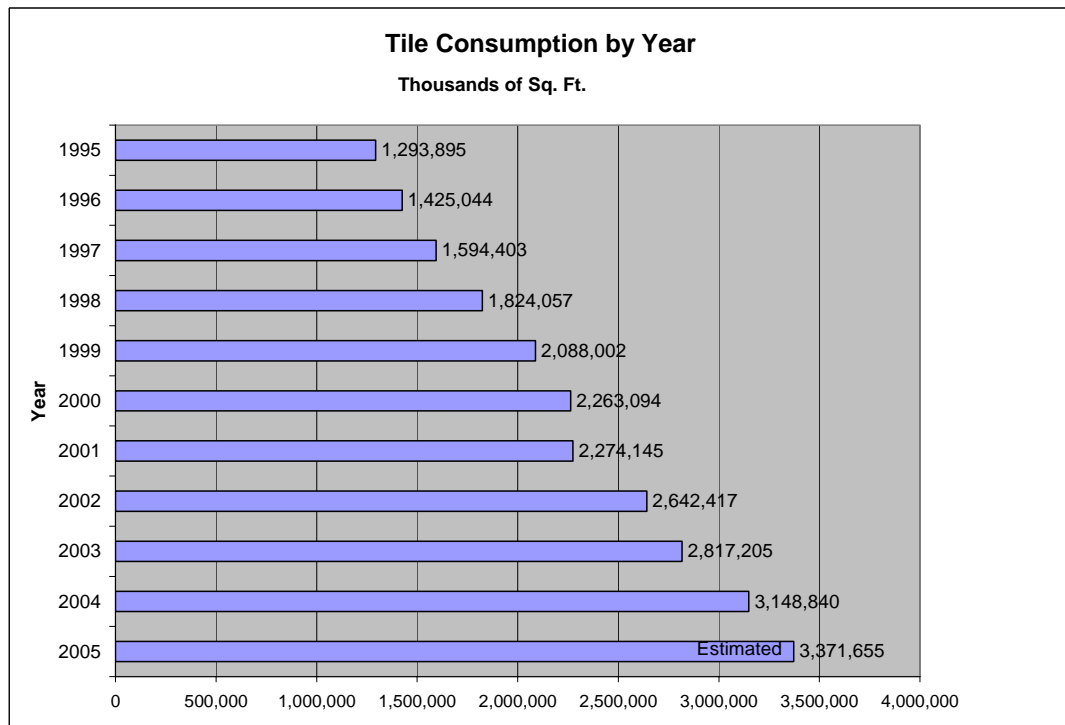


TILE COUNCIL NEWS

1) Tile Consumption in the U.S.

Calculating from three quarters of data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, TCNA predicts total tile consumption in 2005 will be 3.37 billion square feet – 7% greater than the 3.14 billion square feet consumed in 2004. “Once again growth in the tile industry has outstripped growth in the economy reflecting the fact that consumers are choosing tile over other flooring options,” remarked Eric Astrachan, Executive Director of the TCNA. This continues the trend of the last 10 years where tile consumption in the U.S. has grown much faster than the economy.



-more-

TILE COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.

100 Clemson Research Boulevard . Anderson, South Carolina 29625 . Phone: 864-646-8453 . Fax: 864-646-2821



Testing Services: testing@tileusa.com . Literature Orders: literature@tileusa.com

2) American Marazzi Tile joins Tile Council of North America

American Marazzi Tile, part of the Marazzi Group, joined the Tile Council in 2005 bringing TCNA membership to a new record. Now that Daltile and American Marazzi are members, along with Interceramic, Laufen, U.S. Ceramic Tile, Florim, Crossville, Florida Tile, and others, TCNA represents nearly 100% of the tile manufacturing in the United States. Including its Mexican and Canadian members, TCNA also represents nearly 100% of the tile manufacturing in North America.

- 3) TCNA is pleased to announce that the *2006 TCA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation* has been completely translated into Spanish. Two hundred draft copies have been circulated to the industry for comments and following a review period of one month, the final version will be published. According to Fernando Lozano Assad, director of TCNA – Mexico, representatives from all the Mexican member companies worked as a team to translate the Handbook, with special care given to finding the right translation for tile-specific terms. The Spanish translation of the 2006 Handbook also includes the life cycle cost data included in the English version. In the future, a Handbook specific to the Mexican market will also be developed, according to TCNA Executive Director, Eric Astrachan.
- 4) The Tile Council of North America announced that the next industry Handbook meeting will be held on June 20th and 21st at Tile Council headquarters in Anderson, South Carolina. Representatives from over 30 organizations meet bi-annually to revise and update the *TCA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation*. The meeting is open to anyone with an interest in tile industry installation methods.
- 5) The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) *2006 Specifications for Ceramic Tile Installation*, published by the Tile Council of North America, will be made available later this year with 7 new standards, representing the culmination of nearly 10 years of standards development work:
 1. Three installation standards for the installation of glass mosaics have been added (A108.14, A108.15, A108.16).
 2. One installation standard for the installation of crack isolation membranes has been added (A108.17).

-more-

TILE COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.

100 Clemson Research Boulevard . Anderson, South Carolina 29625 . Phone: 864-646-8453 . Fax: 864-646-2821



3. One product standard for the properties of crack isolation membranes has been added (A118.12).
4. Two general requirements standards have been added (A108.01 and A108.02) that incorporate parts of the previous informational AN and A1-A3 sections.

Additionally, the entire standard has been reviewed and updated by the ANSI ASC-A108 committee as part of the normal 5 year review cycle.

- 6) Experimental work conducted at the Tile Council of North America by M.E. Tile Co. and the Construction Technology Laboratories, funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) through the Office of Coal Development (OCD) and the Illinois Clean Coal Institute (ICCI), showed that commercially viable tile could be produced using a large percentage of power plant fly ash. Annually 60 million tons of fly ash are generated by coal burning utilities of which only 20% can be used in concrete and cement applications – the majority of the rest is land-filled. This environmentally important research established that fly ash can be used as partial replacement for clay in the ceramic tile industry. The inorganic content of coal (i.e. that portion of coal that does not burn) remains as fly ash when the coal is consumed – that material is chemically similar to clay and this research showed that a large amount could be used in the manufacture of wall and floor tiles.

The benefits associated with the manufacturing of ceramic tiles using fly ash are many: replacement of virgin clays with materials that would otherwise be land-filled, reduction in fly ash disposal costs, reduction in the amount of clay mining, and a reduction in the number of landfills.

Tile Council provided its 20 meter roller hearth kiln and 680 ton press to support this project. Additionally, the TCNA Product Performance Laboratory evaluated the finished products for compliance to U.S. tile standards.

-###-

Contact: Shannon Woodmansee, Director of Membership and Public Relations
864-646-8456

