



NATURAL STONE

INSTALLATION GUIDE

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

Inspect your natural stone before installation to ensure this product meets your requirements. Installation of the product deems your acceptance.

SURFACE PREPARATION

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Appropriate substrates: fully cured concrete, masonry, cured cement mortar beds or leveling coats, gypsum wallboard, properly prepared unglazed ceramic tile, proper tiling underlayment.

GENERAL SUBSTRATE REQUIREMENTS

All substrates must be structurally sound, solid, flat, dry and thoroughly clean and free of oil, wax, grease, asphalt, latex and gypsum compounds, curing compounds, sealers and any contaminant that might act as a bond breaker. Per the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) guidelines, all natural stone substrates must meet a deflection rating of L/720. Overly absorbent as well as non-absorbent substrates require priming prior to installation. A maximum variation in the sub slab cannot exceed 1/8" in 10' from the required plane per MIA Guidelines. Subfloor must also be level with the maximum variation of 1/16" IN 3'.

CRACK ISOLATION

cracks as well as any areas susceptible to future surface cracking require the installation of a crack isolation membrane meeting ANSI 118.12.

WET AREAS

Wet Areas require the installation of a waterproofing membrane meeting ANSI 118.10 prior to installation. Steam Rooms (continuous use): require a waterproofing and vapor retarding membrane with a perm rating of .05 perms or less.

CUTTING

Use a diamond blade and a wet saw intended for cutting natural stone.

SETTING

You must inspect your material prior to installation to check the color variation, the veining or fossil markings, the thickness, the sizing, the finish, any possible damage and to make sure that what you received is what you ordered. It is the industry standard that all material is to be uncrated and inspected prior to installation so that any blending required to meet the owner/buyer approval can be accomplished before any material is set.

Absolutely no claims will be accepted for any reason after the material has been installed.

Before being "set" all tiles must be "Viewed and Shuffled" by way of a dry layout. There is a natural range of color, veins and/or fossils that is inherent in this material and in order to get the proper mix this viewing and shuffling process is imperative. Failure to follow this procedure could leave you with ranges of shades that do not properly flow together.

Stone is a natural material and can react differently with different setting materials, grouts, sealers and sub-floors. Before setting any tiles, you must test your stone using the setting system and sub-flooring system you have selected for the project. To do this, a test patch must be made. This will assure you that you will be satisfied with the finished look of the product.

All installation methods used should be consistent with recommendations by the Marble Institute of America and or the Tile Council of North America.

Back buttering the tile planks ensures that 100% contact extends to all corners and edges and that the tile is fully supported.

Natural Stone must be sealed prior to the grouting process, again upon completion of installation and periodically thereafter to enhance / maintain the beauty of the stone.

NATURAL STONE

INSTALLATION GUIDE (CONT.)

The following setting materials must be used for the installation of water sensitive or white natural stones that may include but are not limited to: Carrara, Calacatta, Statuary, Thassos, Vison, and Sweet White.

A) Premium White Fast-Set or Rapid-set Mortar – Bostik Single-Flex FS, Mapei Ultraflex RS, Laticrete #253R

B) Fila PW10 Anti-Contaminant Back Sealer (apply and cure before installation)

C) Penetrating top sealer: Fila MP90, or Miracle Porous Plus, or Miracle 511

RADIANT HEAT

After installation do **NOT** turn on a radiant heated floor until the concrete setting bed has completely dried out (cured).

Select a notched trowel based on the type, size and format of the stone you are installing. According to the MIA DSDM all natural stone should be back buttered to ensure there is a minimum coverage of 95% when 5/8" or thinner; 80% coverage when 3/4" or thicker with no voids exceeding 2 square-inches and no voids within 2" of the tile corners for all natural stone tile installations. Per ANSI A108.5, apply mortar to the substrate using a notched trowel, and place tiles while material is wet. Once setting materials have adequately set (see product specifications for dry time) grouting can proceed. Before grouting, you can treat the stone with a grout release product.

