Areas of Use for Schluter Profiles

Schluter-Systems manufactures profiles in several materials and finishes. The following information is designed to aid in selecting a profile finish/material based on the intended environment.

Schluter profiles are resistant to most chemicals encountered in tiled environments. In special cases, the suitability of a proposed type of material must be verified based on the anticipated chemical, mechanical, and/or other stresses. Please note that all profiles must be tested to verify their suitability if chemical stresses are anticipated.

Aluminum (A)

Suited for interior dry areas not exposed to water, steam, etc. No exterior usage. Aluminum is sensitive to alkaline substances. Exposure to alkali may result in corrosion. Therefore, it is important to remove mortar or grout residue from visible surfaces. Aluminum will tarnish under normal conditions. Oxidation films on exposed aluminum can be removed by using a conventional polishing agent but will form again.

Anodized aluminum (AE)

Suited for interior dry or wet areas. Not recommended in exterior applications as the anodized layer is not color-stable and may fade. Susceptible to scratching and wear and may be damaged by grout or setting materials.

Color-coated aluminum (AC) & Textured color-coated aluminum (TS)

Suited for interior and exterior areas in both dry and wet environments that are not exposed to mechanical or chemical stresses. The profiles are pretreated (chromated) aluminum that is color-coated with a polyurethane powder coat. The coating is color-stable and UV-resistant.

Solid brass (M)

Suited for interior and exterior applications. Solid brass can sustain high mechanical stresses, as well as most chemicals commonly encountered in tiled environments. Solid brass that is exposed to air will oxidize, resulting in a natural patina. If exposed to moisture or aggressive substances, heavy oxidation and spotting may occur.

Chrome-plated brass (MC)

Suited for interior wall applications. Surface areas must be protected against abrasion or scratching.

PVC or polyvinyl chloride/Soft PVC or soft polyvinyl chloride (P)

Suited for interior dry or wet areas where limited mechanical stresses are expected. PVC is not completely UV stable; therefore, it is not intended to be used in exterior applications. Soft PVC is used in several Schluter Systems movement joints which are not to be used outside due to the possibility of the material shrinking when exposed to direct sunlight or harsh weather conditions. Refer to the Movement Joints data sheet or Illustrated Price List for material properties.

Stainless steel (E, EB)

Suited for interior, exterior, dry, or wet areas. Stainless steel is the recommended choice for exterior applications, if available. Also used in areas where high mechanical stresses are expected and/or applications requiring resistance against chemicals and acids. Typically, the profiles are formed using stainless steel 304 (1.4301 = V2A). For more severe chemical exposure, such as de-icing salts and chemicals used in swimming pools, we recommend the use of stainless steel 316 L (1.4404 = V4A). Even stainless steel cannot withstand all chemical exposures, such as hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, or certain chlorine, chloride, and brine concentrations.

Thermoplastic rubber

Suited for interior and exterior applications. This material is also suitable for swimming pool applications and can be used in environments that mechanical and/or chemical stresses are expected. Used in several Schluter Systems movement joints and stair nosing profiles, the insert is resistant to aging, weather, UV-rays, and ozone within a temperature range of -76 °F (-60 °C) to 212 °F (100 °C).

CPE (chlorinated polyethylene)

Suited for interior and exterior applications involving both dry and/or wet conditions and swimming pool applications. CPE is UV stable. CPE is used in several Schluter Systems movement joints. Refer to the Movement Joints data sheet or Illustrated Price List for material properties.

Mineral grain

Suited for interior or exterior applications, except for the transparent tread, which has limited UV resistance and is intended for interior use only. Mineral grain coated treads are resistant to heavy mechanical stresses and can withstand chemical stresses typically encountered in tiled environments.

Note: Refer to the appropriate Schluter technical data sheet for full details on proper material usage and maintenance/installation instructions. Please note that profiles must be tested to verify their suitability if chemical, mechanical, and/or other stresses are anticipated. Be cautious of incorporating dissimilar metals into assemblies and the effect (i.e., galvanic action) that these metals could have while encountering one another. A link to this entry is provided in the *References* section.

Schluter Profile Material and Environment Table:

Material	Environment					
	Interior	Exterior	Swimming Pools	Mechanical	Chemical	Wet
Aluminum (A)	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Anodized aluminum (AE)	✓	X	X	X	X	✓
Color-coated aluminum (AC) & Textured color-coated aluminum (TS)	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Solid brass (M)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X
Chrome-plated brass (MC)	✓	X	X	X	X	✓
PVC or polyvinyl chloride/Soft PVC or soft polyvinyl chloride (P)	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓
Stainless steel (E,EB) 304 (V2A)	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Stainless steel (E,EB) 316 (V4A)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thermoplastic rubber	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CPE (chlorinated polyethylene)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Mineral grain	✓	✓*	X	✓	✓	✓

*With the exception of the transparent tread (for interior only)

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