

Akashic Tiles

Installation Document

Note to Homeowner: This is not a step-by-step installation guide, but general precautions and tips on how to install and care for your tile. Though some are very confident in their DIY skills, we always encourage a professional to perform your installation to ensure the longevity of your tile. Please contact us with specific questions not addressed in this guide.

INSTALLATION AND PREP:

The true beauty of handmade tile, is that no two are identical. You are responsible for determining the acceptability of the product prior to installation. Given the handmade nature of our tile, there will be some colour, size, and thickness variation. Typical grout spacing is 3 mm, but this is completely up to your personal preference. Size variation is accentuated by grout spacing. Carefully consider grout spacing prior to installation. We recommend creating a suitable mock up made, that will mimic the conditions on the job site. Be sure to lay out tiles and pull from different boxes to achieve the best overall blend of colour. Lay out tiles to determine cuts and grout spacing and double check that you have enough tile to complete the project with some leftover pieces. Once installed, claims regarding colour and size variation will not be accepted. If you need additional pieces please do not start the installation until you have them. Every tile order is handmade to order and unique. Additional pieces may vary in colour from your original order.

CUTTING:

Recommended Tools: - Diamond blade wet tile saw for cutting -Safety glasses, gloves • If any tiles have imperfections, set them aside for cuts. • A new tile blade will make a cleaner cut than an over-used blade. • Use cut edges against the outside walls or ceiling where they are hidden. • Make sure the faucet flange covers any chipping on the edges of a cut-out.

SETTING & MATERIALS

Recommended Tools: - notched trowel, sponge, safety glasses

The appropriate substrate and setting materials should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Consult with your installer, contractor, or architect. Choose an adhesive that is

specifically recommended for use on the surface you will be tiling. We recommend using **Super Grip tile adhesive**, mixed with a keying or **bonding agent**. For easier application you can use a premixed adhesive, such as **Tile flex**, as it dries more slowly, allowing more time for minor adjustments. Follow package guidelines for application, clean-up, and dry time. Use sufficient adhesive behind each tile. When tile is slightly cupped, use extra adhesive behind the high spots (corners or centre) so there isn't a void space behind the tile. Voids can lead to breaks during grouting, or can weaken the tile's bond to the wall.

GROUT

Recommended Tools: - Rubber gloves, grout sponges, clean rags, two buckets of clean water, soft grout float and safety glasses – All grouts should be mixed with a **bonding liquid**, **TFC Bonding Liquid** is an acrylic latex additive that can be used with all cementitious based products in order to improve adhesion, flexibility and waterproofing properties. It is used when extra bond strength is required.

Grout release (grout release should be used with **terracotta, coloured grouts and tiles with crazing/crackle** • Dark grouts with pigments can stain the tile and should be pretested for staining. • Please refer to the grout manufacturer's guidelines for specific details on the grout. • We recommend a **grout release** to ease cleaning after installation and to prevent staining from a dark coloured grout. • Tile with crazing/crackle must have a grout release/wax sealer applied and allowed to dry before grouting. • **A grout release on all unglazed tile is necessary.** • Try grout release in an inconspicuous spot first

SEALANT

We highly recommend using an invisible sealant once your tiles have been installed, this is to protect your investment. It is a must when it comes to **terracotta**.

TFC Smart Seal is a water based sealer available. It is very simple to use and is suitable for most types of tiles. Smart Seal is the most cost effective sealer for the following reasons: shortest down time – wash and seal in a few hours (not days). Impregnating sealer – does not change the surface characteristics. Smart Seal is a breathable sealer. That means that it will not fail on application to slightly damp areas. Smart Seal dries quickly and cures quicker

than all other un-accelerated water based sealers. Smart Seal may be used as added stain protection over other decorative water based sealers.

Available in following sizes 1L, 5L and 25L.

WOODEN SURFACES

The timber must be well sanded and then painted with one coat of base coat primer. Allow to dry and then use a flexible tile adhesive. Add a bonding liquid to the grout.