

NATURAL STONE MOSAIC INSTALLATION GUIDE

This is a general guide and is not comprehensive. Some installations require different or more detailed specifications. Please consult a professional tiler or the technical department of your adhesive company for specific advice that is applicable for you.

Shade Variation: Natural stone products can have high variations in colour, veining, hue, surface texture, small surface fissures and pits in the overall appearance. Please ensure the end user checks all materials thoroughly prior to installation. Please note that display samples are indicative only. The installer and end user are responsible for determining if the shade and mix supplied is acceptable. Use of the product constitutes full acceptance. No claims will be recognised once the product is installed.

Some marble can contain naturally occurring traces of iron. If iron is present in the tile, it may yellow slightly as it oxidizes when exposed to water or other oxidizers such as acids or household bleach. This oxidation process can be accelerated when the tile is saturated. Sealing can reduce this.

Blending is Essential: To ensure an even blend of colour and surface, blend all pieces for the job from multiple cartons prior to installation. A test run, or "dry lay" is necessary prior to actual installation. This will allow checking of the blend and ensure as even a variation as possible, allowing you to separate any pieces you may find best suited for cuts or less prominent areas. The end user or responsible supervisor should inspect and approve the "dry lay" prior to installation.

Surface Preparation: The surface to be tiled should be even, smooth and structurally sound. Concrete slabs and adequately fixed cement sheet are generally suitable substrates. Refer to your adhesive supplier for more detailed information and recommendations for natural stone adhesive. Surface preparation may be different than commonly practiced for ceramic and porcelain tile installation. For optimum results the use of crack suppression products is recommended under larger stone pieces.

Adhesive and grout: All natural stone will absorb moisture at differing rates. The substrate, waterproofing and type of adhesive will affect the amount of moisture absorbed by the tile or mosaic. Refer to your adhesive company for their recommended adhesive and grout. Depending on the stone colour, white or grey premium grade modified thin set adhesive suitable for moisture sensitive natural stone is recommended to avoid colour bleeding and absorption. Marble tiles should be back-buttered to avoid gaps and uneven adhesive contact. Special care must be taken with white marble. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines. Resin backed stone should also be installed as a moisture sensitive stone. Use non-sanded grout to avoid scratching. Dark coloured grout can stain natural stone and should be avoided. Movement joints should be incorporated every 4.5 - 5m in a grid pattern, over existing movement joints, at all sheet joints, where tiling abuts restraining surfaces e.g. perimeter walls, columns, bench tops and at all change of plane

Cutting: Eye and hearing protection should always be worn when cutting, drilling or grinding natural stone. Natural stone mosaics can be cut with a wet diamond tile saw equipped with a fresh continuous or turbo blade suited to cutting marble. Smooth any rough edges with a file or sanding stone. Always cut stone in a well-ventilated area away from the installation area. Use a suitable respiratory particle filter dust mask when cutting or grinding.

Sealing: The natural stone in this carton is **NOT** pre-sealed. It is recommended to seal all natural stone tile and mosaics with a premium quality penetrating natural stone sealer. We suggest sealing prior to and again after grouting. Please refer to your sealer supplier for more detailed instructions.

Cleaning and Maintenance

Avoid using acidic, alkaline or abrasive cleaners which may permanently scratch or damage the tile. **DO NOT use the following:** Acidic Tub & Tile Cleaners, Acidic Toilet Bowl Cleaners, Ammonia, Powdered Abrasive Cleaners, Soft Paste Cleaners, Vinegar, Alcohol, Window Cleaners, Abrasive Cleaning Pads.

Do not use scouring powders or creams as they contain abrasives that may scratch the surface. **Do not use** products such as ceramic tile cleaners that remove calcium build-up as these will attack the stone surface. Products that contain lemon, citrus, vinegar or other acids are NOT suitable for marble or limestone. Rinse the surface thoroughly after cleaning and dry with a soft cloth.

Dust mop interior floors frequently using a clean non-treated dry dust mop. Most damage to natural stone floor surfaces is caused by sand, dirt and grit. Mats or area rugs inside and outside an entrance will help to minimize abrasive grit. Ensure the underside of the mat or rug is a non-slip surface. Do not use vacuum cleaners that are worn where metal or plastic attachments or wheels may scratch the surface. Clean stone surfaces with a few drops of a pH neutral cleaner or soap and warm water. Use a soft cloth for best results. Too much cleaner or soap may leave a film and cause streaks. Change the rinse water frequently. To remove soap scum, use a weak solution of ammonia and water (about 25 ml ammonia to 1 litre of water). Frequent or over-use of an ammonia solution may eventually dull the surface of the stone.