

aimee wilder installation guide

cement tile

Please read fully prior to installation.

Surface Preparation

Cement tiles must be installed on a clean, level, dry surface. When storing tiles before installation, do not allow the boxes to get wet, moisture can cause surface staining on cement tiles.

Tile Variation

Because our cement tiles are made of natural materials, you should expect slight variations in size and color, as well as some surface efflorescence. When installing, we recommend mixing tiles from different boxes in order to spread these slight variations evenly throughout the entire installation area.

Moisture and Dirt Protection

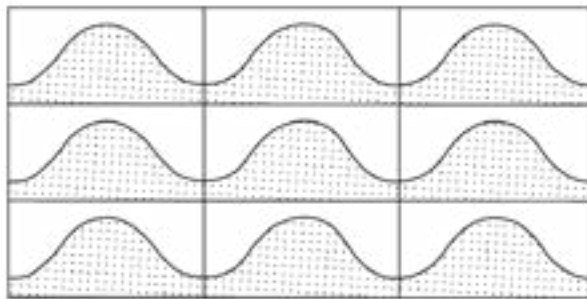
Do not allow water or other liquids to spot, pond, or ring on the tile surface. Do not leave spills, drips, wet buckets, cups, footmarks, etc. at any time prior to sealing. During installation, we recommend wearing acid-free protective booties.

Professional Installation

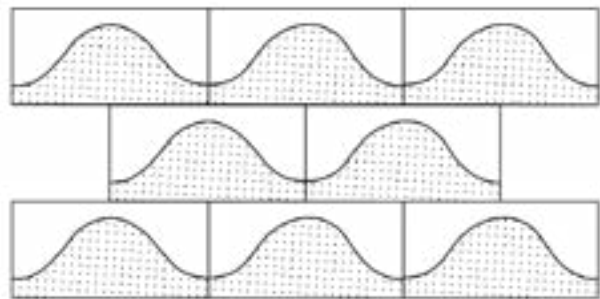
AW will not be held responsible for improper installation of cement tiles. Please use a professional contractor who is familiar with installing cement tiles. Visit aimeewilder.com for more information.

Pattern & Layout

Our modular collection of tiles is site and pattern specific and therefore should be laid out according to the desired layout used to determine how many each type of tile purchased for your project. Please refer to Tile Layout and Color Guide.



straight



subway

Prior to installation purchase the following necessary materials

Cleaner

We only recommend pH-neutral Rust-Oleum Miracle Sealants Tile and Stone Cleaner.

Sealant

Rust-Oleum penetrating sealer Miracle 511 Porous Plus. Sealants come either in a gallon container (covers approximately 200–250 square feet) or a quart (covers approximately 40–60 square feet).

Additional High Traffic Sealant

Rustoleum Miracle Sealants Apply on top of Miracle 511 Porous Plus for commercial spaces, high traffic areas, or for backsplashes where hot oil may be used in cooking.

Grout

DO NOT USE standard grout, which contains color pigments that can stain cement tiles. The only grout we recommend is Mapei Flexcolor™ CQ Grout, which is available in 40 colors and is formulated with the latest innovations in quartz aggregate, which ensures color consistency and cleanability. Mapei Flexcolor™ CQ Grout is premixed and ready to use.

Adhesive

We only recommend using Mapei Ultralight Mortar for floor installation. For wall or ceiling installation we only recommend using Mapei Ultraflex LFT.

Caulk

Mapei Keracaulk U is available to match all of the Mapei Flexcolor CQ Grout colors. This is a premium grade siliconized acrylic caulk that is easy to apply and clean. Best used for gaps up to 1/4 inch wide.

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Tile Cleaning

Clean tiles with a pH-neutral cleaner. Never use acidic, alkaline, or caustic cleaners such as ammonia or bleach, which can damage and abrade the tiles or remove the sealer. We recommend using Rust-Oleum Miracle Sealants Tile and Stone Cleaner. Be sure the tiles are thoroughly dry prior to sealing.

Pre-Sealing

Before grouting, only our recommended penetrating sealer should be applied to the tiles. Clean the tiles as recommended on the cleaning product and then apply the sealer in thin layers until the tile is saturated. Wipe off any excess sealer before it dries, and allow the sealer to cure according to the manufacturer's instructions. When properly sealed, water should bead on the surface of the tile.

Curing the Slab

If your tiles will be installed on a concrete slab, you should make sure the slab is completely cured. Otherwise, white efflorescence spots will appear on the surface over time as water evaporates from the slab up through the tiles.

Cutting the Tile

AW cement tiles should only be cut with a wet saw.

Applying the Adhesive to the Installation Surface

For floor installations use Mapei Ultralight Mortar. For wall or ceiling installations use Mapei Ultraflex LFT. Adhesive should be applied evenly to the floor or wall surface with a large-toothed trowel.

Applying Adhesive to the Back Of The Tile

For floor installations use Mapei Ultralight Mortar. For wall or ceiling installations use Mapei Ultraflex LFT. Apply adhesive evenly to the back of each tile.

Laying the Tile

When laying out the tiles, level them only with hand pressure — never with a hammer! This is important because hammering will damage the tiles, and slight variations in tile thickness are to be expected.

Grouting the Joints

We recommend only using Mapei Flexcolor™ CQ Grout. We also recommend a 1/16-inch joint for grouting. When grouting the joints, DO NOT spread the entire floor with grout, as with porcelain or ceramic tile. Instead, work in small areas, typically 15 to 30 square feet at a time, and clean thoroughly before moving on to a new area. Remove any excess grout immediately — grout that begins to dry can be difficult to remove from the tile. Do not affix any kind of tape directly to the tile surface — tape can discolor cement tiles. Use a fine plastic scraper to fill the joints between tiles, but avoid spreading the grout onto the tiles themselves. Use a rubber grout float for more precise, cleaner spreading. Any excess grout should be cleaned immediately with a wet sponge.

Drying the Grout

Allow the grout to dry completely before sealing, according to the Mapei Flexcolor CQ instructions.

Sealing and Caulking Grouted Tiles

Use Miracle 511 Porous Plus to seal AW cement tiles and grout — apply a minimum of 2 to 3 coats. For high-traffic areas or for backsplashes where hot oil may be used in cooking, apply 4 or more coats of Miracle 511 Porous Plus, or apply Miracle Sealant on top of the coats of Miracle 511 Porous Plus sealer. Follow all product instructions. Caulk with Mapei Keracaulk U.

Pool Sealing

For installation in pools or other wet spaces, after using our recommended penetrating sealer to waterproof your tile and grout lines, additionally apply an acrylic surface sealer on top to protect against discoloration from chlorine and UV rays.

Final Cleaning

Once it is sealed completely, clean the tile surface with a pH-neutral detergent to remove any extra residue or mortar. Cover the tile immediately after completion with a protective covering to prevent staining and damage during the remainder of construction.

Tile Maintenance

Tiles should be cleaned as described above with a pH-neutral cleaner like Rust-Oleum Miracle Sealants Tile and Stone Cleaner. Tiles should be resealed regularly according to the sealant manufacturer's recommendations for both residential and high-traffic areas.