

# LA LEAF GLASS TILE

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL INSTALLER

*Please read in full prior to beginning installation!*

The following instructions are for the installation of La Leaf Glass tile of any size.

### SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Glass tile should be installed on walls that have a prepared mortar bed (using the 3-coat method according to ANSI A108.1A or A108.1B)<sup>1</sup>. The use of this method will ensure that all walls are plumb and square.

Refer to the current TCNA Handbook for Cement Mortar methods appropriate to the particular job-site application (Tile Methods W221-17; W231/W241-17; B411-17; B414-17; TR418-17; C511-17; SR613-17)

3-coat Mortar Beds must cure for at least 7-days prior to tile installation.

### SETTING ADHESIVES

Artistic Tile strongly recommends using Mapei Planicrete W<sup>2</sup> (a two-part flexible setting compound), or Litokol Litoelastic<sup>3</sup>.

### INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

1. All walls should be plumb, square and free of movement.
2. Open boxes of tiles, check and sort for color variation.
3. Use the flat side of a ¼" × ¼" square notched trowel to embed the Planicrete W or Litoelastic into the substrate.
4. Add additional Planicrete W using the notched side of a plastic trowel and comb the Planicrete W or Litoelastic in one direction to establish the proper depth.
5. Wipe off the back of the tile with a clean dry cloth. Do not wet the tile prior to setting.
6. Back Butter each tile with additional Planicrete W or Litoelastic using the flat side of a plastic trowel, make sure you have 100% coverage on the back of every tile. If full coverage is not achieved, trowel marks and imperfections in the setting bed may be visible through the glass tile in the completed installation. Use care not to scratch the back of the tile.
7. Apply the tile into the setting bed using a slight twisting motion while applying even pressure on the tile. This should ensure full contact and eliminate any voids in the face of the tile. If you see any voids in the face of the tile remove the tile and apply extra Planicrete W or Litoelastic accordingly. Consult setting manufacturer's guidelines regarding maximum setting bed depth.
8. Grout joints should be a minimum of ⅛" between tiles.
9. Glass tile's high expansion and contraction requires the installation of movement joints according to TCNA EJ171, current version<sup>4</sup>.
10. Refer to Litokol/The Tile Doctor for specific, and current, instructions regarding the use of Litoelastic. Refer to Mapei for specific, and current, instructions regarding the use of Planicrete W.<sup>5</sup>

Continue with the above procedure for the rest of the tiles. If the setting bed is left too long and skinning occurs (drying of the Planicrete W or Litoelastic surface,) remove the old Planicrete W or Litoelastic, and reapply with new Planicrete W or Litoelastic.

### GROUTING

We recommend using an un-sanded grout.

1. Prior to grouting, ensure that TCNA guidelines regarding movement joints are followed. TCNA EJ171 current version.
2. Mix the grout according to manufacturers directions. Allow grout to slake according to manufacturers directions.
3. Using a clean rubber float, apply the grout using even pressure to ensure full even coverage between the joints.
4. Use clean dry cheesecloth for the initial cleaning of the grout off the tile. Cheesecloth will help wick away the moisture in the grout without removing too much of the grout between the joints.
5. Allow grout to set up but do not let it completely dry. Using a damp sponge wipe off the tiles and smooth out the grout joints to an even smooth plain.
6. Once the majority of the grout is off the tiles, remove the grout haze with clean dry cheesecloth. Do not allow any haze to remain on the surface of the tiles.
7. If a haze is left on the tile and you cannot remove it with clean water or a clean cloth, let the grout cure for 10 days then use a Sulfamic Acid cleaner such as C-Clean, or Custom Clean. Follow the manufacturer's directions, use a scrub brush or a nylon scrub pad and agitate with the scrub pad. Rinse thoroughly with clean warm water and allow to dry. A second rinsing may be necessary to completely remove the cleaning solution.



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### CUTTING AND DRILLING LA LEAF GLASS

1. Score and Snap will yield the most satisfactory results for straight cuts. This may be achieved on a ceramic tile cutter or with a glass scoring tool.
2. MK Diamond Company makes a blade specifically for cutting glass tiles. It is the 10" MK 215 GL blade. You can go online at, [mkdiamond.com](http://mkdiamond.com) and search for a distributor nearest you. A high-speed quality wet saw is also necessary for a clean cut.
3. A Gemini Ring Saw may be used to cut glass tile as well and will allow slightly curved cuts.
4. Drilling into the glass requires a water swivel and a small fractional core bit and a carbide or diamond tipped masonry bit.
5. Mark the desired location on the tile (some installers mark the holes on top of Blue Tape). A pilot hole is necessary when using fractional core bits, pilot holes can be made using the carbide or diamond tipped masonry drill bits. Make sure you do not over heat the tile, start the hole slowly.
6. Connect the swivel to the drill then connect the fractional core bit to the swivel. Connect a hose to the swivel and turn on hose slightly, and open the valve on the swivel just enough so water trickles out. Be sure you aim the bit towards a drain or a bucket until you are ready to drill.
7. Firmly hold the bit on the desired mark and slowly begin drilling. Increase the speed gradually until the desired depth is attained.
8. If you cannot find a swivel and fractional core bit, use a new carbide or diamond tipped bit and pour cool water on the tile as you drill. The idea is to keep the bit cool as to not over heat the tile and cause cracking. Completely submerging the tile in water when drilling will stabilize the temperature of the tile and help inhibit cracking.
9. Drilling holes in the center of large format glass tile, or drilling multiple holes in close proximity in one tile, may not be possible. Please consider this in your layout.

### SAFETY

1. Always wear safety glasses when cutting or drilling holes.
2. Handle glass tiles with caution. Sharp edges could cut you.
3. Sanding down the edges with fine grit sandpaper will dull the sharp edge.
4. Wear safety gloves and glasses when sanding.

### NOTES

1. Glass is subject to high rates of thermal expansion and contraction. Precautions must be taken to allow for situations when variable rates of movement might occur, e.g. a wall where part is located partially in a heated interior and partially in an unheated exterior.
2. The larger the glass tile, the more crucial the proper use of soft joints.
3. When installing shower doors and other hardware ensure that the hole in the glass is larger than the screw being used and do not over-tighten screws.
4. The use of a gasket material around plumbing fixtures may be desirable to insulate glass from movement.
5. When using a crack isolation or anti-fracture membrane consult manufacturer's specific recommendations for use with impervious tile such as glass or porcelain.
6. These installation instructions are general guidelines only. We cannot anticipate or be responsible for all field conditions or methods of construction. Should you have any questions, you must refer to TCNA standards or contact your sales representative prior to commencing with installation.
7. Avoid situations or 'rising dampness' - a condition in which there is moisture penetration from the substrate behind the tile.

<sup>1</sup>TCNA 2017 Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation

<sup>2</sup>Artistic Tile Item Code: AIAPLCW

<sup>3</sup>Artistic Tile Item Code: IGTLKE11 and IGTKLE22

<sup>4</sup>Ibid, 68-69

<sup>5</sup>[www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com) or [www.tiledoctor.com](http://www.tiledoctor.com)

