

Installation Guide

**CRACKLED GLAZED TILES (EMERALD GLAZED SQUARE)**



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This document is designed as a guidance note for certified trade professionals. Please note that it is essential to wear suitable protective eyewear and clothing when cutting or drying tiles.

# BERT & MAY

*\* Please check the suitability tab on our website for each of our Glazed products, as Glazed Tiles are not suitable for wet rooms or showers. \**

For **crackled glazed tiles** we recommend these are sealed.

## **Recommended Products:**

**MP90 ECO XTREME SEALER**

**FILA CLEANER PRO - FOR ONGOING GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

The manufacturer of the installation products we recommend is **Fila**. We have worked closely with the **Fila Team** to develop our guide using their products and our tiles, and extensive testing on our tiles has been carried out.

Fila believes it is fundamentally important to ensure a **constant** commitment to ethically sustainable products, and they have been awarded the Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold Award (low VOC emissions) for their MP90 Eco Xtreme product. All their packaging is recyclable.

Any products which come into contact with the tiles i.e., other sealants, silicone, cleaning products, or even foods, can cause damage if acidic, pigmented or abrasive.

It is important that you choose a contractor that is experienced with the installation of these tiles and that they are given this information prior to proceeding with any work to ensure they are aware of the processes & timelines for each stage.

Please contact [help@bertandmay.com](mailto:help@bertandmay.com) if you would like us to send you a list of our recommended installers.

## **Installation Guide**

### **Cutting**

We recommend that a high-quality diamond cutter is used to cut the tiles. The cutting blade should be water suppressed to control dust and cool the blades. Whilst cutting or drilling tiles, the surface of the tile may become wet and/or dirty. Wipe the tile clean immediately after cutting.

### **Pre-Installation**

Bert & May recommends that the tiles are the last material to be installed during a building project. Remove any dust gathered on the tiles to improve adherence. Before installing the crackle glazed tiles, the floor must be clean, free from dust and moisture, ensuring the sub-surface is level and stable. Please ensure new floor screeds are dry for a minimum of 6 weeks.

### **Installation**

# BERT & MAY

Apply adhesive to the floor using a notched trowel, working in small areas in parallel lines, spread only enough adhesive (we recommend Mapei Keraflex Maxi Low dust adhesive) that remains workable. We recommend using grout spacers with minimum 1mm between tiles, although the tiles can be butt jointed if required. However, if the tiles are being installed outside, we would recommend a minimum spacing of 2mm between tiles. Ensure the tiles are level by using a spirit level and do not step on the tiles for a least 6hrs (if using rapid set adhesive) or preferably overnight. The ambient temperature does affect the drying and curing times. The longer you can leave the tiles, the greater assurance you have that they have dried out. Please remember to protect your tiles from liquids and heavy foot traffic.

Should you need to wash the tiles, use pH neutral soap and water or pH neutral Fila Cleaner Pro.

## **Pre-Grout Sealing**

*For glazed tiles with crackles, we recommend sealing these tiles before grouting.*

Ensure your tiles are clean and dust free before moving on to the next step. Should you need to wash the tiles, use pH neutral products. We recommend using **FILA CLEANER PRO**, which should be diluted in a 1-part product: 30-part water ratio and worked into the tiles with a white nylon pad. Once tiles are clean, wipe off any residue with a dry cloth and leave the tiles to completely dry out for 24 hours.

Using a paint brush/fleece pad or other appropriate applicator, apply a moderate application of MP90 Eco Xtreme Sealant, ensuring the surface of the tiles are fully covered. Leave for 10 minutes and then promptly remove any sealant sitting on the surface, using a clean dry microfibre cloth, to avoid any mottling on the surface.

## **Grouting**

We recommend using light coloured grout on light coloured tiles. Avoid dark coloured grouts, unless on dark coloured tiles. If you do choose to use a dark grout, we recommend taking extra care to clean the surface of the tile throughout the grouting process, as the tiles have a textured surface and grout can get trapped).

Ensure the surface of the tiles are free from dust and adhesive before you begin the grouting process. Use point grouting as spread/slurry method of grouting is likely to sit in any textured surface of the tiles. A grouting gun can be used. Sponge the area to be grouted with clean water before applying the grout, working in small areas. Replace the water when needed, it is essential that the water and sponge is always clean. Allow the grout to dry for 24 hours.

## **Post Grouting**

To clean the tiles post grouting, we recommend using FILA CLEANER PRO, which should be diluted in a 1-part product: 30 parts water ratio and worked into the tiles with a white nylon pad (or a clean nylon floor brush for larger areas). Leave to activate for 4-5 minutes and remove with clean sponge and repeat, as necessary. Once the tiles are clean, with a damp sponge (wet vacuum for larger areas) remove the residue. Rinse thoroughly with clean water. The tiles then must be left to dry out fully i.e., approx. 24 hours.

## **Sealing**

# BERT & MAY

Once happy with the look of your installed tiles, sealing around the grout lines/around sinks is recommended. They should be sealed with **Fila MP90 ECO XTREME**. Start by ensuring the tiles are clean and dried. Apply **MP90 ECO XTREME** evenly, using a paintbrush, soaking the grout lines well. Leave for 10 minutes and then promptly remove any excess sealant sitting on the surface, using a clean dry microfibre cloth, to avoid any mottling on the surface. The tiles are not fully cured until 24 hours later.

Bert & May recommend professional advice is sought from a certified trade professional.

*\* Note for Outdoor Tiles – not suitable for floors outdoors as Glazed Tiles will become slippery when wet. \**

*As the tiles are exposed to the environment and subject to foliage and inclement weather conditions, they will naturally patina over time. We feel this adds to their natural beauty but, it is important to regularly clean outdoor installations with the pH neutral product to limit any staining.*

You should always take advice from your installer for professional advice about the best time for you to install your outdoor tiles, as some ancillary products such as adhesive, can sometimes only be used during certain ambient temperatures. Bert & May would recommend installations be carried out during spring/summer when a few dry days are more achievable.

## **Ongoing Maintenance**

We recommend for day-to-day cleaning of your tiles to use Fila CLEANER PRO (diluted 1 part product to 200 parts water), or PH neutral cleaners, avoiding anything too abrasive, acidic or bleach which can affect the tiles.

## **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.