

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

We recommend all our tiles to be installed using the prevailing guidelines as set forth in the TCNA (Tile Council of North America) Handbook and the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) specifications.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

The surface where the product is going to be installed must be clean and level.

We strongly recommend dry laying prior to installation. Blending of the ceramic tile glaze is key to insuring a pleasing overall look to your room. This will resolve any color or size issues prior to installation and will serve as a review of tile placement.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

SETTING MATERIALS

Adhesive – Install with any high-quality ceramic tile adhesive suitable to the intended application.

Mud installation can be done as well. All setting materials and installation methods should be performed using the prevailing guidelines set by the Tile Council of America and the ANSI.

GROUT

Unsanded grout is typically used for grout joints 1/8" or smaller.

Sanded grout is recommended for grout joints larger than 1/8", as long as the excess material is removed with a damp sponge. Using notched trowels or grout floats might scratch the tile.

The color of the grout should be as close as possible to the color of your tile.

NOTE: We use Sanded grout in most of our display boards to keep them intact during shipping.

METHOD

Follow standard ceramic tile installation procedures provided by the TCNA (Tile Council of North America) Handbook and the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) specifications.

Relief decorative borders or liners can be taped off during grouting to facilitate cleanup.

To help keep border, liner and molding grout joints tight, offset the joints between field tile, trim and accent rows.

SEALING

Sealing is not required for Solid Glazes.

Sealing is mandatory for Crackle Glazes.

We recommend to seal our tiles with a penetrating sealer before and after grouting.

1. The sealer penetrates the fine, hairline fissures in the glaze and prevents dirt and dust darkening the crackle over a period of time.

2. Sealing the crackled glaze makes it easier to maintain and clean.

3. Proper application of the sealer (wipe off any excess from glazed surface) will not harm or change the appearance of the tile.

4. We do not recommend the use of contrasting grouts with this type of glaze.

We recommend the following products and procedures:

Once the tile is mounted on the wall and before grouting, the tile surface must be clean and free of dirt and dust. Use the FILAMP90 - Natural Look Penetrating Sealer (Available in our Price List v.101) which is a solvent based sealer. Apply an even coat of FILAMP90 with a paintbrush or lambswool applicator pad. Wait 24 Hours to allow the product to cure. Apply grout with a sponge evenly distributing grout over joints. **Do not use a grout float.**

NOTE: When using Contrasting Color Grouts, it is imperative that the tiles are thoroughly sealed to avoid the discoloration from the grout pigment. Please follow the mixing grouting instructions of the Grout Manufacturer.

Once the grouting is completed and allowed to dry, the surface of the tiles must be cleaned using FILA CLEANER - Neutral Cleaner (Available in our Price List v.101) observing the following guidelines: Dilute to 1:30. Clean the surface with a cloth and scrubbing brush. Remove any residue and rinse thoroughly.

After the thorough cleaning of the surface and grout residue, the tile will need to be resealed using the FILAMP90 - Natural Look Penetrating Sealer (Available in our Price List v.101) observing the following guidelines: Apply an even coat of FILAMP90 with a paintbrush or lambswool applicator pad. Wipe off product excess after 15 minutes, making sure to rub the product and help its complete penetration into the material. Wait 24 Hours to allow the product to cure.

NOTE: Future Sealing of the product should be done if you see any discoloration/darkening in the body of the tile. This will vary by end usage, care and maintenance products and tools used.

If you use any other sealer, please check with the manufacturer for the proper instructions and products to use for sealing crackled glaze ceramic tile.

MAINTENANCE

Walls and counters: clean glazed ceramic tile regularly with a non-abrasive/non-acidic, mild and PH neutral cleaner.

We recommend FILA CLEANER - Neutral Cleaner (Available in our Price List v.101) for all cleaning purposes of our tile.

Sealer: Reapply to grout joints and crackle glazes periodically as needed. When water no longer beads on the surface of the joints, resealing is required.

GLASS MOSAICS

Our Vintage Hex 1" mosaics are molten glass mosaics. Molten glass characteristics include some variation in size, shade and irregular edges. These characteristics are inherent in standard production and aesthetics of the product.

The subtle size and shape variations impact the final grout joint appearance and enhance the natural visual of the product. To achieve optimal results, tile should be selected from multiple cartons and shading arrangement planned prior to installation.

Water, grease, oil, etc. create slippery conditions. Floor applications with exposure to these conditions require extra caution in product selection.

Grout joint recommendations: 1/16" on average.

PLEASE NOTE

We assume no responsibility for installation.

This information is to be used as a guideline only and should be discussed with a professional and accredited tile installer.

CARE & MAINTENANCE	SOLID GLAZE	TRANSLUCENT GLAZE	MATTE CRACKLE	MICRO CRACKLE	CLASSIC CRACKLE	DIMENSIONAL FIELD	FLOOR	
	Optional	Optional	Yes-Required*	Yes-Required*	Yes-Required*	Optional	Optional	Optional
Recommended cleaning	Routine with non-abrasive cleaners							

CHARACTERISTICS	SOLID GLAZE	TRANSLUCENT GLAZE	MATTE CRACKLE	MICRO CRACKLE	CLASSIC CRACKLE	DIMENSIONAL FIELD	FLOOR	
	Glaze	Solid	Solid with subtle movement	Crackle with subtle movement	Crackle with subtle movement	Crackle	Solid	Solid
Surface Sheen	Glossy	Glossy	Semi-Matte	Glossy	Glossy	Glossy	Semi-Matte	Semi-Matte
Texture	Smooth	Slightly Undulated	Slightly Undulated	Slightly Undulated	Smooth	Smooth	Smooth	Smooth
Color Variation	Slight	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Slight	Slight	Slight

APPLICATION GUIDELINES	SOLID GLAZE	TRANSLUCENT GLAZE	MATTE CRACKLE	MICRO CRACKLE	CLASSIC CRACKLE	DIMENSIONAL FIELD	FLOOR	
	Walls	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
Bathrooms								
Residential	Walls	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Floors						✓	✓
	Countertops	✓	✓				✓	✓
Commercial	Walls	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Floors							
	Countertops							
Showers / Steamrooms								
Residential	Walls	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Floors						✓	✓
	Countertops						✓	✓
Commercial	Walls	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Floors							
	Countertops							
Kitchens								
Residential	Walls	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Floors						✓	✓
	Countertops	✓	✓				✓	✓
Commercial	Walls	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Floors							
	Countertops							
Fireplace Surrounds								
Residential	Interior	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Exterior***	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
Commercial	Interior	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Exterior***	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
Outdoor Cooking / Bar Spaces								
Residential	Walls	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Countertops						✓	✓
Commercial	Walls	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
	Countertops						✓	✓
Pool Waterlines / Water Fountains								
Residential	Exterior***	✓	✓				✓**	✓
	Interior	✓	✓				✓**	✓
Commercial	Exterior***	✓	✓				✓**	✓
	Interior	✓	✓				✓**	✓

* Crackle tiles must be properly sealed. (See SEALING instructions in INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE guidelines)

** This usage excludes the Chrome Diamonds and Metal Dots / *** Non-freeze / thaw climates