Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How high on a structure can Ceramitex® be installed?**
   Ceramitex can be installed to unlimited heights. It has surpassed NFPA 285 and CAN/ULC S134-92 testing allowing for multi-storey construction.

2. **How true does a building have to be to use Ceramitex in a retrofit?**
   Depending on the conditions in a retrofit, adjustable girts allow Ceramitex to be maneuvered to bring the wall out to plumb.

3. **What is the minimum cavity spacing between exterior wall and panel system?**
   A minimum of 1" (25mm) spacing behind the panel system is required to allow for furring channels or adjustable sub-girts. If there's insulation within the wall assembly, adjust the cavity depth accordingly.

4. **What is the minimum and maximum joint width between panels?**
   Standard joint spacing is 1/2" (13mm) however custom widths are possible.

5. **Can brackets for the sub-girt system be installed with wood stud framing?**
   Yes. Review by an engineer for exact anchoring depths would be required.

6. **If the sub-girt system is installed with wood studs, are there any expansion or contraction implications that could lead to performance issues?**
   The system allows for some movement through the joints. There are no performance issues when installed using wood studs. All subframing should be approved by a local licensed professional engineer.

7. **When are stiffeners required? How far are they spaced?**
   Typically, stiffeners are required when the smaller dimension of the panel exceeds 51" (1295mm) and are generally spaced 24" (600mm) center to center. Final requirements vary based on local building codes and engineer specifications.

8. **What is the largest allowable clip attachment spacing?**
   Typical spacing for system clips is 16" - 24" (400-600mm) center to center. This may however vary based on panel size. Contact your representative for more information.

9. **Is there a wind load/wind zone matrix for Ceramitex?**
   Each project is unique. Most state and provincial building codes have wind load matrices used to calculate stiffeners. Panel load table available upon request.

10. **What is the Coefficient of Linear Thermal Expansion (CLTE) for the Ceramitex panel?**
    The CLTE is measured according to the UNE-EN ISO 10545-8 standard. CLTE differs slightly from color to color. Whiter colors have a lower CLTE (Artic White 5.2 10^{-6} Celsius) than darker colors (Nero 6.3 10^{-6} Celsius). The rest of the colors are within this range. The panel system at maximum length 11'10" (3600mm) has a movement capacity within the structural silicone to accommodate the difference in coefficient of thermal expansion between the aluminum frame and the SCS veneer from -30°C to +70°C.

11. **What is the best practice for sealing the holes in the weather barrier created by affixing the L-bracket?**
    Use of self-sealing weather barrier is recommended. Always follow the manufacturers' recommendations for proper use.

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12. Are there special installation instructions for curtain walls or deflection points?
There are no special installation instructions when there is an adjacent curtain wall. The panel system is designed to be independent of the curtain wall. Installation at deflection points varies depending on the project. For information specific to your project, talk to your Elemex® representative.

13. What colors and textures are available?
The panels are typically available in satin, silk, polished and river-washed textures. Color selection and availability may change. Contact your representative for standard colors and sizes.

14. Are custom colors available?
Custom colors, sizing and finishes are available on projects over 43,000 square feet or for image programs.

15. What is the pattern repetition on Ceramitex surface material?
Some finishes may or may not have a repeating pattern. When working with a finish that does have a repeating pattern, we can rotate and offset individual panels to randomize this repeat. Also, several finishes will have book-matched finishes to complement randomization or repetitiveness even further.

16. How is the Ceramitex surface material manufactured?
A combination of raw, natural materials goes through a press, where pressure up to 400 bars (approximately 5,800 pound-force per square inch) is applied. The slabs are then placed in an oven where they are cooked at temperatures of more than 1,200°C (2,192°F). Mesh is then bonded to the back of the slab for additional stability and impact safety.

17. What is the makeup of the mesh and adhesive?
Fiberglass reinforcing mesh is embedded in a two-component polyurethane adhesive system (NEOPUR 268OL + ADIFLEX 2681). The desired thickness is attained using robotic equipment.

18. What type of paint is used on the extrusions?
There are three types of coatings used on the extrusions: 1) Standard black extrusions are two-stage black anodized (electrochemical process); 2) Standard white extrusions or other colors use a PVDF coating (polyvinylidene fluoride) which is used in combination with Alodine, a clear color coating used behind silicone contact areas.

19. Is Ceramitex environmentally-sensitive?
Ceramitex material is 100% recyclable. The recyclable frame extrusions are made of aluminum alloy. The aluminum alloy is weather– and UV–resistant and non-corrosive giving it a very long lifespan.

20. What is the product lead time?
Inventory finishes require four to six weeks to fabricate and ship provided there are accurate site dimensions. For the complete time frame, ask your representative for our order process document.

21. Why is Ceramitex a better option than traditional or simulated stone?
It is non-porous, 20-25% of the weight of traditional stone, won't stain and has no maintenance.

22. Why is Ceramitex better than other traditional cladding materials?
It is non-combustible, non-porous and grafitti/scratch proof. Ceramitex is all natural and will not change in appearance over time.

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ELXD-002/11-18