

Installation Guide

PORCELAIN TILES

**BERT
& MAY**

Installation Guide

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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.

Porcelain tiles do not need to be sealed, but for general maintenance, and to aid cleaning, they **can** be sealed.

Although the Porcelain tiles do not require to be sealed, we do advise sealing the grout lines in a bathroom setting or around sinks to avoid staining or cracking of the grout over time. We recommend FILA MP90 ECO XTREME for this.

Recommended Products:

***DETERDEK PRO-END OF WORK CLEANING AGENT
MP90 ECO XTREME SEALER (OPTIONAL)
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 also 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.

Please contact help@bertandmay.com if you would like us to send you a list of our recommended installers.

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Cutting

We recommend that a high-quality diamond cutter for Porcelain 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 Preparation

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 Porcelain

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

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 (diluted 1 part product/30 parts water). Should you need to remove any stubborn building residues from the tiles, we recommend using **Deterdek pro**, & with non-scratch white pad (or clean nylon floor brush for larger areas) (diluted 1 part product/5 parts water), work product into tiles with pad in circular movements, leave to activate for 4-5 minutes & then remove residue with damp sponge. rinse with clean water – repeat as necessary until tiles clean. allow tiles to dry for 24 hrs. please do not proceed to seal the tiles until tiles are fully clean & dry.

Grouting

We recommend using light coloured grout on light coloured tiles. We recommend that you 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.

We recommend point grouting as spread/slurry method of grouting is likely to sit in the textured surface of the Porcelain tile. 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 Grout Cleaning

To clean the tiles post grouting, use the **Deterdek Pro** diluted in water (1 part product:5 parts water) and distribute the diluted product evenly onto the surface of the tiles– working in small areas (approx. 1-2 metre areas at a time). With a white nylon pad (or a clean nylon floor brush for larger areas) – **Please note metal-based cleaning pads/tools must *NOT* be used.** Work the product into the tiles using circular movements with the pad. Leave to act for 4-5 minutes and then with a damp sponge (wet vacuum for larger areas) remove the residue. Repeat the process as necessary, until the tiles are clean and then rinse thoroughly with clean water. The tiles then must be left to dry out fully i.e., approx. 24 hours and before proceeding to **optional** sealing process.

Sealing (optional)

Once happy with the look of your installed tiles, you may then proceed to sealing the tiles. 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 (or fleece pad for larger areas), also 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 can be walked on after 2 hours but not fully cured until 24 hours. An easy test to see if the floor is sealed is to place a few drops of water on the tiles, the beads of water should sit on top of the tiles.

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

For outdoor tiles - as the tiles are exposed to the environment and subject to foliage and inclement weather conditions, they will naturally patina over time, which we feel adds to their beauty, but it is important to regularly clean outdoor installations with the pH neutral product to limit any staining.

Porcelain tiles installed outdoors will naturally patina over time due to being exposed to the elements, which we feel adds to their beauty. 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/200 parts water), or pH neutral floor cleaners, avoiding anything too abrasive, acidic or bleach which can affect the tiles. For a deep clean, DETERDEK PRO can be used, as per post grout cleaning section above, but if you have chosen to seal your tiles, this will also remove any sealant that has been applied, so you will need to re-seal using MP90 Eco Xtreme

For outdoor tiles - as the tiles are exposed to the environment and subject to fallen foliage and inclement weather conditions, they will naturally patina over time, which we feel adds to their beauty, but it is important to regularly clean outdoor installations with the pH neutral product to limit any staining.

Underfloor Heating

Our Porcelain tiles can be used for underfloor heating. The heating should be correctly commissioned prior to tiling and switched off or lowered to a maximum of 15°C during tiling and for a minimum of 14 days after installation. After 14 days increase the temperature at a rate of 5°C per day to the maximum temperature then reduce by 5°C per day to the required working temperature. Fleximat should be used as an antifracture membrane over underfloor heating.

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.

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