



Glazed Ceramic Wall Tile

Installation Instructions

Inspect all product prior to installation for any visible defects or unacceptable color/shade variation. Confirm the caliber and dye lot shade, all packaging is clearly marked with shade (overall color tone) and caliber (allowable size variation). It is not recommended to mix dye lots or calibers.

Claims are not accepted after installation.

Substrate should be clean, free of dust & particulates and adhering to TCNA's 09300 Handbook.

Cutting:

Use a tile cutter (score & snap) with a new diamond wheel for best results when cutting our ceramic material. Wetting the diamond wheel with oil before cutting will produce the smoothest cuts. Alternatively, it is also possible to use a wet-saw or angle grinder with a new diamond blade specifically designed for cutting ceramics or stone. Any exposed cuts should be done with a wet saw to produce the cleanest and smoothest cut edge.

Cut edges and corners will be sharp. Always be sure to smooth cut edges manually with a diamond hand pad or ceramic dressing stone.

Drilling:

If possible, drill holes before installing tile. Using a new diamond coring bit (for large holes) or spade bit (for small holes) will give the best results. Lubricating the bit and tile surface with a continuous spray of oil/water mix will prolong the life of bits and provide a better-finished edge. When possible, the use of a jig will ensure precise placement of holes to be drilled.

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When drilling holes for anchoring bolts, plumbing or any other dissimilar material always ensure a minimum of 1/8" (3mm) clearance around the item is provided to avoid cracking due to disparate expansion & contraction rates or stress transfer.

Installation:

When setting ceramic wall tiles & mosaics it is recommended to use polymer or latex modified thin set or medium bed mortar compliant with ANSI standard A118.4. In dry area installations mastics can also be used. Always follow setting material manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

Suggested size of trowel to use for applying the thin-set:

3/16" to 1/4" V-notch	Mosaics tiles up to 4-1/2" glazed wall tile
1/4" x 1/4" U or Square notch	4" to 8" tile
1/4" x 3/8" U or Square notch	8" to 16" tile
1/2" x 1/2" U or Square notch	16" and larger

For Focus series a 1/4 to 3/8" square-notched trowel is suggested for applying the thin-set. For formats with any dimension larger than 18" it is not recommended to offset tile more than 30%.

Grouting:

Before grouting, allow the mortar base to dry for 24 to 48 hours.

Non-sanded grout compliant with A118.4 should be used for our wall tile material. If sanded grout must be used for technical or aesthetic reasons, gentle application of grout with a soft rubber float is recommended to minimize the possibility of surface scratching. A "mock-up" or testing installation should be executed to ensure results are acceptable. Epoxy grouts or adhesives can be used when stain resistant installations are required.

After grouting wipe of excess surface grout with a slightly damp sponge- do not over wash. After initial wash has been allowed to haze, wipe once with minimal pressure at a

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45-degree angle to joints and rinse sponge after wiping once with each side. Any remaining haze can be buffed off with a dry towel or cheese-cloth after grout surface has dried sufficiently

Care should be taken to place requisite non-cementitious expansion joints in any tile installation to allow for normal expansion and contraction of the material and preserve the installation from stress fractures. Many grout manufacturers will make urethane or silicone based products to match cementitious grouts for this purpose.

Expansions joints should be placed in areas such as (but not limited to); tile meeting a dissimilar material; any change of plane (like counter to backsplash or floor to wall); and around perimeters of installation.

Care & Maintenance

Glazed tile should not be treated with a sealer for any reason.

If a sealer is applied to grouting, be sure to wipe any excess sealer from tile surface.

Due to the abrasion in the polishing process, microscopic surface pores are exposed in polished, unglazed porcelains. If aggressive soiling or contrasting grout colors are anticipated, we recommend sealing this material with a high-quality penetrating sealer and using a grout-release prior to grouting. Again use a "mock-up" or testing installation to ensure results are acceptable.

Tiles may be damaged from impact with hard or heavy objects, which can lead to chipping or breakage causing sharp cutting edges that can cause injuries.

Always replace any damaged tiles immediately.

To clean, use a damp sponge with warm water. For heavy cleaning, use a non-abrasive cleaner with a damp sponge.

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