



Project Spotlight

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA



INTERIOR PROJECT:

USI Health & Professions Building

INSTALLATION FIRM:

Fulton Tile & Stone

Evansville, IN

ADHESIVE:

Bosti-Set™

Thin Porcelain Tile
Adhesive & Sound
Reduction Membrane

INSTALLER TESTIMONIAL

Danny Fulton, VP of Fulton Tile & Stone

"As a business owner, I'm always looking for efficiencies that are time and cost saving. Ultimately, we decided to work with this newer product, Bosti-Set™. Even though it is a bit more costly than other products, we may have saved close to \$5000 just by using it. And that number is very conservative."

CHALLENGE

- Install 2,500 square feet of gauged porcelain panels for a commercial kitchen classroom
- 70 gauged porcelain panels to install
- Faster, more efficient method of installation desired

SOLUTION

- Bostik Bosti-Set™ for panel installation:
 - Faster installation with 0 VOC product
 - No mixing needed
 - No dust, water, mixing or electricity required during installation
 - 80% less weight than conventional mortars

RESULT

- Faster installation — 30 minute time-saving per panel vs. conventional mortars
- No mixing required — open and go, offering the customer a better experience
- Panels can be installed in roughly half the time, even with a smaller work crew
- Sound reduction as a result of Thickness Control™ Spacer Technology found in Bosti-Set™ adhesive

For more information about Bosti-Set™ please visit:
www.bostik.com/us/bosti-set

BOSTIK PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA, HEALTH & PROFESSIONS BUILDING

GAUGING SAVINGS

USI Porcelain Panel Project Saves Time & Money

"We were able to prove to all our installers that not only was Bosti-Set™ easier to use than traditional mortars, it allowed them to finish projects earlier and the move on to the next one. I think they were all very much sold! Fulton Tile & Stone has begun to use Bosti-Set™ on a regular basis for other gauged porcelain panel projects we have in the queue, including 'phase two' at the University of Southern Indiana facility."

Danny Fulton, VP of Fulton Tile & Stone

More than three decades ago, global tile manufacturers introduced through-body porcelain tile, and it quickly and seemingly became the industry's cure-all. Being more molecularly compact than typical glazed ceramic tile, it offered the same durability and resistance to moisture as solid granite, and at a lesser price-point.

Over the years, porcelain formats morphed into gargantuan tile sizes as large as 36" x 48". And these tiles were no longer just "through-body" versions. Advanced inkjet printing processes were developed that actually gave the tiles both "looks" and textures resulting in it being almost impossible to discern whether or not they were true natural materials. This printing procedure is not just a thin topcoat. Airports around the globe, for example, which have tens of thousands of people walking across their terminal floors pulling wheeled luggage on a daily basis, have been successful with their specification of HD printed, porcelain flooring.

What was next in the world of porcellanato? In the last few years, a new phenomenon has appeared, now termed "gauged porcelain panels." These are extremely large tile slabs, produced with fine porcelain clay, manufactured to minimal tile thickness without compromising the performance levels inherent to porcelain tile. Visionary architects are specifying this material for a myriad of applications, including installation directly over existing tile (which means the arduous, messy, time-consuming and disruptive process of removing ceramic tile can be eliminated), as monolithic-appearing wall applications, and to perform as exterior cladding. Relative to vertical installations, one of the few disadvantages of "regular" porcelain tile is weight. Gauged porcelain panels have become the ideal alternative, because when installed correctly, due to much lighter weight, various structural components can be reduced, saving a great deal of installation time and out-of-pocket money. A good example of this took place recently at the University of Southern Indiana's Health & Professions Building.

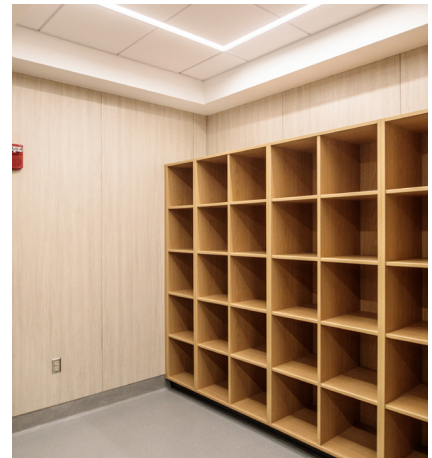
Crossville's Laminam gauged porcelain panels were specified for this interior project, which consisted of 2,500 square feet of wall space for a commercial kitchen classroom.

