

Installation Terrazzo Cement Tiles

Our technical instructions sheet takes precedence over any information printed on the packaging of tile laying products. We do not accept claims after the tiles have been laid. Laying the tiles constitutes acceptance of goods.

PRECAUTIONS

Terrazzo Cement tiles have nuances in chip size and colour – no two tiles will be the same. The tiles are supplied unsealed. They can be easily stained until they are appropriately sealed. Try to avoid walking on raw tiles or handling with dirty hands – we recommend wearing protective gloves. In between procedures, protect the tiles from foot traffic. If walking on the tiles is essential, then we would recommend covering with a breathable material (as opposed to plastic which inhibits drying). All Terrazzo Cement tiles are porous, it therefore important to seal the tiles correctly. Always test sealing products on a single tile before applying to the entire floor. Do not make unnecessary pencil marks on the tiles as they may be difficult to remove after. Tiles will expand and contract in different temperatures. We recommend the use of DITRA matting or a similar product and/or expansion joints to prevent any cracking in your tiles. If you are tiling any surfaces that will be coming into direct contact with water you must ensure that the substrate is absolutely waterproof, especially if it is sensitive to water like wood or plaster. We recommend the use of rapid setting adhesive to minimize water-absorption through the back of the tile. After the tiles are fixed, all moisture must be released from the body and the surface of the tile prior to sealing and grouting. The amount of moisture is dependent on multiple factors including the depth of the substrate and their drying times and the moisture content of the tiles and adhesives. Be led by your professional installer on correct drying times. We strongly recommend allowing a 5- 7 days.

PREPARATION AND LAYOUT

Humid tiles should be stored on end in a well-ventilated area to dry thoroughly before fixing. Make sure the person fitting the tiles knows what the tiles should like. 'Shuffle' the batch to ensure that any colour and tonal variations are well mixed. Before installation, lay out at least one row of tiles (without adhesive) in each direction to see if any adjustments need to be made. You may need to shift the layout to balance the border tiles from the wall. Mark guidelines using a chalk line to suit your layout.

FIXING THE TILES

Prepare a level floor surface with concrete or self-levelling cement – please consult an experienced tiling professional if fitting onto a wooden floor as this kind of substrate may be subject to movement and/or deformation. Ensure that the substrate is dry and fully cured so that there is no danger of humidity evaporating through the tiles which can leave traces of nitrate. Prepare the adhesive following manufacture guidelines. Spread the adhesive on the surface to be tiled using a notched trowel. Also apply adhesive to the back of the tile. Make sure that the whole surface of the tile is in contact with the adhesive. Avoid getting adhesive on the surface of the tile as this can lead to staining. Carefully hand-press each tile. **DO NOT USE A HAMMER OR RUBBER MALLET** as this can cause micro-cracks to appear or even break the tile– be guided by your laying professional. Tiles must be laid in a stack pattern and should not be laid in brick-bond. For tiles up to 60cm length, allow a grout joint of 3mm, for tiles above 60cm allow a grout joint of 5mm. Adjust each tile in relation to each other to maintain levels taking care to align them correctly, following your chalk line guide or using a spirit level. Once set, leave the tiles to stand for 12-15 hours until dry.

CUTTING

We recommend the use of a diamond cutter to cut Terrazzo Cement tiles. Whilst cutting or drilling, the surface of the tile may become wet and/or dirty. Wipe clean immediately after cutting.

PREPARATION BEFORE PRE GROUT PROTECTION

Once the adhesive has cured, check the tiles for any surface dirt or dried adhesive, removing any blemishes with a razor blade or lightly sanding with waterproof sandpaper taking care not to scratch the surface. **DO NOT USE ACID, VINIGAR OR BLEACH. ALLOW TILES TO DRY COMPLETELY.** If the tiles are sealed or waxed when wet it can result in 'ghosting' under the sealant and can impede evaporation. Whilst the tiles are drying, protect the tiles from all foot traffic. We recommend that traffic across a newly sealed floor is kept to a minimum for the first week as sealants can take a few days to fully oxidise and may not be fully effective during this time.