Honor all expansion and moving joints in accordance with TCNA EJ 171. In addition, all perimeter and change of plane areas must be filled with an appropriate flexible sealant (ARDEX SX™ 100% Silicone Sealant).

RECOMMENDED GROUT

Unsanded grouts are typically chosen given the prevailing desire for narrow grout joints (1/16"), the polished finish and the soft composition of many of the stone products. Dark or heavily pigmented grouts should

always be tested prior to use with your stone selection to avoid absorption and staining.

Other pigmented grout or cement grouts such as Bostik Vivid Grout, Laticrete Permacolor Select, and Mapei Ultracolor Plus may be used with un-polished (honed) natural stone, however, a small test area should be performed to determine the grout will not stain, scratch, dull, or damage the stone. Generally lighter shade grout is best suited for grouting white or light-colored natural stone

SEALING

Using a soft, clean cloth, apply a penetrating natural stone sealer before grouting and again upon completion of the installation.

RECOMMENDED SEALERS

- Fila MP90
- Fila PW10 Anti-contaminant Back Sealer
- Miracle Sealant Porous Plus
- Miracle Sealant 511

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

For day-to-day cleaning, apply a pH neutral cleaner with a soft cloth. Remove the residue with a clean cloth and rinse thoroughly.

RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE CLEANERS

- FILACLEANER
- Miracle Tile & Stone Cleaner

For complete installation instructions please refer to the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) Handbook.

NOTE: PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY.

DISCLAIMER: BY PURCHASING OUR NATURAL STONE TILE PRODUCTS, YOU SIGNIFY YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THIS DISCLAIMER. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH ANY PART OF THE FOLLOWING, ALL AND ANY CLAIMS FOR THIS PURCHASE ARE NULL AND VOID. (Disclaimer continued on next page.)



NATURAL STONE

INSTALLATION GUIDE (CONT.)

Natural stone is a product of nature and no two stones are exactly alike. Because of the natural variation in this type of material, there can be inherent color variation and/or vein & fossil variation within lots. Therefore, variations in color, pattern, texture and veining must be accepted. Purchaser acknowledges that natural stones vary in color, pattern, and texture. The actual stone delivered may differ from the sample or picture(s) shown. The purchaser acknowledges that additional stone ordered at a future date can be more expensive and cannot be guaranteed to match the original stone. Garden State Tile is not responsible for any stains, fissures, pits, dull spots, cracks, or breakage that may occur after the tiles are installed. It is the industry standard that all material is to be uncrated and inspected prior to installation. Absolutely no claims will be accepted for any reason after the material has been installed. Before being "set" all tiles must be "Viewed and Shuffled" by way of a dry layout. There is a natural range of color, veins and/or fossils that is inherent in this material and in order to get the proper mix this viewing and shuffling process is imperative. Failure to follow this procedure could leave you with ranges of shades that do not properly flow together. Stone is a natural material and can react differently with different setting materials, grouts, sealers and subfloors. Always use the correct setting materials, grout, sealers, applications, and installation techniques in accordance with TCNA / MIA Handbooks.

This shipment was in perfect condition when accepted by the carrier, any damage occurring in transit is the responsibility of the carrier. You must view and inspect the shipment prior to signing the bill of lading. If there is visible damage you must write it on the bill of lading and take photos from all angles prior to signing the bill of lading. If there is no visible damage unpack your shipment immediately. Please report concealed damage to the carrier immediately and request inspection and further instruction from the carrier for unpacking of the shipment. Take photos of angles, do not disassemble or destroy the packaging until after the inspection.

All photos and documents must to be submitted to the carrier with their claim form. Include an affidavit stating you requested an inspection (date) and state the inspection requested failed to be acknowledge or not completed by the carrier. We will assist you as much as possible with the carrier claim.

Garden State Tile reserves the right to make changes to this disclaimer and to all other terms and conditions set within this media at any time, without making prior notice.

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