Materials – Adhesives & Sealants



## 5. Installation

### Surface Preparation

For best results, the temperature of the substrate or tile must be between 50°F and 95°F (10°C and 35°C) while grouting. For proper curing, maintain this temperature range for 72 hours after application. Before grouting, make sure that the tiles or stones are firmly set and that the adhesive or mortar is completely dry and remove all spacers. 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 tile depth is left available for grouting. Clean the tile or stone surface to remove dust, dirt, mortar, adhesive and other contaminants that may cause grout discoloration.

### Mixing

No mixing required.

### Application

Read all installation instructions before installation and reference ANSI A108.10-1999. Slightly moisten the tile surface with a damp, rounded grout sponge just before application. Force the grout into the joints with a medium-to-hard rubber float held at a 45-degree angle to the tile surface. Make sure all joints are full and are free of voids and gaps. Remove excess grout from the tile surface, holding the float at an almost 90-degree angle to the surface and moving the float diagonally to the joints while the grout is still fresh. Ensure grout surface is flush with the tile edge. Once grouting is complete, replace the protective plastic inner lid in the pail by pushing down until it contacts the unused grout. Make sure the plastic lid is closed tightly and the product is good for reuse.

### Clean-Up

Cleaning should begin after the surface begins to dry and skin-over, usually within 5 to 10 minutes, depending on ambient conditions and the porosity of the tile. Grout areas between 25 and 40 sq. ft. (2.3 to 3.7 m<sup>2</sup>) at a time so that cleaning can begin before the grout dries on the tile surface. Using a damp, rounded grout sponge, move across the tile surface in a circular motion to loosen grout and to shape the joints. Drag a clean, damp sponge diagonally across the tile joints, applying light pressure. Use one side of the sponge for each pass over the tile, rinsing the sponge after the second pass. Change the water bucket frequently to prevent the development of a haze on the tile surface. If grout residue is observed on the tile surface, a final wash can be performed about 1 hour after the initial wash. Use clean water and a clean, white, damp nylon scrub pad to loosen any remaining grout residue and a moistened sponge to remove the residue. Do not leave standing water on grout surface during clean-up.

### Final Clean Up

After 24 hours, the grout installation can be cleaned with clean water. Cleaning with acid is not recommended.

### Movement Joints

All expansion, control, construction, cold, saw-cut, isolation, contraction, and seismic joints in the structure should continue through the tilework, including such joints at vertical surfaces, as specified per TCNA Method EJ171 or TTMAC Specification Guide 09 30 00, Detail 301MJ.

### Protection

Do not disturb grout or walk over installed tiles for at least 24 hours after setting. Do not allow heavy traffic over installed tiles for at least 72 hours after setting. For residential showers and tub surrounds, restrict use for 72 hours after grouting. Do not allow dirt or debris to become embedded in the grout joints as they are curing.

### Cleaning

Clean tools and tile with water before the material dries.

## 6. Availability and Cost

### Availability

Merkrete® Elite RTU is available at most leading tile distributors and installation shops. Contact Merkrete or visit our website for the name of the nearest dealer at [www.merkrete.com](http://www.merkrete.com).

### Cost

Contact your local Merkrete distributor or dealer in your area.

## 7. Warranty

5-year, 10-year and Limited Lifetime warranties are available. Contact Merkrete Technical Services or visit our website for specific warranty information. Merkrete warrants that this product meets applicable ANSI standards in force at the time of manufacture.

## 8. Maintenance

Sealing is not required. Grout must be fully cured for 21 days before regular cleaning. 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 chemical cleaners 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.



### 9. Technical Services

Merkrete technical field representatives are available throughout the country. Call Technical Services at 800-226-2424 for the nearest representative.

### 10. Filing Systems

Merkrete architectural product information is available either in catalog form, or electronically on our website at [www.merkrete.com](http://www.merkrete.com).

### Coverage

\*Grout coverage in sq. ft. (m2) per 1 Gallon Pail (3.78 l)

TILE SIZE	GROUT JOINT WIDTH					
	1/16" (1.5 mm)	1/8" (3 mm)	3/16" (4.5 mm)	1/4" (6 mm)	3/8" (10 mm)	1/2" (12 mm)
2" x 2" x 1/4" (50 x 50 x 6 mm)	103 (9.6)	50 (4.7)	33 (3.1)	24 (2.2)	15 (1.4)	11 (1.0)
4-1/4" x 4-1/4" x 1/4" (108 x 108 x 6 mm)	221 (20.5)	109 (10.1)	72 (6.7)	54 (5.0)	35 (3.3)	26 (2.4)
6" x 6" x 1/4" (150 x 150 x 6 mm)	313 (29.1)	155 (14.4)	103 (9.6)	77 (7.2)	50 (4.7)	37 (3.4)
8" x 8" x 3/8" (200 x 200 x 10 mm)	278 (25.8)	138 (12.8)	91 (8.5)	68 (6.3)	45 (4.2)	33 (3.1)
12" x 12" x 3/8" (300 x 300 x 10 mm)	417 (38.7)	208 (19.3)	138 (12.8)	103 (9.6)	68 (6.3)	50 (4.7)
24" x 6" x 3/8" (610 x 150 x 10 mm)	334 (31.0)	166 (15.4)	110 (10.2)	82 (7.6)	54 (5.0)	40 (3.7)
24" x 12" x 3/8" (610 x 300 x 10 mm)	557 (51.7)	278 (25.8)	184 (17.1)	138 (12.8)	91 (8.5)	68 (6.3)

\*Coverage shown is for estimating purposes only. Actual coverage may vary due to installation techniques and actual tile types and sizes used on the job.

The Joint Width number represents the number of pounds per square feet.

For more information visit [www.merkrete.com/grout\\_calculator.shtml](http://www.merkrete.com/grout_calculator.shtml).



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