



# CEMENT TILE INSTALLATION GUIDE

***These instructions are provided as a general guide to most installations. Please read and understand this information before proceeding.***

***Inspect your cement tile before installation to ensure this product meets your requirements. Installation of the product deems your acceptance.***

## **SURFACE PREPERATION**

Store the material in a dry area. Moisture or dampness can damage the tiles.

Cement tile is subject to color and tonal variations and requires blending of tiles to achieve the best installation.

Install in accordance with current versions of American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI) "A108 American National Standard Specifications for Installation of Ceramic Tile" and TCNA "Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation."

## **INSTALLATION**

Cement tiles must be installed on a leveled, clean and dry surface or suitable stable sub-floor (Hardibacker, Permabase or Ditra) or vertical surface. Vertical installation on dry wall is not recommended due to the weight of tile and mortar. Backerboard or Kerdi-board is recommended substrate for vertical installation.

Use only high quality LHT mortar (Large-Heavy Tile Mortar). Garden State Tile recommends Bostik, Mapei, and Laticrete.

Rapid setting mortars may be beneficial for certain applications. GST Recommends:

- Bostik Big Tile & Stone
- Bostik Reflex
- Mapei LFT
- Laticrete 4XLT

Spread adhesive on substrate with a large notch trowel (1/2"). Apply adhesive evenly to back of each tile (back-butter) to achieve 100% coverage. Immediately remove excess adhesive with damp cloth or sponge before.

Do not use any acids or alkalines to clean tiles. We do not recommend the use of mallet or hammer to level tiles. The installer should use their hands to ensure tiles are properly set and level.

## **CUTTING**

Cement tiles should be cut using a diamond blade and wet-saw.

## **INITIAL SEALING**

Allow 24-48 hours for tiles and mortar to completely dry before sealing. Tiles should be 100% dry before any sealer is applied.

## **GROUT RELEASE APPLICATION**

Seal tiles with an impregnating or penetrating sealer BEFORE grouting (this will act as a grout release and prevent grout from staining tiles).

Apply sealer until tiles will not soak up anymore, usually 2 applications is sufficient.

Allow 2-3 hrs in between applications for sealer to dry. GST recommends Miracle Sealants 511 Porous Plus. Follow Miracle Sealants instructions for 511 Porous Plus for "sealing as a grout release".

## **GROUTING**

1/16"-1/8" grout joint is recommended. Grout should be applied in small areas and cleaned up immediately.

White or light color grout is recommended. Dark or black color grouts should be used carefully. If the grout color is darker than any color in the pattern, it can stain the tiles.

Recommended Grout:

- Any unsanded grout
- EC Power Grout
- Mapei Flexcolor CQ
- Bostik Vivid Grout

## **CLEAN-UP AND FINAL SEALING**

After grouting, clean floor with a PH Neutral detergent (Miracle Sealants Tile & Stone Cleaner).



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Any extra grout residue should be removed immediately. GST will not be liable for any jobsite damages to the tiles (ie. Bucket marks, footprints, etc.) Take extra care with your tools during installation to avoid chips, stains, and water spots.

Seal tiles and grout for the final time with 1 application of 511 Porous Plus. Follow Miracle Sealants instructions for sealing.

Tiles must be covered after installation to protect the tiles during construction. Cardboard is recommended. Do not use Nylon or any material that will trap moisture, this could cause damage to tiles and installation.

### **MAINTENANCE**

In order to enjoy the best appearance of a smooth floor it is best to follow our maintenance instructions:

Clean regularly with a PH Neutral detergent (Miracle Sealants Tile & Stone Cleaner). A natural patina will occur over time, as the floor is cleaned and naturally wears.

Never use harsh detergents and / or acid.

For the first weeks after installing the tiles, you should expect some calcium appearance (white powder) - that can be easily removed by damp cloth or sweeping the floor.

**\*NOTE:** In case of high calcium appearance after longer time, there is a probability that there is humidity under the floor. Please contact a professional for assistance.

At entrances the use of walk-off mats is recommended to remove abrasive grit that may damage the tiles

### **DISCLAIMER**

Garden State Tile will not be responsible for improper installation, storage, or maintenance of cement tiles.

It is important if you have any questions or concerns about your installation/application, to contact your local Garden State Tile branch. We will consult with our suppliers and manufacturers to ensure the best installation of cement tiles.

[www.gstile.com](http://www.gstile.com) ■ [Tile Council of North America \(TCNA Handbook\) website: www.tcnatile.com.](http://www.tilecouncil.com)  
TCNA Phone: 864-646-8453.