"Originally, we bid the job to be tiled using a traditional mortar system. Adam Abell, our Bostik representative, came in and asked if we would consider an alternative installation system that offered a host of benefits," stated Danny Fulton, Vice President of Evansville, IN-based Fulton Tile & Stone. "We were ready to begin the project, but because of our strong rapport with Adam, we granted him some presentation time that included having our Crossville representative, Tony Davis attending along with our team. I had no idea of what Bosti-Set™ was, or what it could do. But in retrospect, granting Adam time to showcase his new product proved be one of the best decisions we've made in a long time!"

Abell demonstrated how projects calling for gauged porcelain panels could be installed in roughly half the time, even with a smaller crew. He showed how Bosti-Set™ immediately grabbed porcelain tile panels in a single coat, did not allow any sag, yet made it possible for these panels to be "repositionable" for at least 30 minutes. "As a business owner, I'm always looking for efficiencies that are time saving and cost saving," added Fulton. "Ultimately, we decided to work with this newer product.

"We had a lot to learn," Fulton continued, "as the panels basically had to be 'picked up' using suction cups with aluminum spines, not unlike the way glass panels are installed. A single layer of adhesive is troweled only onto the back of the panel, cutting the square footage necessary to trowel in half. This also cuts down on weight and deadline stress on our installers."

Fulton went on to state that he was so captivated by this project, he followed every step to measure the overall savings. "There is no mixing needed with this system," he mentioned. "It's just 'open and go.' Other systems require a 50 lb. bag of thin-set per panel. This project had 70 panels to install, and I estimated that without mixing, we could roughly save 30 minutes per panel on the installation alone, not to mention the mixing time and chasing water that was completely eliminated. Ultimately, for this 2,500 square foot project, even though Bosti-Set™ is a bit more costly than other products, we may have saved close to \$5,000 just by using it. And, that number is very conservative!"



He added that the project worked out so well, “Fulton Tile & Stone has begun to use Bosti-Set™ on a regular basis for other projects we have in the queue, including ‘phase two’ at the USI facility.”

Gauged porcelain panels have certainly become the rage. According to Martin Howard, Executive Vice President of David Allen Company and current President of the National Tile Contractors Association, “This newer product offering has been accepted in the marketplace because, in particular, architects and designers see the advantages offered by a large panel format that is much lighter in weight than other high-performance surfacing options. And due to their expansive size, there are less grout joints visible. That means a wall application, for example, can give the appearance of stone veneer at a lower price point, because single slab appearance is now possible.”

“You can’t learn how to use the system overnight,” declared Fulton. “So, we decided to have all of our installers take as much time to learn this system as they needed. Both Bostik and Crossville helped us with educating our team at optimal levels. Generally in our business, some of the more seasoned installers want to stick with methods they’ve used in the past. I thoroughly understand that. But when we were able to prove to all our installers that not only was Bosti-Set™ easier to use, it allowed them to finish projects earlier and the move on to the next one. I think they were all very much sold!”

Fulton Tile & Stone depends upon its major distributor, Louisville Tile for the great percentage of tile and sundry

materials used in the many installations for which the firm is engaged. Don Kincaid, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Louisville Tile, believes gauged porcelain tile panels have a very, very bright future. “In particular for the commercial sector, these materials are gaining more and more acceptance. Designs calling for gauged porcelain, at this early stage of its existence, most likely are coming from savvy architectural designers who understand it doesn’t just add a monolithic look due to having minimal grout lines. It offers many more solutions, one being because it is so much lighter in weight than natural stone, it can be directly installed on vertical surfaces as a viable alternative. And, because of the realism generated by today’s amazing high-definition inkjet printing processes, very few people will not know the product isn’t an actual stone slab.

“We also believe,” continued Kincaid, “that gauged panels will soon be specified on a regular basis for residential applications, one example being shower walls. Forward-minded installation professionals such as those at Fulton Tile & Stone, understand how glass panels are adhered to walls, and will continue to embrace the best ways in which to install these products. Now that there is a product such as Bosti-Set™, which offers so many installation performance benefits, we at Louisville Tile are even more positive about this product category.”

Kincaid was also extremely positive about the University of Southern Indiana gauged porcelain panel project. “And why not?” he declared. “That’s my alma mater!”

Quick Link:
bostik.com/bosti-set



Smart help:
1-800-726-7845

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