

FOR INSTALLATION GUIDELINES please contact Tile Council of North America.

The installation guidelines can be purchased on TCNA's website:

www.tcnatile.com

CERAMIC INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Please read carefully before beginning installation.

We recommend the hiring of a licensed professional tile installer who is experienced with the installation of ceramic tile.

The owner or owner's representative is responsible for determining the acceptability of the product prior to installation.

Upon delivery, open and inspect each piece of tile to verify order accuracy and tile-to-tile color consistency, keeping in mind that due to the handmade, artistic nature of this product, variation in color, shade, tone, shape and size should be expected. Any discrepancies should be communicated immediately to the point of purchase.

Installation Constitutes Acceptance

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Concrete slabs (on grade) cured a minimum of 28 days, free of cracks, curing agents and any signs of laitance.

Well cured mortar beds (ANSI A108.1B Standards-cured a minimum 7 days). Cement Board/backer units (CBU) to ANSI A118.9 Standards (Note: An ANSI A108A-2.1.8 membrane is required behind all CBU installations in wet areas).

Gypsum board (dry areas only) installed to ASTM C1396 or ASTM C1396M-04 Standards.

Do not install ceramic tile directly over Particle Board or Plywood! The tile installation's substructure, location and substrate type (e.g. CBU or concrete) will influence the details of how the substrate should be prepared. Appropriate substrate preparation methods are detailed in the Tile Council of North America's "2015 TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone.

Tile Installation" (or current version) and are organized by alphanumeric designation (e.g. W243-15).

Refer to the TCNA Handbook for details. The TCNA Handbook is available for purchase at www.tcnatile.com.

ACCEPTABLE ADHESIVES

Use Mastic or Thin-set to install ceramic tiles. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendation for ceramic tile installations and usage requirements.

PROCESS

Key or apply adhesive into substrate evenly with a v-notch trowel. Work in sections of approximately 2 square feet at a time. A 3/16"x 1/4" V-Notch trowel is recommended for installation. Check periodically during installation to verify proper coverage. Clean back of tile prior to installation. Before grouting, allow adhesives to cure for the timeframe recommended by the manufacturer. Typically cure times will vary from 24-48 hours.

GROUTING

We recommend using standard sanded grout with our ceramic tile. Apply grout following the material manufacturer's instructions, and let dry 10-20 minutes. Using a slightly damp sponge, wipe diagonally across the tile to remove grout film and haze from the surface. Let dry, then wipe with a lint free cloth as a final step, buffing away all residual grout from the surface of the tile.

*Note on Grout Color: We recommend using a similar/complementary grout color to the tile color and to avoid use of a high contrast grout color to minimize the effect of any grout that may remain on the surface after cleaning.

If you do choose a contrasting grout color, we recommend that your professional installer seal or use grout release on the tiles to avoid staining. The sealer and grout release should be tested on a sample tile before application on the entire installation.

GROUT HAZE

Do not allow grout to fully dry on the surface! Grout haze is a very thin layer of grout which results from allowing the grout to fully dry on the surface of the tile. During installation the grout must be completely wiped from the tile surface followed by buffing with a soft cloth to remove any residual grout film. Once the grout dries overnight there is little that can be done to remove grout haze, aside from washing the tile with one of the commercial acid grout haze removers.