



*October 2022*

## Tile & Thin Brick Specifications

# Specifications McIntyre Tile & Brick

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### Table of Contents:

#### STONEWARE & PORCELAIN TILE

*General Description*

*Standard Specification*

*Availability*

*Glaze Color Variation*

*Size Variation*

*Crazing*

*Frost Proof*

*Slip Resistance*

*Grout*

*Installation*

*Grout Spacing*

*Custom Color Development*

*Durability Considerations*

*Maintenance*

*High-Fired Metallic Glazes*

*Legacy / Shino Glazes*

#### ARTISAN GLAZED THIN BRICK

*General Description*

*Standard Specifications*

*Availability*

*Glaze Color Variation*

*Grout*

*Installation*

*Durability Considerations*

*Maintenance*

# STONEWARE & PORCELAIN TILE

## *General Description*

McIntyre PORCELAIN & STONEWARE TILES are formed from wet clay, hand finished, and hand glazed, and then single fired to 2400 degrees Fahrenheit. Each tile has a smooth back. Handcrafted tile is intended to create a non-machine made look and features irregularities in the glaze and clay surfaces as well as in sizing and flatness. Glazed surfaces range from shiny to matte and vary in degree of hardness. Some glazes are most appropriate for vertical surfaces and other harder glazes can be used on commercial floors. Please refer to the Master Glaze List for the glaze characteristics of any of our glazes.

## *Standard Specification*

McIntyre Tile conforms to ANSI 137.1 as Special Purpose Tile, which means our tiles are produced, graded, and packed to our stated specifications. If a Master Grade Certificate (MGC) is requested or required, McIntyre Tile can provide such a document listing mutually understood and agreed upon tile properties included in McIntyre ANSI 137.1 specifications. A MGC should be requested at time of tile specification. A MGC should be requested when the tile is specified for a commercial floor or exterior use.

## *Availability*

McIntyre tiles are made to order and therefore lead times are subject to production limitations and order volume fluctuations. For current lead times, please check with the factory or dealer at time of specification or ordering.

## *Glaze Color Variation*

Most McIntyre glaze colors vary from tile to tile, and some more than others. These variations are intentional, resulting from our particular production methods and our choice of raw materials. When specifying a McIntyre glaze, always work from a sampling of 3 or more tiles which represent the range of color that can occur for the chosen glaze. It is very difficult to predict how much or how little any part of a particular glaze color range will occur.

## *Size Variation*

Because of the substantial shrinkage from wet to fired size in manufacturing, McIntyre tiles are subject to size variation. Dimensions on 6x6 and smaller tiles may vary up to 1/16th" from the actual size specified, on 8x8 tile to 3/32", and on 6x12 tile to 1/8". Tile thickness may vary 1/32" from the dimensions specified.

## *Crazing*

Crazing refers to the hair-line cracks which may occur in the glaze surface of tiles after firing and is a common characteristic of artisan tile. All ceramic glazes can eventually be subject to this effect. Certain glazes produced by McIntyre Tile are intentionally crazed for decorative effect and in some cases the craze lines are stained for maximum effect. However, to minimize the possibility of unintentional staining from grout colorants during installation, it is recommended that the chosen grout, particularly colored grout, should be tested prior to use. If staining does occur, it is recommended that one or two coats of a grout release or sealer be applied prior to grouting.

## *Frost Proof*

McIntyre Tile has a water absorption of less than 3% and is thereby considered vitreous, or frost resistant, making it suitable for use in pools and water features as well as exterior applications.

## *Slip Resistance*

Most McIntyre Tile glazes have not been rated for DCOF (Dynamic Coefficient of Friction) so caution should be used when selecting this tile for flooring. For commercially acceptable DCOF ratings, sand can be fired into the glaze, creating a slip resistant surface.

## *Grout*

Colored grouts or even "natural gray" grout (which typically has a small amount of stain colorant added) can penetrate and thereby stain the glaze surface of some handcrafted tiles. It is important that after selecting a grout color, that it be tested on a few tiles to avoid staining. If staining during this test appears, usually 1 or 2 coats of a grout release or sealer can be used prior to grouting to eliminate staining and grout hazing.

## *Installation*

Installation procedures should conform to the Tile Council of America "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation (**current edition**). The layout should be evenly spaced on each surface to maximize the use of full tiles where possible. Grout joints should align. Avoid grouping tiles of the same hue or value. Choose stacks of tiles from several different cartons to achieve the best overall blend of color.

## *Grout Spacing*

All McIntyre Tiles are sized modularly within a square foot module, allowing for a 3/16" grout space. Tighter or narrower grout spacing may be used, however, additional tiles will be required to cover a given area. Close grout spacing accentuates tile irregularities. When cutting tiles, use a diamond saw or if using the score-and-break method, cover the tool where it pushes against the tile with tape to protect against marking the tile.

