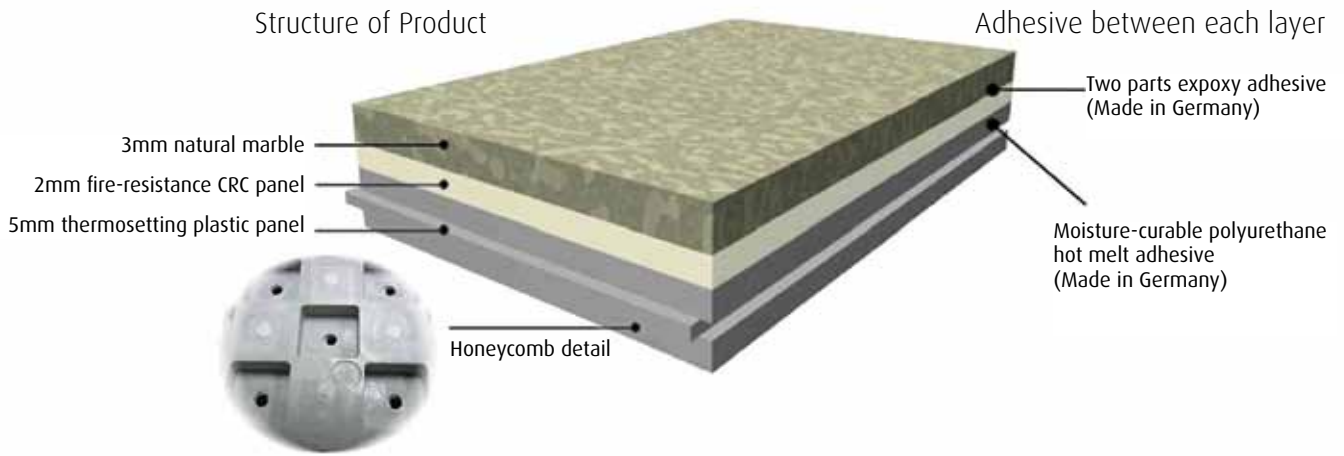


tongue & groove tiling systems



Laying stone the easy way

The development of innovative tiling products and systems never stops. Builders and developers are always on the lookout for new products that can get the job done more effectively and quickly. **Easystone** – lay up to 80 metres of marble in a day!

Global sales exceed US\$130 million in two years.

Leading local wholesaler Peter Maniscalco recently discovered Easystone a Tongue and Groove (T&G) tiling system which will, in optimum conditions, permit two men to lay approximately 80 square metres of marble per day. A wide range of popular marbles are available. In 2011 porcelain and granite versions of the product will be launched by exclusive distributor Maniscalco Australia.

Easystone was developed in South Korea by Easytech Industries. The product has been tried and tested in a number of countries including United Arab Emirates, Japan, Singapore and Russia. Since the launch in 2008 worldwide sales of Easystone have exceeded USD\$130 million.

Easystone is currently available in 300 x 600mm and 150 x 600mm T&G panels which are laid in thin-set adhesive.

How Does it Work?

Each Easystone panel consists of:

- 3mm natural marble (pre-sealed)
- 2mm fire resistant CRC panel
- 5mm thermosetting honeycomb T&G plastic
- Layers adhered with German 2 part epoxy and moisture curable polyurethane hot melt adhesive, between layers.

Recently completed projects include a total of 2500 high end apartments in Ilsan City, and Suji City, Seoul, South Korea. Hyundai Construction Co Ltd and Lianwha Construction Co Ltd are currently installing Easystone in several important developments.

The chief advantages of the rapid lay T&G system are:

- Lightweight; only **14 kgs per square metre**
- Reduced transportation and handling costs on site
- Up to 80 square metres per day installed
- Can be laid in rapid set, thin-set adhesive
- Labour costs dramatically reduced, when laid on a solid substrate
- No grout required
- Marble is factory pre-sealed using a high grade Italian product.

Tile layers and stonemasons will find that Easystone panels interlock seamlessly to create a hard wearing marble floor which is free of lipping and low in maintenance.

Design potential is enhanced by the availability of various laying patterns, and a number of pre-cut decorative inlays. The finished height of 10mm will provide a smooth transition from tile to timber or carpet.

The compact Easystone system provides increased impact resistance and strength, efficient thermal conductivity and excellent acoustic properties, which are enhanced by the three layer structure which reduces sound transfer.

Maniscalco Australia Product Manager Kieron Wiley said, "The Easystone system is up there with the most innovative and exciting developments I have seen in my 30 plus years in this industry. Easystone has the ability to deliver beautiful results coupled with significant cost savings in both domestic and commercial, stone floor and wall installations".

Easystone will reduce material and labour costs, which will make natural stone a more affordable option. The projected release of T&G porcelain and granite surfaces in 2011 will provide specifiers with wider opportunities to use these resilient lightweight products.

Maniscalco Australia is seeking distributors in all states and territories in Australia with the exception of New South Wales and Queensland and in New Zealand.

Easystone also has great potential as a DIY product. **TT**

