

MAESTRO

Installation Guide



ARCHITESSA

an Architectural Ceramics brand



Limitations & Responsibilities

We have taken every care to provide complete information in this document; this information should be used as a guide in the design, installation and care of large porcelain panels. No warranty however implied or expressed, is given in relation to the procedures outlined in this technical information guide except that is required by industry standards.

We assume that the designers, fabricators and installers using our large porcelain panels are familiar with all aspects outlined in the information provided, and strictly adhere to the recommendations and specifications described herein and by ANSI industry standards. Any deviation from the recommended guidelines may result in the products not performing as expected, and may result in the warranty becoming null and void. Though every care and precaution has been taken in the preparation of this document, we assume no responsibility for errors and/or omissions, or for the damages resulting from the use of instruction contained in the information hereby provided.

We shall not be liable for any loss of profit or any other loss or damage caused or alleged to have been caused either directly or indirectly as a result of any person solely relying upon any information contained in this manual.

We reserve the right to change or modify this manual or its electronic version from time to time without notice. It is the responsibility of the consumer to consult or contact us for the latest version or updates.

/ General Instructions

Shipping	/ 4
Handling	/ 6
Tools Needed	/ 8
Manipulation Full Cuts, Cut Outs, & Mitered Edges	/ 9
Floor & Wall Installation	/ 12
Exterior Installation	/ 12
Countertop Fabrications	/ 13
Cleaning & Maintenance	/ 14
Recommended Cleaners	/ 14
Recommended Installation Accessories Tools Blades / Bits Building Products / Backerboards Adhesives (Colored Epoxy, Glue, etc.) Setting Materials (Thin Set, Grout, etc.) Trowels	/ 15
Sizes & Packaging Information	/ 18

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

- Each full crate will include a product sticker with the product description, shade, size, and code, along with a packing slip for details of shipment and material.
- All smaller shipments will only include the packing slip. If a special shade is needed, please indicate it on the purchase order. When ordering the same material multiple times, the same (original) shade cannot be guaranteed.

FOR ALL PANELS FROM 120" X 60" & 60" X 60", VERTICAL TRANSPORTATION IS PREFERRED BY USING A-FRAME PACKAGING:

- A-frame packaging can hold up to 50 pieces of 5'x10' porcelain panels vertically.
- Full 20 ft. containers hold 150 pieces (3 total A-frames).



OTHER SIZE PACKAGING:

- 15"x30", 30"x30", and 30"x60" are regularly packaged in a box and shipped in wood crates. 60"x60" are shipped flat in reinforced crates, holding 24 pieces per crate, or on a vertical A-frame holding up to 48 pieces.

WHEN TAKING DELIVERY OF LARGE PORCELAIN PANELS 120" X 60" & 60" X 60" PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

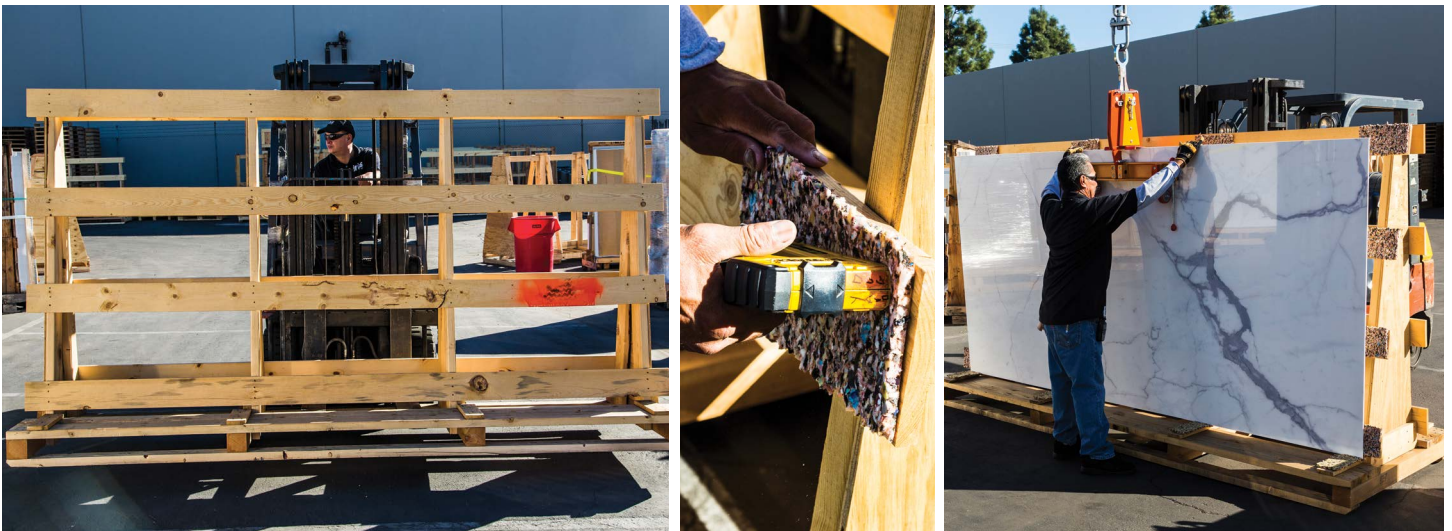
- It is important to examine any shipment to notate any damage on BOL or a claim may be refused.
- If you detect any defect after taking delivery of the panels, and prior to cutting, do not proceed with the processing. Call your customer service or sales representative immediately.

