

ENCAUSTIC CEMENT INSTALL INSTRUCTIONS

PREP: Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation. Cement tile is a hand-crafted product and must be installed and cared for differently than ceramic and porcelain tiles. Prior to installation, the substrate surface needs to be prepared to ensure the rest of the process is successful. If installing over a concrete substrate, it should be completely dry, level, free of cracks, and clean. If there are any imperfections, such as cracks or unlevel areas, use the appropriate crack isolation or self-leveling products for correction. If installing over a concrete slab, check for moisture content in the concrete. If moisture is present, then some type of waterproofing must be used. If installing over an approved wood substrate, a ¼" cement board should be installed first. Once the prep step is complete, the tile is then ready to be installed. If installing inside, a 24-hour acclimation period is recommended.

TOOLS REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION: ½" X ½" trowel • wet tile saw with diamond blade • mortar • 1/16" to 1/8" tile spacers • bucket • damp cloth or sponge • penetrating sealer • pH neutral cleaner • grout float • grout • floor buffer • appropriate safety equipment.

TIPS FOR INSTALLATION: It is important that you check each tile for any manufacturing defects. Any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate refund or replacement prior to the flooring being installed. Keep the tiles dry. Do not store outside. Moisture or dampness can cause the tiles to get stained, have faded color, or efflorescence causing a white powdery effect on the surface of the tile from moisture coming through from the bottom of the tile. Cement tiles are subject to color and tonal variations and may require mixing of tiles; it is recommended to dry lay tiles to achieve desired finished look. Cement tiles are a cement-based, hand crafted product and may have residue on the surface. These residues will be removed during the initial cleaning of the tiles. It is also recommended to wipe the back of the tiles with a damp sponge prior to back-buttering to remove concrete dust residue and enable proper adhesion. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on mixing ratios and cleanup for grouting and setting materials.

SET: A cement large and heavy tile mortar mix evenly spread over the substrate will be the perfect base to install and level the tiles onto. To spread the mortar, use a ½" X ½" trowel, unless otherwise specified by mortar manufacturer. Trowel out mortar in straight lines to maintain level contact when tiles are laid. Tiles should be cut using a sharp diamond blade in conjunction with water to avoid chipping of edges. Also, using the back/straight edge of a trowel, or a margin trowel, each tile should be back buttered with mortar. 100% coverage of the mortar is important. Lay each tile by applying good hand pressure to level them in the mortar bed. Thickness of the product may vary from tile to tile, so you may need to adjust during installation. Do not hit or tap the tiles with a mallet. During installation, a 1/16" to 1/8" grout line is recommended and can be achieved through the use of spacers. Remove excess adhesive from the surface with a damp cloth or sponge while it is fresh. Moisture darkens the product colors but the product will regain its original colors when completely dry. Wall installation can also be done, but is only acceptable if the wall is cement board and installed with appropriate non-sag large and heavy tile mortar. Contact the mortar manufacturer for recommendation of proper setting material if in question and follow setting material manufacturer's instructions. Cement tiles are not intended for installation methods employing large quantities of water. Do not install during excessively hot weather or full, direct sun.

PRE-SEALING: It is highly recommended to pre-seal cement tiles prior to grouting using a penetrating sealer. This treatment will ease the removal of grout from the surface and will prepare the tiles for the final sealing process. Follow the product label instructions of the sealer chosen for proper use and

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application procedures. Do not use any strong cleaning solutions, nor any acidic or alkaline cleaners on the tiles. Only use a pH neutral cleaner.

GROUT: Apply a non-sanded grout with a grout float. DO NOT use black or dark colored grout, as they may stain the tiles. Immediately wipe off excess grout so that it doesn't dry on the surface. Once finished, allow the grout to dry per grout manufacturer's instructions. Make sure all grout haze is cleaned from the tile before moving on. Grout haze will not clean up from the surface of the tile the next day.

POST SETTING CLEANING: After the tile is set and grouted, the installed floor must be swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris and dirt, and then cleaned with a neutral detergent. Never use an acid based cleaner on cement tiles after installation. Any extra residue or mortar should be removed immediately. Do not allow water or other liquids to spot, pond, or ring on the surface of smooth tiles (Do not leave drips or wet buckets, cups, footmarks, etc. on the surface at any time). For hard to remove residue, buffing with a single disc floor machine with a white pad and clean water may be used. Let the floor dry for 24 hours. To remove unwanted residual efflorescence from the grout, wet sanding the tile surface is possible, but it must be done only once the installation is completely dry. If tile needs to be protected during the drying phase, use a breathable material such as cardboard. Do not use plastic sheeting.

SEAL: To get the best protection against stains, a final sealing process must be applied to the floor or wall installation. Apply the same penetrating sealer chosen for the initial pre-sealing process. The surface must be clean of all residue and dry before the sealer is applied. Again, follow the product label instructions of the sealer chosen for proper use and application procedures. Let sealer dry and do not set foot on the installation for at least one hour, or per the sealer manufacturer's guidelines. Protect from water for at least 24 hours after sealing. Once dry, cover the tile with a protective covering until all construction or renovation is finished.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE: Sweep or vacuum all loose debris, dirt, and dust. As needed, damp mop using only a pH neutral cleaner. Also, periodic sealing is necessary to maintain optimal performance. Sealer protection may diminish faster in high traffic areas than in areas not used as regularly.

FIREPLACES AND HEARTHS: This product is not recommended for fireplace or hearth installation.

*For any tile installation, it is always recommended to be familiar with, and follow, applicable TCNA guidelines. Product manufacturer instructions for materials used in installation should also be followed for proper use and application procedures. These can typically be found through manufacturers' websites and/or product technical data sheets.