



BAKED EARTH

Installation Guide

Floor Substrates:

Surface preparation:

The surface must be properly prepared, suitably level, sound, clean, dry, and free of dust, grease or any loose material. All surfaces must be completely secure without any obvious deflection and capable of carrying the additional load. The clay tiles should be installed on a solid concrete or similar surface which does not have any movement.

Every effort is made to ensure the guidance included in this booklet is up to date and relevant, however it remains the responsibility of the fixer to ensure the sub floor is suitable for tiling before any installation commences.

Concrete / Sand and cement screeds:

New concrete floors must be allowed to dry for a minimum of 6 weeks. If applying a screed on top allow a minimum of a further 3 weeks. Residual traces of laitance and curing agents should be mechanically removed before tiling commences. Further drying time may be necessary, depending on weather and site conditions. The reason for this is a new screed may shrink as it dries, and this may result in cracks across the screed. If tiles are fixed before it is dry and cracking does occur it is likely that the cracks will appear across the tiles as well.

Any movement or day joints in the screed must be carried through into the tiled surface with the use of an expansion joint.

Anhydrite or fast setting screeds:

The screed must be fully dry in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and lightly sanded to remove all traces of laitance/dust. Prime using progressively stronger coats of Prime Bond. Initially apply a 1:4 parts water dilution and when dry follow with a 1:3 dilution at 90° to the first coat. If after these 2 coats the surface is still absorbent, apply a further coat at a 1:2 dilution and leave to dry.

Bumps and hollows in screeded floors:

Where bumps or hollows exist in the sub floor that exceed the chosen adhesives recommended fixing bed (see adhesive packaging); please level the floor using Pro 50 Levelling Compound which is suitable for use up to a depth of 50mm without risk of shrinking or cracking. Norcros standard set and fast-set S1 adhesives can be used up to a depth of 10mm.

Damp:

Prior to fixing tiles, damp of any nature should be rectified. Consult a specialist if any doubt exists.

Finished Floor Levels

Please be aware the finished level of an existing floor will be raised by the maximum thickness of the tile plus the height of the adhesive bed and any sub floor preparation. Any resultant discrepancy with the levels of adjoining rooms can be minimized with the use of threshold/reducer strips

Under Floor Heating

All our terracotta tiles are suitable for under floor heating

Outdoor usage

All our terracotta are made of natural clay and they are suitable for outdoors (frost resistant)

Hearths and Fireplaces

Care should be taken when tiling into hearths or fire surrounds. Ensure that the tiles are kept a minimum of 300mm away from direct contact with the flames or the main heat source.

Fixing the tiles:

All S1 Tile adhesives are cement based, flexible and designed for fixing our full range of tiles. They are water resistant and suitable for both internal and external applications. We recommend using grey with Terracotta. Some of the tiles vary in depth; where this is applicable, it is important to grade the tiles before installation. Be certain that the tiles are suitable for the application and that you have purchased the most appropriate adhesive.

Bowed tiles may also require back buttering in order to achieve a solid bed of adhesive.

Carefully follow the mixing recommendations supplied on the reverse of the adhesive product. Terracotta should be installed on a solid concrete or similar surface which does not have any movement.

Cutting the Tiles:

Due to the thickness of our Terracotta tiles, it is recommended that either a diamond cutter or an angle grinder is used to cut terracotta. Whilst cutting or drilling tiles, the surface of the tile may become wet and/or dirty. Wipe the tile clean immediately after cutting. When using an angle grinder, mark the tile where you wish to cut it, run the cutting disc along the marked surface cutting the tile to at least two thirds of its depth; then the tile can be snapped. Rough

edges and chips should be smoothed and finished with a sanding block or in severe cases, by rubbing the tile edge with a broken piece of another tile.

Sealing the Tiles:

Terracotta tiles are generally more porous than most floor tiles so it is important to take care to seal the tiles fully.

It is important for the correct products to be used when sealing, finishing and maintaining your tiles. The products we have selected have been specifically chosen to enhance, protect and maintain your tiles. You should expect the sealing process to darken both the tiles and grout. Please be aware that any deviation from our recommendations could affect the appearance, capabilities and longevity of your tiling.

