



CERAMIC TILE INSTALLATION SERIES S HANDPAINTED TILES

INTRODUCTION

Our Series S tiles are terracotta tiles with hand applied glazes, made in Italy. The handmade process creates tiles that have very subtle variations in their surface, size and pattern.

Shade and size variation are inherent characteristics of these tiles. All tile sizes are nominal. Colour and surface variations are natural and desired characteristics.

Balineum recommends that all goods be installed by a professional builder or tiler who has experience working with the type of material you have purchased.

SURFACE PREPARATION

It is important to prepare a well compressed and dry tile foundation, clear from grease, oil, dust and scaling.

If you are using tiles outdoors or in a wet environment, the substrate should be prepared with a waterproof membrane.

PRE-SEALANTS

Pre-sealants are not required when installing these tiles – but it is a good idea to use pre-sealants if your selected tile has a crackle effect and/or you are using a contrasting coloured grout. Coloured grouts can stain tile surfaces and with crackled glaze tiles – grout can collect in any crazing on the glaze surface. A pre-sealant will help protect the tiles and make cleaning easier after grouting.

It is always a good idea to do a small test first before full application.

Apply the pre-grout sealant 24 hours after the adhesive has fully dried. Ensure the adhesive and bed is fully dry prior to applying sealant and grout.

SELECTION

There is a degree of shade variation in this glazed product that is inherent and desirable. We recommend opening all boxes at the start and planning your layout on a dry surface first. Mix and match the shades until intended effect is achieved.

CUTTING

Glazed ceramic tiles may be cut on site with a tile cutter. Use a wet saw when cutting crackle glazed tiles for a cleaner finish and allow to dry fully.



ADHESIVE

Any good quality flexible adhesive such as products supplied by Kerakoll, Laticrete or Mapei adhesive is recommended.

Be sure to only install tiles on thoroughly dry surfaces. As a check you can place a piece of plastic or a plastic bag onto the surface, taping down all four sides and leave overnight. If there is moisture on the underside of bag the next day, the surface needs further drying time prior to next steps. This check can be done throughout your installation process. Surfaces can appear dry when they are not. Any moisture in the substrate or adhesive will try to escape through the tile surface and may cause discolouration.

GROUT COLOURS

Tiles should be allowed to set for at least 24 hours before applying grout to the joints with a trowel or sponge, following the instructions of your chosen adhesive and grout product.

Laticrete or Mapei are two reputable grout makers and both offer a wide selection of colours, but any good quality branded grout will be suitable.

Be careful not to leave grout on the tile surface for prolonged periods, cleaning as you go.

Please note: Some coloured grouts can cause stains on certain glazed products therefore a test should be made on a spare tile before using any coloured grout to establish whether it is liable to stain. If using a coloured grout on crackle tile – the coloured grout may make the cracks more pronounced or appear dirty. A grout that matches the glaze colour is best used on crazed tiles and/or consider using a pre-sealant.

TILE SPACING

We recommend a minimum grout line of 2mm. Anything more than this is entirely a design and installation decision.

Because these tiles are handmade there are in small differences the sizes of tiles: this is intended and not a production fault.

SEALANT

We suggest tiles which are have a crackle glaze should be sealed after installation.

We recommend all tiles (and grout) installations in a shower or within the immediate vicinity of sink that will get wet on regular basis also be sealed after installation. Lithofin have a ceramic sealant product that lasts 15 years but any brand of sealant recommended by your installer should be suitable.



Once the tiles have been grouted and properly cleaned, leave them to dry completely for 24 hours. Apply 1-2 coats of sealant, allowing it to dry between coats

Crazed glazes may continue to craze over time. If you notice dark lines appearing on the tile surface when they get wet – you will need to apply another coat of sealant.

CRAZING

Crazing is fine cracks in the surface of the glaze. Crazing is a design element that is often desired and is not a fault in the glaze or tile. Some Series S glazes will craze / crackled.

MAINTENANCE

There is no specific or required maintenance for ceramic tiles after installation.

Daily or weekly cleaning

The tiles should be regularly washed with mild soap and water or neutral cleaner. Neutral cleaners are devoid of acids, caustics, harsh fillers, or abrasives that could scratch the surface of the tile.

Crazing / Dark lines appearing when wet:

If you notice dark lines on the tile surface when they get wet – the glaze has crazed and simply need a layer of sealant applied. But sure to allow the wall and tile to dry entirely and then apply sealant.

Other cleaning

For more substantial cleaning or stain removal – please refer to resource section for various tile cleaning products that are available from specialist suppliers.

RESOURCES

Fila - filasolutions.com
Lithofin - lithofin.co.uk
Aquamix – aquamix.com.au
Laticrete – laticrete.com
Mapei- mapei.com