We do not recommend using the same A-frame to ship with as that received from the factory.

- When uncrating the panels, always apply clamps on an A-frame before strapping band is cut from the crate.



- Use a forklift boom & pitch clamp to carefully move the panels from the original slim factory A-frame, to an A-frame with a wider base and more obtuse angle. We recommend padding the A-frame prior to placing the panels on to each of its sides.



- Use 3 straps to tie the panels to the A-frame, and wrap plastic around the entire A-frame 3X to prepare the package for shipment.





- For the correct handling of the pallets, a fork lift truck must be used, at least 8 ft. long, with the forks positioned in the largest width position.

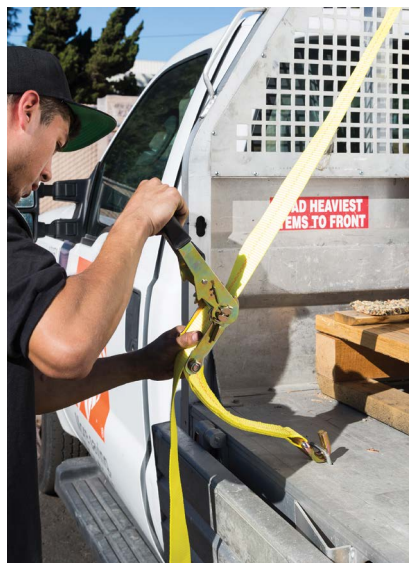
- Under normal conditions, the forks are positioned in the middle of the long side of the pallet, as they must grip the whole depth of the pallet.

- To allow the loading or extraction of the slabs easily and safely, it is recommended to position the pallets in a suitable area where the lift truck can be moved around all sides of the pallet.



- On all LTL shipments (12 panels or less), always strap A-frames securely inside of a cab.

