



Installation Guide: Grey Basalt

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

Grey Basalt is a durable volcanic stone with smooth and homogeneous shades of grey and charcoal, featuring a subtle honed texture. Grey Basalt is extremely porous, requiring careful handling before sealing.

Preparation

Prior to installation of Natural Grey Basalt:

- Open and inspect all cartons.
- All cartons should be opened, and material should be separated to allow the installer to layout all pieces and blend them together to give the final installation a uniform color blend, known as "Dry Laid."
- On large jobs, blend material from multiple pallets during Dry Laying.
- When laying out the installation, DO NOT set Grey Basalt with a "Butt Joint"; Tile Council of North America recommends a minimum 1/16" grout joint.
 - For grout joints 1/16"- 1/8" width, use Unsanded Grout.
 - For grout joints 1/8"- 5/8" width, use Sanded Grout.

Installation

When installing Natural Grey Basalt:

- Pre-sealing is recommended before and after installation to prevent staining caused by setting materials and grouts.
 - Elon suggests applying multiple coats of *Aqua Mix® Enrich 'N' Seal™* before installation.
- Use a quality latex-modified thinset for both walls and floors instead of mastic to avoid staining and discoloration.
 - Always follow manufacturers' Limitations and Instructions.
- When used in showers or tubs, Grey Basalt 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 specification B412-23.
 - This prevents water from wicking up the body of the Grey Basalt, preventing discoloration.
- For Grey Basalt shower floors, recommend installations with a Complete Water Management System such as Bonded Waterproof Tiled Shower Assemblies (Schluter) instead of Traditional Shower installations (Mud job).

Grouting

Grouting Natural Grey Basalt:

- Be cautious about choosing a grout color; a contrasting grout color may become trapped in the surface texture of Grey Basalt, causing discoloration.
 - Always conduct a test sample before grouting.
- Pre-sealing Grey Basalt before grouting is a MUST; it helps minimize pigments in grout from staining the natural stone.
 - Pre-sealing facilitates easier installation cleanup of grout residue.

Sealing

Sealing Natural Grey Basalt and Grout Joints after installation:

- Elon recommends applying multiple coats (5 minimum) of a product like *Aqua Mix® Sealer's Choice® Gold* to leave the material looking natural, or a product like *Aqua Mix® Enrich 'N' Seal™* to protect and enhance the natural color of Grey Basalt.
- Conduct a water test on Grey Basalt to determine if additional coats of enhancing sealer are required.
 - Place a teaspoon of water on the Grey Basalt and let it sit for 5 minutes. If any dark discoloration shows where the water had sat, additional coats of sealer should be applied.
- When sealing natural Grey Basalt, apply each coat in a different direction (e.g., first coat Left to Right, Second coat Front to Back).
- Multi-sided or 6-sided sealing of material 48 hours before installation will help minimize darkening on shower floors caused by water absorption and reduce the formation of effervescence and rust.
 - Use in areas with excessive moisture exposure: shower floors, walls along the base of the shower or tub flange, soap niches.
 - As per National Tile Contractors Association Reference Manual, Custom, or Mapei technical articles.

Common Problems

Common problems in Natural Grey Basalt:

- Stain Removal:
 - Sealing Grey Basalt will help reduce staining.
 - Always clean up spills promptly.
- Etching in natural stone:
 - Sealing Grey Basalt after installation will help minimize etching.
 - Enhancing Sealers may help hide the dullness of some etched stones, but professional refinishing may be required to eliminate it.
- Lippage or uneven surface height issues are often a result of improper installation.
 - Always inspect material for uniform thickness before installation.

Installation is Acceptance

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