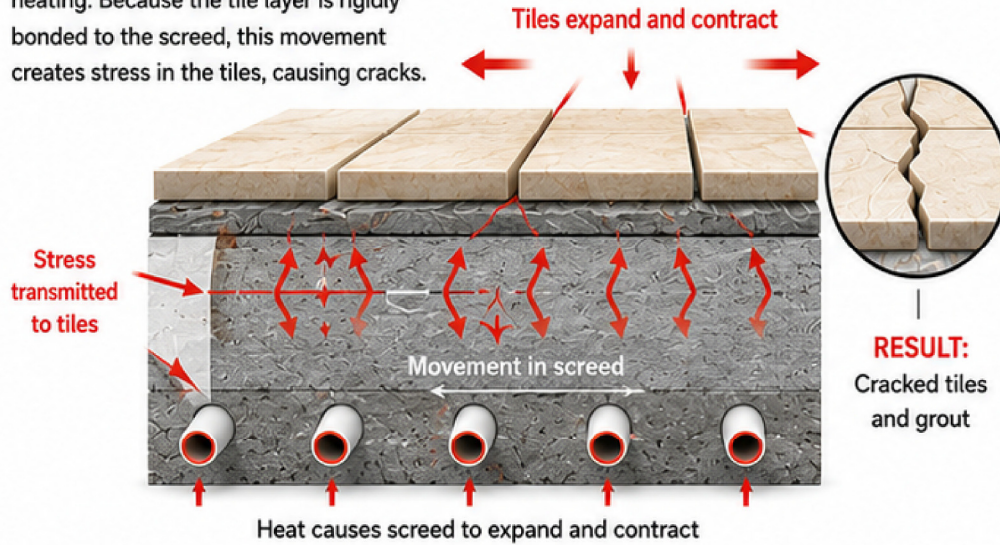


HOW A DECOUPLING MAT STOPS TILES FROM CRACKING

on a Screed with Water Fed Underfloor Heating

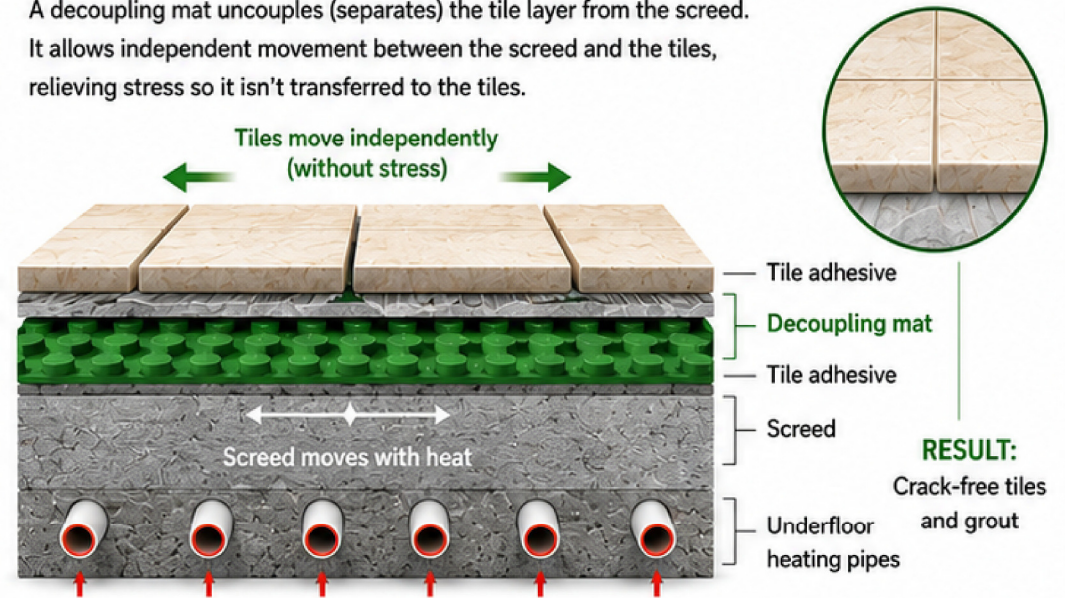
THE PROBLEM WITHOUT A DECOUPLING MAT

Screed and tiles expand and contract with temperature changes from the underfloor heating. Because the tile layer is rigidly bonded to the screed, this movement creates stress in the tiles, causing cracks.



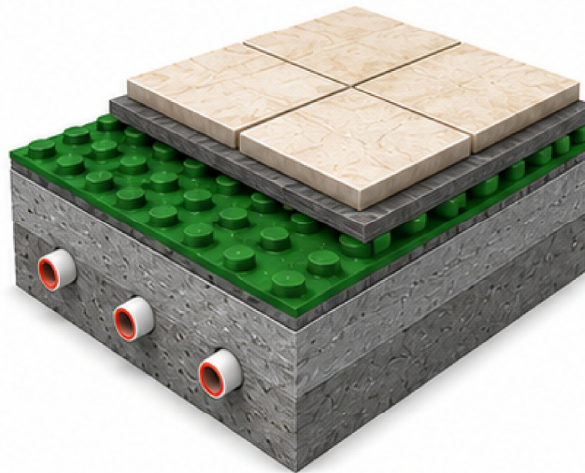
THE SOLUTION WITH A DECOUPLING MAT

A decoupling mat uncouples (separates) the tile layer from the screed. It allows independent movement between the screed and the tiles, relieving stress so it isn't transferred to the tiles.



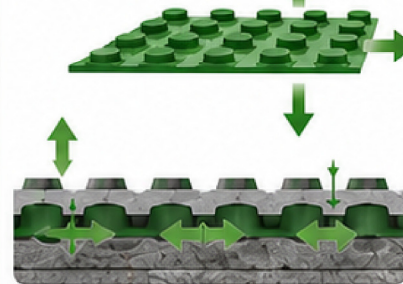
HOW IT WORKS

- 1 The underfloor heating warms the screed, causing it to expand and contract.
- 2 The decoupling mat is not bonded to the screed, so it can move with it.
- 3 The mat has a cavity/shape that allows movement in multiple directions and relieves stress.
- 4 The tile layer above the mat is supported but not rigidly connected, so it stays crack-free.



MOVEMENT ABSORPTION

The mat allows horizontal (in-plane) and shear movement between layers.



KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ Prevents tile and grout cracking
- ✓ Accommodates movement from heating cycles and building movement
- ✓ Suitable for large format tiles
- ✓ Improves durability and longevity of the tile installation
- ✓ Works over new screeds and existing substrates

SUMMARY



Heat causes movement in the screed



Decoupling mat absorbs and isolates the movement



Stress is not transferred to the tiles



Tiles stay beautiful for years