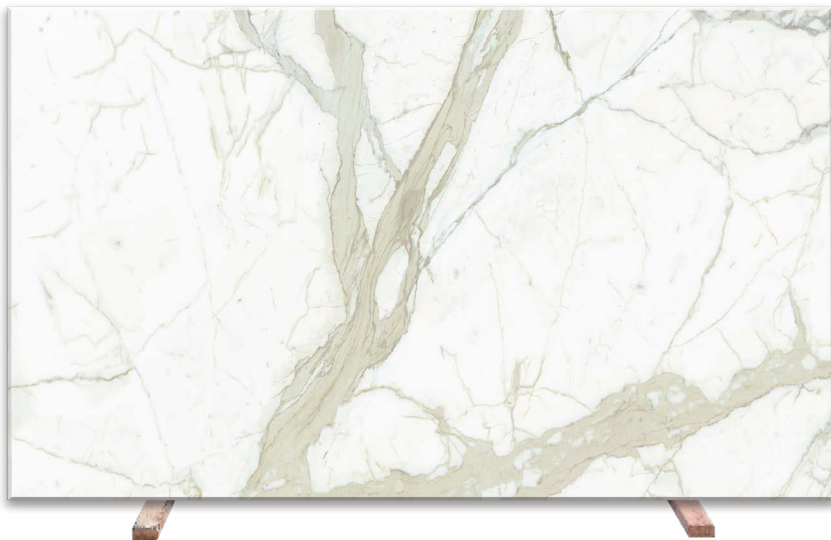
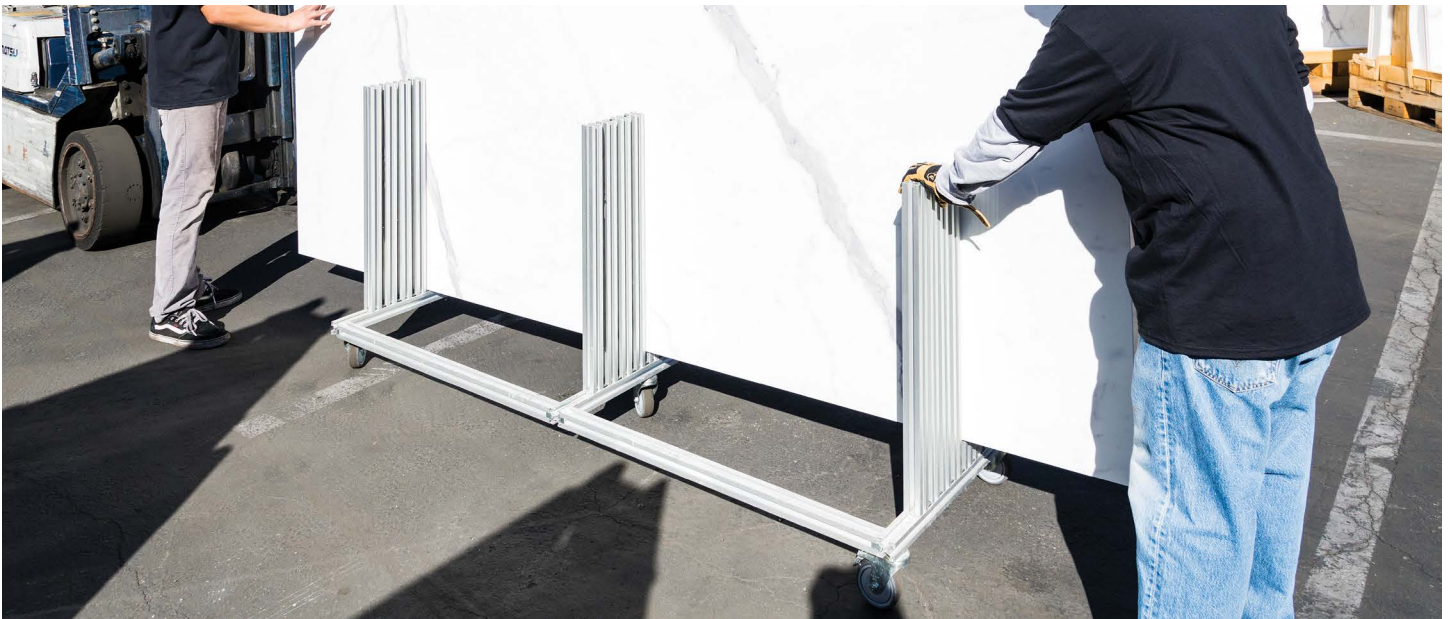
Never clamp them.



- Pump Activated Suction cup handles are recommended to move a panel a short distance. Panel weight is approx. 140 lbs. and no more than 2 experienced people are suggested to move.

- To safely transport up to 8 slabs of 6mm from warehouse to job site we strongly recommend the use of a transporter. The transporter is also designed to store slabs on the job site.

(See page 63 for recommended tool providers)



- Make sure to use proper base support when standing a panel. The use of two support pieces about 2" thick and 24" from each end of the panel, or a solid base with protective cushioning is recommended.

