

GLAZED TERRACOTTA TILE INSTALLATION ROADMAP

This tile is composed of 100% natural clay, native to Northern Mexico. High variation in size, color and texture are inherent to this product. For a natural, well blended finish, Clay Imports recommends mixing your tiles prior to installation - Remove all tiles from the box, lay them out and blend them. Expect to find a few pieces of tile with glaze chips. Though you can sort these tiles out and use them for cuts, including tiles with chips, flakes and irregularities will emphasize the handcrafted look of your installation.

◆ REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Flexible tile adhesive, suitable for natural stone
- Flexible stain resistant grout, recommended [Mapei Ultracolor Plus FA](#)
- Grout release
- Water-cooled tile saw with a diamond blade
- Notched trowel 1/2"
- Grout sponge
- Grout trowel
- Wax pencil or chalk line Wedge spacers

◆ CARE AND INSPECTION

1. Inspect all tiles upon receipt of your order. Expect to find a few pieces of tile with chips and glaze flaking. This is an intentional feature of this product.
2. Though this product works well in wet areas such as showers and backsplashes, prior to installation, the unglazed back of your tile is susceptible to absorbing moisture. Until you are ready to install, do not let your tile to get wet. Excessive moisture absorption can damage your tile.
 - Do not leave the tile outdoors for long periods of time.
 - Do not let the boxes of your tiles get wet.
 - Store your tile in a dry area.
3. Protect your work space. Setting materials can stain your walls and potentially harm your countertop or other surfaces near the installation area. Cover all areas that are susceptible to damage with a durable, protective construction covering.
4. Prepare your grid. Based on your specific installation, determine how to best design your layout and draw a grid on the installation surface.
5. Prepare your cutting tool. Test your cutting saw to ensure that you are using the right blade for cutting this material. We recommend using a wet saw with a high grade, continuous diamond blade. If you notice excessive chipping, upgrade your blade.
6. Ensure that the surface you are installing over is well prepared for tile. The setting surface must be properly cleaned and dry. Do not install over excessive paint overspray, oily or polished concrete or unsecured surfaces.
7. Prepare your adhesive. Depending on your specific installation and subsurface, you need to determine which type of adhesive to use. This product is compatible with high grade, flexible thinset and mastic tile adhesive.

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GUIDELINES

- 1** Using a 1/2" Trowel, begin spreading adhesive evenly to the installation surface. Spread adhesive in small sections.
- 2** Apply a small amount of adhesive to the back of your tile. Note that depending on the type of adhesive you are using, you may need to dampen the back of the tiles (the unglazed clay side) to prevent the adhesive from drying too quickly.
- 3** Press tile to the installation surface. Adjust the tile as you apply pressure to ensure that contact is firm and fluid. Do not let the tile contact the setting surface directly. Ensure that setting the material is completely filling the space between the tile and the setting surface. There should be no air pockets between the tile and the setting surface. When cutting tile with a wet saw, keep the glazed side of the tile facing up when placed on the cutting table.
- 4** As the tile is being installed, use wedge spaces to secure the spacing between the tiles. Clay Imports recommends installing Glazed Thin Brick with a joint spacing of, Min 1/16" and Max: 1/2".
- 5** Following placement of the tile, allow 1 day for the adhesive to fully dry.
- 6** Prior to grouting, apply a coat of grout release to the surface of the tile with a clean sponge or non-fibrous cloth. This will ensure an easy grout clean-up. Always apply grout to a loose sample tile prior to full application. Pigments from some grouts can penetrate the surface of tile and result in permanent staining. **WE ADVISE AGAINST USING BLACK GROUT.** Once you have confirmed that the grout is suitable, begin applying to the surface.
- 7** Apply grout to the tile surface in small sections. Apply pressure, ensuring that the grout is filling the joints completely. Clean the area before applying grout to the next section. **Note that this method of installation will result in grout filling the surface pits of the tile.**
- 8** As the grout dries, a thin layer of grout residue will develop over the tile surface. Wipe away the residue with a clean damp cloth. If you have used a stain resistant grout, there is no need to seal the finished installation. If you notice that the grout is absorbing moisture, the grout should be sealed.

Disclaimer: Since the installation of tile greatly determines the integrity of the project and the tile itself, Clay imports does not warranty this product and is not responsible for dissatisfaction of material following installation. Please inspect all tile upon receipt and notify us immediately if you have any quality concerns. This guide is meant to serve as a general resource. Because each project is unique, consult your tile installer before installing your tile.

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◆ FINAL THOUGHTS

- Please be sure to read products usage instructions on all materials used for your installation.
- For safety purposes, Clay Imports always recommends that you wear safety gear when installing tile. Gloves, safety glasses and close toed shoes can prevent injury.
- Mixing tiles from different boxes leads to the best results.
- Clean your tile occasionally with soap or a household, non-acidic cleaner.
- If you are uncertain about what steps to take for your installation, feel free to contact Clay Imports where we can provide our expertise on next steps required. We also suggest consulting your tile installer as each project is unique.