



## SWIRLS CEMENT TILE INSTALLATION

### INTRODUCTION

The “Swirls” tiles are made with mineral powder, cement, water and natural pigments. The materials are poured into a mould, and then the marbled swirl patterns are created by hand, making each tile entirely unique.

Cement tiles need to be sealed and (can be) waxed after installation. They can also be polished after installation if required to smooth out surface installation and remove any stains.

Shade and small size variations are all inherent characteristics of tile and stone. All tile sizes are nominal.

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.

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### 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.

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### PRE-GROUT SEALANTS

Cement tiles are porous.

It is suggested to use a pre-grout sealant when installing these tiles – this is particularly important if using a contrasting grout colour. Coloured grouts can stain tile surfaces, so it is always a good idea to do a small test first. When using contrasting grout colours, a pre-sealant will help protect the tiles and make cleaning easier.

A product such as FILA PRW200 can be used prior to grout application.

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### SELECTION

There is a degree of variation in this 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 shade variation until intended effect is achieved.

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### CUTTING

Cement tiles may be cut on site with a diamond edge saw or another suitable tile cutting machine. Edges can be mitred for external corner installations.

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## ADHESIVE

Use an appropriate high-performance adhesive such as Mapei Keraflex Maxi S1 or Kerakoll H40 Flex. Please follow instructions for use. Remove any trace of glue from the surface and the gaps between tiles as you go. Installers may choose to work with their own preferred brand of adhesive.

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 cement tile surface and cause discolouration.

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## GROUT COLOURS

We can provide grout in one of the same pigments as your cement tiles. This should be ordered at the same time as your tiles, specifying which colour you would like to match. You can also use grout from any well-known grout supplier.

Be careful not to leave grout on the tile surface for prolonged periods, cleaning as you go. Consider using a pre-sealant like FILA PRW200 if using contrasting grout colours. The pigments in grout colours can cause discolouration on these tiles, so it is always best to do a preliminary test and use a pre-sealant if required.

Please wait for the prescribed time for the adhesive hardening before applying the grout. And be sure to allow the grout to fully dry (at least 24 hours) before applying final coats of sealant and wax. The plastic bag check can be performed at this stage too to check for moisture prior to applying sealant.

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## TILE SPACING

European standards recommend a minimum grout line of 2mm. However, these tiles are traditionally placed next to each (butt-jointed with only 1 mm gaps).

A liquid grouting product is to be used in this case. We can supply 1mm grout spacers. If being used over floor heating or outdoors, larger grout lines are recommended (3-4 mm).

### Expansion Joints

In large tiled areas, expansion joints may be required to adsorb movements in the building structure. Your architect or draftsman can plan for these this based on the site specific design.



## POLISHING

These tiles do not need to be, but can be, polished on site after installation to perfectly level the installation or repair and remove any colour discoloration.

In order to achieve best results, the floor should be even, with a maximum difference in level of 1 mm between tiles. Use abrasive grindstone with a minimum 60 grit. An extra rough grindstone could cause damage to the tiles.

Restore the grouting if it has been taken off with the polishing. After polishing, let the floor dry out, free from any kind of covering (paper, cardboard, plastic, etc.).

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## SEALANT

It is highly recommended to apply a sealant to cement tile installations to ensure a long life. Cement tiles are porous. Regular sealants will not change the appearance of your tile installation. Colour enhancing sealants are available if desired.

Sealants provide water and oil repellance, and help minimise stains and discolorations from water and oils (but does not protect from acids).

In some installations, we also recommend applying a wax coating after applying sealant. Wax coatings are not required but will add another layer of protection from stains and acids - allowing you a little more time to deal with possible spills and stains.

### **Indoor Floor Installation Sealants:**

After grouting and allowing time for grout to dry – apply FILA MP/90 sealant on the clean, dry floor. Use a paint brush, a cloth or a proper applicator. When dry, you can remove any excess product with FILA Cleaner using a cloth.

After 24 hours, the floor can be finished with two coats of FILA CLASSIC or FILA MATT wax, the second coat applied two hours after the first. Buff using a floor polisher with white tool disc or a woollen cloth.

### **Wet areas, bathroom wall coverings and outdoors installation Sealants:**

For a better stain repellent effect, apply a coat of FILA HYDROREP (waterproofing) with pasting brush. Apply then a coat of FILOFAB (oil repellent), 24 hours later. Neither product will change the original appearance of the tiles.

Do not use wax products after Hydrorep or Filafab.

### **Colour enhancing sealant:**

There are colour enhancing sealants available that will enhance and change the colour of the stone and cement. This may be a desirable installation effect on some projects. Consult with the specific vendor regarding its application and perform a test prior to full application.



## MAINTENANCE

### Final installation cleaning

After sealing and/or waxing, we suggest you wash the floor a final time with a solution of a neutral cleaner like Fila Cleaner in warm water (1:30).