PLEASE USE PROPER HANDLING TOOLS WHEN MOVING THE PANELS OR CRATES

- Forklift Extension (See page 55)
- Suction Cups (See page 55)
- Large Porcelain Panel Tile Transporter (See page 55)
- Forklift Boom & Pinch Clamp (See page 54)

(See page 63-65 for recommended tool providers)



OTHER HANDLING TOOLS NEEDED

- Rigid Working Table to Match the Dimension of the Panels 120" x 60" or larger (See photo above)
- Scoring Tools (See page 57-59)
- Variable Speed Grinder With Electroplated Diamond Blades (See page 57)

LIST OF TOOLS & MATERIALS NEEDED FOR PORCELAIN PANEL INSTALLATION JOBS

- Tape measure
- Framing square
- Marking pencil / china marker
- Chalk line
- Grid (graph) paper
- Carpenter's triangle
- Safety glasses
- Safety gloves
- Knee pads
- Buckets
- Drill and mixing paddle
- Spray bottle
- Trowel specific to large panels
- 2 x 4
- Rubber mallet
- Sponges
- Abrasive stone
- Manual tile cutter
- Tile nipper
- Grout float
- Cheesecloth
- Tile spacer / Leveling system
- Water
- Thin-set mortar
- Grout
- Painter's tape
- Grout haze / film remover
- Grout sealer
- StainBlocker for grout
- Paper towels

FULL CUTS, CUT OUTS, & MITERED EDGES

- The “score and snap” is the preferred method for straight cuts (from one end of the panel to the other) using a recommended tool.
(See page 63-65 for recommended tool providers)

- When planning a cut that will be the full length of the panel, either with a plunge cut, or starting at the edge, mark and drill a relief hole at the termination point of the cut, then cut towards the relief hole. Properly support piece equally across entire surface of the piece when setting in mortar and prior to handling for installation.

- When planning a plunge cut, drill a relief hole with a electroplated core bit at the termination point of the cut, prior to beginning the cut. Always cut towards the relief hole.

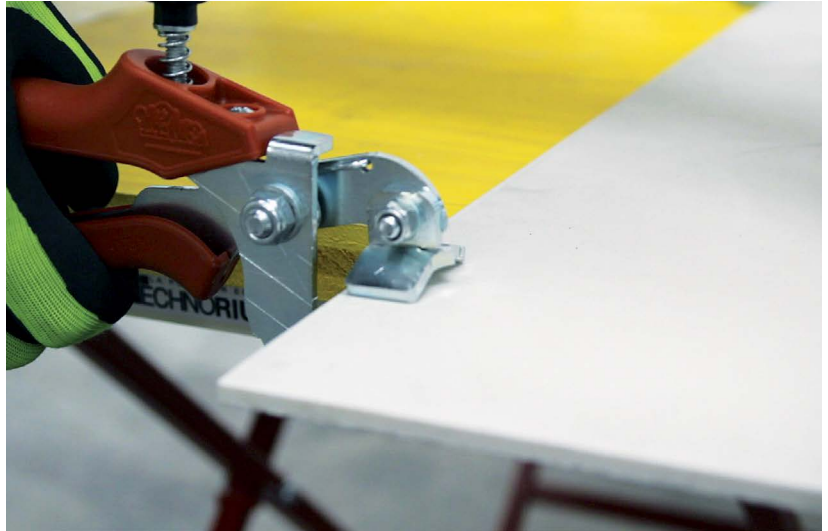
- When planning a “U” shaped cut, mark, and drill relief holes where the cut lines will intersect. Always make the shortest cuts first, leaving your waste/drop-out attached to the largest part of your desired piece for the final cut.

- When planning an “L” shaped cut, mark and drill relief holes where the cut lines will intersect, always cut the shortest length first, and cut towards the relief hole.

(See page 58 for cutting diagram)

- When manipulating large porcelain panels, a variable speed right angle grinder is strongly suggested to reduce vibration. Electroplated diamond blades or electroplated diamond drill bits should be used for various cuts and manipulations.

