



# Your Installation Awaits...

## Before You Begin

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### Inspect Your Order

Upon receipt of your tile order, carefully inspect and sort the tile from all boxes. Identify pieces that stand out and place them aside.

### Plan Ahead

Due to the handmade nature of our tiles, varying degrees of color and texture variation, as well as slight size variation, will occur. This gives each piece distinctive beauty to each and every tile. For best results, we recommend laying out your tile design prior to installation.

Based on the variability of the selected glaze, sort the tile in 3-5 piles by groups of color, darkness, and lightness. When laying out the installation, pull from each variation pile at an equal rate to ensure a blended composition in the final installation.

If you have any questions or concerns before you begin, we recommend reaching out to our design consultants to assist you in planning your design prior to installation.

### Transition Pieces

If you have selected bull-nosed edges, transition liners, or architectural moldings for your installation, set these pieces aside to ensure they are installed correctly.

## Installation & Tools

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### Grout Spacing

Due to the nominal sizing of our handcrafted tile, our product varies in size by approximately 1/8" in any direction. To cater to this handcrafted nature, we recommend utilizing flexible tile spacing to ensure a seamless design.

We recommend a minimum grout joint of 1/8" and a maximum grout joint of 1/4". Our average installation receives a grout joint of 3/16". The use of 1/8", 3/16", and 1/4" tile spacers are used to account for any tile variations. This sizing gives flexibility to adjust for natural size variations that can coax the eye into registering straight lines.

Please note, areas in which tile will be installed may not be perfectly square or level. Grout spacing must adjust for these differences, so we suggest planning for variation in the width of a grout joint. Due to these listed variables, there is no standard for conformed grout spacing or spacer sizing.

### Tile Setting

A waterproof adhesive is recommended for any tile setting where there is moisture, such as a premixed adhesive or mortar. A premixed adhesive is easier than thin-set because it dries slower, allowing more time to make minor adjustments. We strongly recommend that you do not use mastic since it does not bond well with our clay body and cannot guarantee a lasting installation.

### Cutting

Rookwood Tile is highly durable and stronger than most tile. Because of this, we recommend using a commercial-grade diamond blade wet saw. Make sure that the cutting blade is in good condition, as a finer

blade cut can prevent glaze chipping on the cut edge. Always cut your tile with the glazed side facing up.

### Grout Types

Sanded and non-sanded cement grout are frequently used depending on the specifications of the install. Sanded grout is recommended for any wet or floor applications to aid in slip resistance. This is also suggested for any grout spacing of 3/16" or more. We recommend speaking with your sales consultant prior to use of a sanded grout with any alkaline or soft textured glaze. If you're unsure if this pertains to your order, please reach out to us.

We recommend non-sanded grout for vertical applications that feature a 1/8" grout spacing. The sticky properties of this mixture help the tiles stay in place during application. For areas in which you are looking to avoid stains and water damage, Epoxy grout is another great option. Post-install, we recommend Aqua Mix Grout Release or DuPont Stone tech for wiping the urethane haze off of the tile left-over from the grout. Grout haze should be cleaned off the surface of the tile immediately.

### Grout Color

Select grout in a color similar to the tile to create a unified look. A light gray grout works well with white tile, and a sandy-color grout pairs nicely with brown or neutral tiles. If you want each tile to stand out, choose a contrasting grout color. We recommend reaching out to our design consultants to find a color that suits your design.

### Caulk

Matching sanded or un-sanded caulk to your specified grout selection is recommended where the tile lines up with the countertops, cabinets, trim, sheetrock, or any other meeting point.

### Sealant

Most Rookwood glazes do not require a sealant, however our Alkaline glazes do. A clear sealant will protect the unique crazing and crackling of our glaze from being damaged or stained.

### Wax

We do not recommend that you use wax on your tiles, mainly due to the deposits that will accumulate within the grout lines resembling calcified concrete, and subsequent cleaning will not improve the look of your tile. Attempts to remove the wax can be extremely difficult and potentially damaging to your tile.

## Completion & Care

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### Care Recommendations

We recommend that you use a non-scratch sponge paired with mild dishwashing soap or non-abrasive cleaner such as SoftScrub and water to clean the surface of your tiles. For more difficult jobs, hydrogen peroxide 4% solution can be used as a poultice to lift stains from porous surfaces. Wipe dry with a soft, clean cloth.

We recommend avoiding products containing phosphoric acid, cleansers that contain acids such as vinegar or lemon juice, and the use of any acids or bleach. It is best to test your cleaner on a small area of your tile first to ensure that the glaze appearance is not affected by any chemicals in your cleaner.

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### Questions? We Have Answers.

Visit [rookwood.com/resources](http://rookwood.com/resources) or contact us at [sales@rookwood.com](mailto:sales@rookwood.com)

### Stop into our Rookwood Factory & Design Studio

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### Snap a Photo & Share!

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