## *Custom Color Development*

McIntyre's glaze lab does develop custom glaze colors in both shiny and matte surfaces for projects where color or reflectivity is essential. McIntyre Tile does not match old or existing tile for replacement purposes.

## *Durability Considerations*

Depending on specific site conditions, all glazed tiles are subject to wear over time. To determine the suitability for specific applications, each McIntyre glaze has been tested and ranked on the MOHS scale of hardness and classified according to recommended usage. Light colors and matte glazes are a better choice in heavy use areas rather than dark colors and glossy glazes because scratches are less apparent.

## *Maintenance*

Minimal maintenance is required. Mild soaps should be sufficient for most cleaning. For persistent stains, stronger cleaners (even mild acids) may be used on the tile (except for Metallic glazes) but care should be taken to avoid contact with the grout, particularly colored grout so that bleaching does not occur. Non-chlorine bleach containing abrasive cleaners, such as Bon-Ami or Bar Keepers Friend are recommended to avoid bleaching colored grouts.

## *High-Fired Metallic Glazes*

These tiles feature metal molecules embedded on the glaze surface for a sensational metallic effect. The glazes are non-toxic in both manufacture and usage. The glaze surfaces are sensitive to oxidation and must be protected. These tiles are pre-sealed at the factory. Periodically the sealer must be renewed to protect the original metallic quality. These glazes are NOT suitable for areas where abrasion, water, and/or strong chemicals are present. *Pre-test any sealers or grout releases before general use.* Some products will discolor the metallic glaze surface. McIntyre Tile will not be responsible for discoloration to this tile from chemicals or moisture.

## *Legacy / Shino Glazes*

Crackle glaze or crazing is one of the distinguishing features of the LEGACY and SHINO product line. The crackle is determined by the chemical formula of the glaze. The crackle effect may be emphasized or de-emphasized, but will always be present with these tiles.

To emphasize the crackle, rub India ink or other staining material into the craze lines. When the desired effect is achieved, the tiles may be sealed with a penetrating sealer. Staining these crackle tiles is the responsibility of the owner or installer and not the manufacturer. Thoroughly test loose samples before general application or installation.

The crackle effect may be de-emphasized but never removed by pre-sealing the tiles with a penetrating sealer before installation and periodically re-treating them. Crackle fracture lines will become more pronounced over time.

Legacy and Shino tile should be sealed after installation to prevent discoloration of the crackle in the glaze surface.

# ARTISAN GLAZED THIN BRICK

## *General Description*

### *Standard Specifications*

½" Bed Depth, Wire Cut Texture Units available in modular (2 ½" x 8") and modified utility (3 ½" x 11 ½"). Corners available. No trim available, Use Schluter or like edging; or glaze edge (GE).

Material size variance + - 1/8" from published size.

The ceramic glaze properties of finish shall be according to ASTM 1405, Grade S, Type I, Class Exterior and fused to the body at temperatures in excess of 2000F. The physical properties shall be according to ASTM C1088, Type TBS, Grade exterior. Units with special or decorative glazed may not meet the requirements for properties of finish for crazing, hardness, or abrasion resistance.

### *Availability*

McIntyre thin bricks are glazed to order and therefore lead times are subject to production limitations and order volume fluctuations. For current lead times, please check with the factory or dealer at time of specification or ordering.

### *Glaze Color Variation*

Most McIntyre glaze colors vary from brick to brick, and some more than others. These variations are intentional, resulting from our production methods and our choice of raw materials. When specifying a McIntyre glaze, always work from a sampling of 3 or more bricks which represent the range of color that can occur for the chosen glaze. It is very difficult to predict how much or how little any part of a particular glaze color range will occur.

## *Grout*

McIntyre recommends using a 3/8" grout joint with artisan glazed thin brick. Tighter or narrower grout spacing may be used, however, additional bricks will be required to cover a given area. Close grout spacing accentuates brick irregularities.

## *Installation*

Installation procedures should conform to the Tile Council of America "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation (**current edition**). The layout should be evenly spaced on each surface to maximize the use of full bricks where possible. Grout joints should align. Avoid grouping bricks of the same hue or value. Choose stacks of bricks from several different cartons to achieve the best overall blend of color.

## *Durability Considerations*

Depending on specific site conditions, all glazed bricks are subject to wear over time. To determine the suitability for specific applications, each McIntyre glaze has been tested and ranked on the MOHS scale of hardness and classified according to recommended usage. Light colors and matte glazes are a better choice in heavy use areas rather than dark colors and glossy glazes because scratches are less apparent.

## *Maintenance*

Minimal maintenance is required. Mild soaps should be sufficient for most cleaning. For persistent stains, stronger cleaners (even mild acids) may be used on the tile (except for Metallic glazes) but care should be taken to avoid contact with the grout, particularly colored grout so that bleaching does not occur. Non-chlorine bleach containing abrasive cleaners, such as Bon-Ami or Bar Keepers Friend are recommended to avoid bleaching colored grouts.