### Weekly Cleaning

Fila Cleaner in a ratio like 1:200 can be used for daily or weekly cleaning.

### Suggested monthly or quarterly cleaning - Wax installations:

Use Fila Classic or Fila Matt wax in water (2/3 glasses in a bucket of water) to top up the wax coating if applied (mopping floors as usual).

### Spot cleaning

Coloured stains: apply FILA SR/95 on the stain, then rinse well. Oil and grease stains: spray FILA NONSPOT on the stain. Brush when dry. Note: The use of FILA SR/95 and FILA NONSPOT might take off wax from the floor. Repeat the wax treatment.

### Longer term maintenance

Over time depending on the installation - your sealant and wax applications will need to be reapplied. Reapply sealants when you see the surface is losing its water or stain repellance.

After many years it is possible the wax coating will become thick or discoloured - in this instance you can remove wax completely, using a solution of Fila PS/87 in water (1:5) and begin the wax application again from beginning.

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## RESOURCES

Fila - [filasolutions.com](http://filasolutions.com)  
Lithofin - [lithofin.co.uk](http://lithofin.co.uk)  
Aquamix - [aquamix.com.au](http://aquamix.com.au)  
Laticrete - [laticrete.com](http://laticrete.com)  
Mapei- [mapei.com](http://mapei.com)

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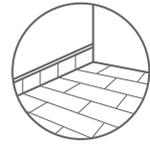
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## SUMMARY

### INDOOR LIVING, FLOOR INSTALLATIONS



INDOOR LIVING



FLOOR INSTALLATIONS

#### 1. PRE GROUT SEALANT (OPTIONAL)



##### FilaPRW200

Used to protect tiles during installation and help stop grout from staining tiles. Highly recommended if using a contrasting grout colour.

Grouting can be done the day after the application of PRW200.

Any left-over residue of FilaPRW200 can be removed as part of post grout cleaning with Fila CLEANER.

#### 2. POST GROUT CLEANING



When the grout is completely dry, use **Fila Cleaner** in 1:30 ratio to clean surface prior to applying sealant.

#### 3. SEALANT / STAIN PROTECTOR



Sealant will help minimise stains and discolouration from daily use. It provides water and oil repellance (but does not help protect from acids).

Use **Fila MP90**

#### 4. FINISHING WAX (OPTIONAL BUT RECOMENDED)



Wax application to cement tiles provides an additional layer of protection from acids – wine/cleaners/citrus/ other acids –in daily life. The wax layer gives you more time to deal with acid related spills. It will need to be topped up and replenished over time.

**Fila Matt** (for matte or honed installations) or **Fila Classic** (for polished installations or an additional sheen/gloss).

Tip: for wax applications apply first coat vertically and second coat horizontally.

#### 5. FINAL INSTALLATION CLEAN



**Fila Cleaner** 1:30

#### 6. ONGOING CLEANING / MAINTENACNE



Plain water or other natural cleaner for daily or weekly cleaning. Dilute **Fila Cleaner** 1:30, spread it over the floor and leave to act for 5 minutes. Work with large brush or a single-disc machine. Remove all the residues with a liquid vacuum or cloth and rinse thoroughly with plenty of clean water

##### WAX RESTORATION

For the restoration of the layer of wax, reapply **Fila Matt** or **Fila Classic** once a month diluting around 500 ml of wax in 5 liters of water.

To completely remove wax use FILAPS87 diluted 1:5.

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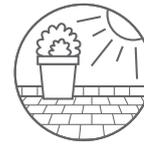
## SUMMARY

### BATHROOM / KITCHEN / WETROOM & OUTDOOR INSTALLATIONS

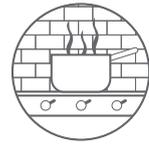
For any wall or floor surface that will get wet regularly.



BATHROOM  
WET-ROOM



OUTDOOR



KITCHEN  
SPLASHBACKS

#### 1. PRE GROUT SEALANT (OPTIONAL)



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#### 2. POST GROUT CLEANING



When the grout is completely dry, use **Fila Cleaner** in 1:30 ratio to clean surface prior to applying sealant.

#### 3. SEALANT / STAIN PROTECTOR



A. **Fila Hydrorep** (waterproofing)

AND then 24 hours later

B. **Fila Fob** (oil repellent)

Wax coatings are not applied after Hydrorep or Fob.

#### 4. FINAL INSTALLATION CLEAN



**Fila Cleaner** 1:30

#### 5. ONGOING CLEANING / MAINTENANCE



Plain water or other natural cleaner for daily or weekly cleaning. Dilute **Fila Cleaner** 1:30, spread it over the floor and leave to act for 5 minutes. Work with large brush or a single-disc machine. Remove all the residues with a liquid vacuum or cloth and rinse thoroughly with plenty of clean water

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