



CERAMIC WALL TILE

INSTALLATION GUIDE

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

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

APPLICATIONS

Ceramic Wall tile is recommended for interior vertical surfaces only.

WALLS

Concrete/masonry and cement backer board can be used for wet area interior walls. Gypsum board may be used for dry interior walls.

INSTALLATION

MORTAR

To minimize lippage and gain superior adhesion, use a premium thin-set mortar modified with polymer or latex, compliant with ANSI 118.4 or a TYPE I multi-purpose ceramic floor and wall adhesive and compliant with ANSI 136.1 requirements.

CUTTING/DRILLING

Cuts can be made with a wet saw and a new diamond- rimmed blade designed to cut ceramic tile. Cutting may also be achieved using a score and snap tile cutter such as Rubi, Sigma and Ishii (small diameter scoring wheels, 8-10mm, are the most effective for delicately-glazed tiles).

Drilling holes can be accomplished with a diamond- tipped core bit using a drill with low speed (250 to 300 rpm). Continually misting the tile and drill bit during cutting will cool the cut and extend the durability of the core bit. Maintain only moderate pressure during this process. Allow the diamond bit to do the cutting. Again, this helps to keep friction heat low. If partitions or fixtures are to be attached with anchoring bolts, drill hole 1/8" larger to avoid stress transfer to the tile.

GROUTING

When using sanded grout we recommend the use of a soft rubber wall float to minimize the possibility of scratching the tile's finish. Un-sanded grout can also be used when tight 1/16" joints are desired. After installation it is recommended the tile be cleaned with a commonly accepted neutral cleaner. There are many such products; two examples are FILA CleanALL and Miracle Tile & Stone Cleaner. Finish with a clean grout sponge or slightly damp terry cloth towel, preferably white, as dyes may transfer to the grout joint.

NOTE FOR CRACKLE TILE

Sealing is mandatory for Crackle Glazes. We recommend sealing the tiles with a penetrating sealer before and after grouting.

- The sealer penetrates the fine, hairline fissures in the glaze and prevents dirt and dusk darkening the crackle over a period of time.
- Sealing the crackled glaze makes it easier to maintain and clean.
- The sealer is wiped off the glazed surface of the tile and will not harm it or change its appearance.
- We do not recommend the use of contrasting grouts with crackle glaze.

SEALING PROCEDURE

Once the tile is mounted on the wall and before grouting, the tile surface must be clean and free of dirt and dust. We recommend using the FILAMP90 – Natural Look Penetrating Sealer . Apply an even coat of sealer with a paintbrush or lambs wool 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: Although not recommended, if you choose to use a grout color contrasting to your tile, 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.



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Once the grouting is completed and allowed to dry, the surface of the tiles must be cleaned using FILA CLEANER – Neutral Cleaner: 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 observing the following guidelines:

- Apply an even coat of FILAMP90 with a paintbrush or lambs wool 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

Ceramic Wall tile may be cleaned with a pH neutral cleaner. Remove the residue with a clean sponge and rinse thoroughly.

Cautions:

Do **NOT** use solvents, paint thinners or acidic cleaners on the surface of Ceramic Wall tile.

Do **NOT** leave detergents containing bleach or solvents in contact with the surface.

Do **NOT** use abrasive or scratching products.

Do **NOT** use brushes or steel wool. The tiles are delicate and will scratch.

When using products of unknown composition or potentially aggressive formulations, test a tile that may be left over from the installation. If no extra tile remains, a small hidden area of the surface should be cleaned first to assess any change in appearance.

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