

**GROUT DEFORMATION CAPACITY: HOW TO MEASURE?**

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**ABSTRACT**

Grout is one of the ceramic tile system components, which can be responsible for many of the pathological manifestations occurring in ceramic tiles of building façades, such as fissures and ceramic tile displacement. These pathologies can be directly related to grout ability of absorbing, or not, forces faced by ceramic tile system. This paper aims at discussing how to measure grout deformation capacity, since a standardized test method is not available yet from ABNT (Brazilian Society for Standardization). The adopted methodology comprised three steps, namely: literature review, study of major test methods used to measure mortar deformations and critical analysis of such test methods. As a result, some concepts related to the grout deformation were observed to be misused, like for instance, the term “flexible”, and current test methods not to be appropriated for grout deformation capacity measurement.

**Key words:** grout, ceramic tile system, modulus of deformation, test methods