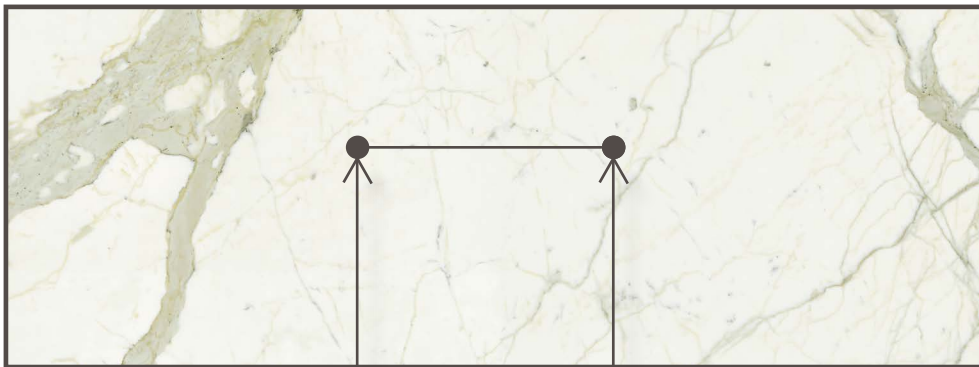
(See page 63-65 for recommended tool providers)



IMPORTANT: Always cut towards the relief hole.



When cutting a “U” shaped piece, mark, and drill relief holes where the cut lines intersect. Always make the shortest cut first.



When cutting an “L” , drill relief holes where the cut lines intersect, always make the shortest cut first.



Color matched or tinted polyester, epoxy compounds or equivalent are often used to fill edges and bring the pieces together to form a smooth transition.



DANGER

ALWAYS PROPERLY SUPPORT EACH PIECE PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

FULL CUTS, CUT OUTS & MITERED EDGES

- For circular cut outs, a circular electroplated diamond core bit must be used with a variable speed grinder or drill.
(See page 63-65 for recommended tool providers)



- For straight line cut outs, a variable speed grinder with electroplated diamond blades must be used. Relief holes or cuts before planning a square or rectangular shape are necessary.



- When possible, it is best to fabricate niches and holes after the panel is already installed with thin set on wall or floor. If it is not possible to cut holes or square/rectangular cuts (fireplace, sink, etc.) before the panel is installed, create full support with plywood or MDF panel template with same shapes and cuts to attach and transport the porcelain panel. Support panels should only be detached when porcelain panels are fully bonded to the substrate.

- It is also possible to move panels with proper moving tools made of multiple suction cups to avoid tension of the panel after it is cut.



- Material can be mitered using proper tools. Colored or tinted compounds such as polyester, epoxy, or equivalent are often used to fill edges and bring the 45 degree miter cuts together.
- Material can be bullnosed the same as regular porcelain.



- Large porcelain panels can be installed over concrete or other suitable substrates. You must honor all expansion joints or any defects in the substrate and mitigate prior to installation.
- Substrate should be a minimum of 1/4" over 10 feet in flatness.
- The back of the panel and substrate should be spread the same direction at the shortest distance with a modified LFT thin set mortar to achieve 100% coverage.
(See page 63 for recommended trowels)

- Self-leveling systems are required to achieve desired flatness between joints. Fill any voids with the mortar for complete support.
- Recommended tools and techniques need to be used to ensure full bond of the panel. Recommended techniques should be followed to move air out from underneath the panels.
- The setting material manufacturers have vast experience in the installation of porcelain tiles and large porcelain panels. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that the installer should contact the relevant setting material manufacturers and seek their advice prior to installation of our large porcelain panels.
(See referenced manufacturers page 63-65 for contact details).



- It is very important to spread thin set the same direction on both the substrate and the panel, the shortest direction of panels. Thin set brands we recommend are: LFT by Mapei, Prolite by Custom, 254 Platinum by Laticrete, and x77 Walls & x78 Floors by Ardex Tec.
(See referenced manufacturers page 63-65 for contact details).

- Place tile into the fresh mortar and firmly press to cause the ridges to flatten out and come together into a continuous void free bed. Install desired spacers/levelers of preferred grout joint design width.

- Polymer added sanded and unsanded grout, epoxy grout, silicone, or polyurethane can be used to fill the joints. If using epoxy grout, make sure to follow proper cleaning instruction within the manufacturers' specific time frame.

NOTE: Recommended 1/8" grout joint width should be maintained throughout the entire installation. Countertop seams can be butted.



Maxfine does not accept any responsibility nor does it recommend a particular method of installation. It is the responsibility of the installer/buyer to design the tiling system based on the advice obtained from the setting material manufacturer.

/ Exterior Installation

- Large porcelain panels are ideal for exterior cladding of walls and vertical applications.
- We offer mechanical and bonded techniques.