Preparation:

Traditional sealing method (rustic, antique, matt finish)

Prior to sealing the adhesive bed should be dry and cured and the grout joints clean, dry and free from adhesive residues, dirt, dust and other loose debris. The tiles must be dry and clean otherwise you may seal in dirt or moisture which will impair the final appearance. The process of sealing should be kept meticulously clean and all materials including brushes and cloths etc should be new and unused. The drying times recommended below may be altered by the actual site conditions (heat, humidity, ventilation etc). Please refer to the manufacturers' guidelines on drying times for each product. Be led by your professional Installer. We recommends that traffic across a newly sealed floor is kept to a Minimum for the first week as sealants can take a few days to fully oxidize and may not be fully effective during this time. **We recommend sealing Terracotta with 2-3 coating of boiled linseed oil and 1-2 coats of antique Wax.**

We recommend that a number of sample tiles are tested for porosity, which will give an indication of the amount of sealer the tiles will require. The tiles will readily absorb the first

application of sealant and as a rough guide you should expect to use up to 75% of the sealant on the first application.)

Natural invisible sealing method using impregnator (Matt finish)

For Rustic Unsealed & Reclaimed Style Range. We recommend sealing Terracotta with 2-3 coats of impregnator stone/terracotta and also 1-2 coats of Stain Stop. This method does not darken the tiles.

Grouting the Tiles:

Most grout is flexible therefore suitable for all tiling projects provided the tiled area has been correctly prepared. We recommend wide joint grout is used; most popular is a medium grey grout.

Application of the grout:

Grouting is the careful application of grout between the tiles – We do not recommend slurry grouting Terracotta. Ensure that the correct tools used for grouting are completely clean and free of any hardened grout etc. To avoid contaminating the surface of the tile, use a damp sponge to wipe off any excess. Take care to fully compress the grout into the full depth of the grout joints so that no air pockets exist and the joints are fully filled. Work in manageable areas and clean off any residues when the grout has begun to firm up in the joints, but before it sets on the tile face. Cleaning with a damp but not overly wet fine textured foam sponge will provide the best results. Do not over wash the grout as this may cause a white bloom (efflorescence) and discolour the grout. Ensure your grouting is completed in one application. Change the cleaning water regularly. Ensure ALL grout residue is fully removed from the surface of the tiles.

The above recommendations are approximate and should be considered as a guideline only as customers should carry out their own test.

Further Sealing of the Tiles:

Rustic range: Apply the second application of boiled linseed oil & antique wax as above over both tiles and grout.

Please note the sealant/oil may darken the grout colour.

Cleaning and Maintenance:

Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove all dirt. Our recommended cleaning products have been formulated to both clean and be gentle on the sealants. General household cleaners may be too aggressive and are likely to damage the sealants and finishes applied.

Lithofin Easy care should be used for day today cleaning or other non bleached cleaner.

Aftercare Sealing Presealed Range:

Indoors: We recommend 1-2 coats of boiled linseed oil every 1-2 years depending on the traffic to enhance the colour or 1-2 coats of clear varnish can be applied.

Outdoors: The presealed tiles should be cleaned using a soft brush any suitable chemical which does not contain bleach. We do not recommend jet/power wash but instead using a water hose with slow water flow. After the presealed tiles have been cleaned, we recommend 1-2 coats of boiled linseed oil which will enhance the colour, the other option is applying 1-2 coats of clear varnish which has been used for the finishing of our presealed range.

Aftercare Sealing Unsealed Range:

Indoors: For the rustic unsealed terracotta, we recommend 1-2 coats of boiled linseed oil & a polish of antique wax every 1-2 years depending on the traffic (rustic/antique finish) and the reclaimed style terracotta 1-2 coats on impregnator.

Outdoors: The tiles should be cleaned using a soft brush any suitable chemical which does not contain bleach. We do not recommend jet/power wash but instead using a water hose with slow water flow. After the tiles have been cleaned, we recommend 1-2 coats of boiled linseed oil which will enhance the colour, we do not recommend wax for outdoors. For the reclaimed style terracotta we recommend the same method as above for cleaning and to seal with 1-2 coats of impregnator.

Adhesive Coverage:

Flexible Standard set and Fast-set S1 Adhesive

Each 20kg adhesive covers approximately 3.5m²

Adhesive Depth: 5mm to 7mm depending on the thickness of the tile (maximum depth 10mm).

Grout Residue Remover: KF Cement Residue Remover (if required)

Day to Day Cleaner: Easy Care

Grout Joint Width and Coverage:

Each 5kg grout covers approximately 3m².

Grout Joint/Space between tiles:

We usually recommend between 4mm and 10mm for terracotta tiles depending of the size of the tile. The smaller size 150x150mm tiles 4mm to 6mm and the larger 300x300mm 7mm to 10mm.

The above recommendations are approximate and should be considered as a guideline only