



## **Installation Guide: Ceramic**

Elon® **ALWAYS** recommends that all installations be done in accordance with local building codes and adhere to Tile Council of North America specifications.

### **Preparation**

*Prior to installation of Ceramic:*

- All Ceramic should be blended from multiple cartons prior to installation.
  - On large jobs, always blend material from multiple pallets to confirm all material is from the same dye lot.
- Trim tiles may exhibit slight shade variations compared to field tiles due to different firing processes.
  - Trim tiles should be viewed as complementary pieces, not exact matches to the field tile.
  - Always inspect materials before installation.
- Quarter-round moldings, when installed correctly, can serve as pencil moldings, or finished edges for both vertical and horizontal applications.
- Check Technical Data and Usage sections to determine if the ceramic wall tile is suitable for use in steam units.

### **Installation**

*When installing Ceramic:*

- Preparation of Backerboard for horizontal and vertical joints, allow 1/8" spacing between sheets, filled solid, and taped with 2" glass fiber tape using latex-portland cement mortar (thinset).
  - As tile size increases, substrate variation from the required plane should be minimized.
    - Organic adhesive (mastic) bond coat thickness is thin and uniform; therefore, substrate flattening is required to reduce lippage.
- Organic adhesives (mastic) should be used according to manufacturer instructions and Tile Council of North America specifications.
  - Examples
    - Do not use in areas exposed to excessive water or steam.
    - Do not use to bond tile to membranes or impervious substrates.
    - Not suitable for wall tiles larger than 8" x 8".
- When used in showers or tubs, Ceramic should never be set with the bottom course extending into the shower base or tight to tub lip. Always leave a minimum gap of 1/4" above and perpendicular to the floor or lip of the tub or shower base and use a waterproof flexible sealant where they meet per TCNA specifications B412-23.
- In wet areas, waterproof and slope all non-flooring horizontal surfaces towards the drain.
  - Non-flooring examples include sills, seats, niches, and curbs.

## Grouting

### *Grouting Ceramic:*

- Tile Council of North America recommends a minimum 1/16" grout joint.
  - Use Unsanded grout for joints 1/16" – 1/8" in width and sanded grout for joints 1/8" – 5/8" in width.
- Always pre-seal glazed ceramics when grouting with contrasting grout colors.
  - Example: White wall tile with black grout.

## Sealing

### *Sealing Ceramic and Grout Joints after installation regardless of the finish:*

- Post-installation, always seal all grout joints to facilitate maintenance by using an item such as *Aqua Mix® Grout Sealer Spray*.

## **Installation is Acceptance**

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