(Contact manufacturer for further information or to become a certified installer).



/ Countertop Fabrications

- Large porcelain panels are ideal for countertop installation with the proper substrate.

(Contact manufacturer for further information or to become a certified installer).



FIRST CLEANING POST INSTALLATION

A proper initial cleaning after installation is suggested.

Professional cleaners should be used to make sure all construction residues are completely removed.

(See below for recommended professional cleaners.)

CLEANING DURING INSTALLATION

Construction particles, dust, sand, and debris should be removed from the panel surface by sweeping with a soft brush. Sand and other abrasive materials may scratch the floor, therefore the surfaces should always be kept free from dust, sand, and soil.

MAXFINE and MAESTRO large porcelain panel surfaces should be properly covered and protected after the installation, and up to the completion of all construction.

ORDINARY MAINTENANCE

Large porcelain panels are a high quality, solid, nonporous product that require minimum maintenance.

(For daily maintenance, see below for recommended household cleaners.)

RECOMMENDED CLEANERS FOR PROFESSIONAL USE

FILA CLEANING SOLUTIONS

10800 N.W. 21st Street #170
Miami, FL 33172

T 305.724.8939

www.filasolutions.com

For organic residue removal
FILA PS87

For cement-based residue removal
FILA DETERDEK

For epoxy removal
FILA CR10

HILLYARD, INC.

302 North 4th Street
St. Joseph, MO 64501

T 800.365.1555

F 800.861.0256

www.hillyard.com

For lead or metal residue removal
For contractor pencil marks
For removal of metal marks
Crème Clean

RECOMMENDED CLEANERS FOR DAILY USE

AQUA MIX

7711 Center Ave Ste 500
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

T 800-272-8786

www.aquamix.com

HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS

Magic Eraser
Melamine Pad
Brasso Gel
Lysol Gel
All purpose ceramic cleaner
Windex
Baking Soda
Ammonia

/ Recommended Installation Accessories

TOOLS

RUSSO TRADING COMPANY INC

4235 N 127th St.
Brookfield, WI 53005
T 855.782.8665
F 262.790.2177
www.RTCproducts.com

SIGMA / ETM TOOLS

European Tile Masters, Inc.
27 Copper Ridge Rd
Trout Creek, MT. 59874
T 954.917.3599
F 954.917.3539
www.europecantilemasters.com
www.toolsfortile.com

OMEGA DIAMOND INC

10125 Ophir Road
Newcastle, CA 95658
T 888.996.4777
F 530.885.3785
www.omegadiamond.com

RAIMONDI TOOLS

Donnelly Distribution LLC
N 56 W 24790 N Corporate Circle Unit A
Sussex, WI 53089
T 800.625.6686
T 262.820.1212
F 262.820.1226
www.donnelydist.com

TROWELS

ABACO MACHINES USA (BOOM, PINCH CLAMP)

ABACO MACHINES USA
14508 S Garfield Ave
Paramount, CA 90723
T 310.532.0366
F 310.532.0499
www.abacomachines.com

FLOW RIDGE TROWEL BY RAIMONDI

DONNELLY DISTRIBUTION LLC
N63 W 22611 Main Street Unit C
Sussex, WI 53089
T 800.625.6686
T 262.820.1212
F 262.820.1226
www.raimondiusa.com

PREMIUM NOTCH TROWEL BY SUPERIOR BILT

7711 Center Ave Ste 500
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
T 800.272.8786
T 562.598.8808
F 800.200.7765
www.custombuildingproducts.com

EURO NOTCH TROWEL BY ETM

EUROPEAN TILE MASTERS, INC.
1830 Vista Way
Margate, FL 33063
T 954.917.3599
F 954.917.3539
www.europecantilemasters.com
www.toolsfortile.com

BLADES/BITS

CYCLONE

DIAMAX INDUSTRIES
949 W Marietta St X100
Atlanta, GA 30318
T 404.817.3232
www.diamaxinc.com

WEHA

WEHA USA
625 Griffith Rd Suite 120
Charlotte, NC 28217
T 704.940.0115
www.wehaus.com

BUILDING PRODUCTS

WEDI BOARD

WEDI Corporation
171 S Gary Ave
Carol Stream, IL 60188
T 877.933.wedi (9334)
F 847.357.9819
www.wedicorp.com

SCHLUTER SYSTEMS (KERDI BOARD)

SCHLUTER SYSTEMS L.P.
194 Pleasant Ridge Road
Plattsburgh, NY 12901-5841
T 800.472.4588
F 800.477.9783
www.schluter.com

USG (CEMENT BOARD)

USG US Corporate Office
550 West Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60661
T 312.436.4000
www.usg.com

HARDIEBACKER BOARD

Available at most local hardware stores

ADHESIVES (COLORED EPOXY GLUE, ETC.)

AKEMI

INNOCHEM
Innovative Chemicals
4030 Pleasantdale Road Suite F
Doraville, GA 30340
T 770.409.8789
F 770.409.9096
www.akemina.com

TENAX

TENAX USA
625 Griffith Rd Suite 120
Charlotte, NC 28217
T 704.583.1173
www.tenax4you.com

/ Recommended Installation Accessories

SETTING MATERIALS (THIN SET, GROUT, ETC.)

BOSTIK

BOSTIK, INC.
11320 W Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
T 800.762.7845
www.bostik-us.com

MAPEI

MAPEI Americas Headquarters
1144 E. Newport Center Drive
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
T 800.992.6273
F 954.246.8805
www.mapei.us

ARDEX

ARDEX Americas
400 Ardex Park Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001
T 888.512.7339
www.ardexamericas.com

LATICRETE

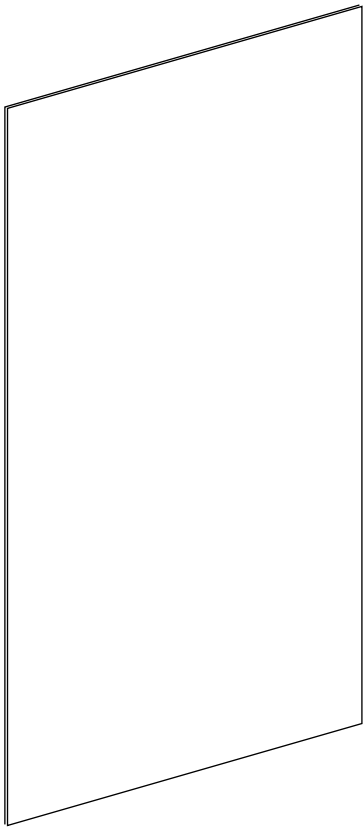
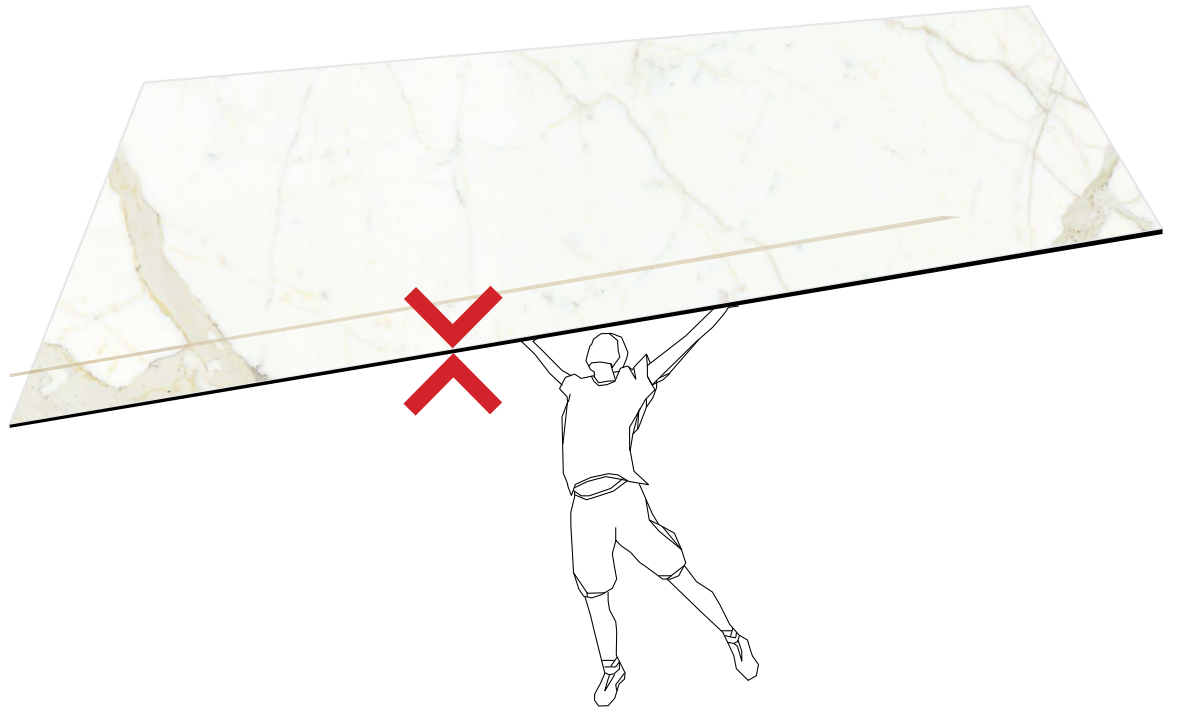
LATICRETE International, Inc.
One LATICRETE Park North
Bethany, CT 06524-3423 USA
T 800.243.4788
www.laticrete.com

TEC

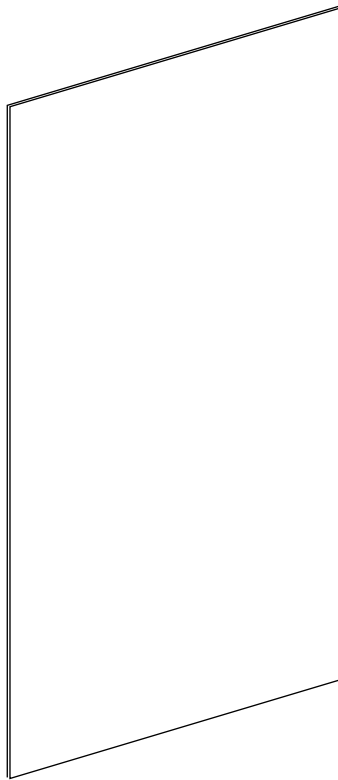
H.B. FULLER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS INC.
1105 S Frontenac Street
Aurora, IL 60504
T 800.552.6225
T 562.598.8808
www.tecspecialty.com

CUSTOM BUILDING PRODUCTS

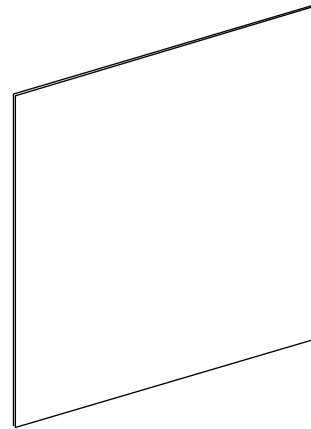
7711 Center Ave Ste 500
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
T 800.272.8786
T 562.598.8808
F 800.200.7765
www.custombuildingproducts.com



126" x 60"

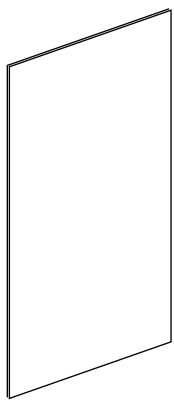


120" x 60"

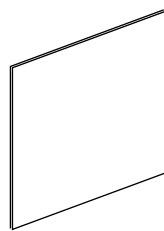


60" x 60"

PRODUCT	SIZE (IN.)	BOX PIECES	BOX SF	PALLET BOXES	PALLET SF	THICKNESS (MM)	WEIGHT LB/Box
Large Porcelain Panel	120 x 60	1	48.438	50	2421.90	6	139.5
	60 x 60	1	24.219	48	1162.512	6	69.75
	60 x 30	3	36.329	22	799.238	6	104.63
	30 x 30	4	24.219	36	871.884	6	69.75
	30 x 15	6	18.16	36	654.107	6	52.29
Book-match	126 x 60	1	51.667	22	1136.67	12	297.79



60" x 30"



30" x 30"



30" x 15"

CONTACT INFORMATION:

www.architessa.com

1.800.287.1742

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For commercial & hospitality sample requests: samples@architessa.com

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