SEALING – Pre-Grout Protection

We recommend applying a water based sealant before grouting. Make sure that the tiles are completely dry (at least 24 hours after having been set) and that they are completely clean and free from dust before applying Fila PRW200 Pre Grout Protector. Apply the product as per manufacturer's guidelines to the front and sides of the tiles using a flat paintbrush, fleece or other applicator in a uniform manner, avoiding any pooling. Remove residue within 10 minutes. The surface can be grouted the day after application. Protect the tiles from foot traffic whilst the sealant is drying (minimum 24 hours).

GROUTING

IMPORTANT: Do not use dark tinted grout. This can stain your tiles. Test your grout first on a spare tile. Mix the grout to a slightly runny consistency. Apply the grout carefully to the grout lines taking care not to spread too much onto the tile. We do not recommend slurry grouting. Ensure that the tools are completely clean and free of any hardened grout. Clean off excess from the face of the tile using a damp fine textured foam sponge. Avoid removing inset grout by wiping across the tile at an angle to the grout line. Do not over wash the grout and change the cleaning water regularly. Take care to fully compress the grout into the full depth of the grout joints so that no air pockets are formed. Leave the perimeter joints as these must be finished with a good quality silicone sealer after the final seal and not with the grout. This will allow for expansion and contraction during normal heating and cooling cycles. Leave the grout to dry for a minimum of 24 hours, and ideally 4-5 days before re-sealing. If grout residue has been left to dry on the surface of the tiles, use Fila PS87 Pro to remove. Test the product first on one tile and apply for 1-2 minutes using a white emulsifying pad to remove the grout residue. Rinse completely and allow the tile to dry. Should efflorescence form, these salts can be removed once the grout has fully dried and cured by frequent washing with clean water.

GROUT RELEASE

Dilute Fila Cleaner Pro 1:30 with water and distribute the solution with a floor scrubber fitted with a white pad. Leave to act for 4-5 minutes before brushing with a single disc floor scrubber, scrubbing brush or white emulsifying pad. Use a cloth or liquid vacuum cleaner to clean any residues and then rinse thoroughly. This will allow for the removal of installation residue and will effectively deep clean the surface, preparing it for subsequent treatment. Do not walk on the surface until completely dry.

SEALING – STAIN PROTECTION

Make sure that the tiles are completely clean and free from any grout residue. Correct protection keeps surfaces beautiful and hygienic over time. Apply FILA MP90 Eco Xtreme according to manufacturer's guidelines, taking care to ensure that you wipe away any excess. The best finish is achieved by applying the sealant in small amounts. Protect the tiles from foot traffic whilst the sealant is drying (minimum 24 hours).

SURFACE FINISH

For all internal floors apart from Bathrooms/Wet rooms, we recommend completing the treatment with a coat of protective wax which makes regular maintenance easier – we recommend Fila Matt Wax. Maintenance Every 2-3 months: after cleaning the surface with CLEANER PRO diluted 1:200, apply the wax by diluting 500 ml of product in 5 litres of water. The floor may be walked on after it is dry. ONCE A YEAR: apply the wax slightly diluted (200 ml of water in 1 litre of water) with a fleece pad, cloth or other applicator. The floor may be walked on after it is dry.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

we recommend using CLEANER PRO - for all the operations related to everyday cleaning. Regular cleaning is fundamentally important because it maintains the appearance and characteristics of the material over time. For everyday cleaning, it is essential to use neutral cleaners which do not leave a residue and do not damage the material and any treatments applied. Delicately cleans all wall and floor coverings; The highly concentrated formula may be used in various dilutions depending on the situation. Dilute CLEANER PRO 1:200 (25mL of CLEANER PRO in 5L of water), mop as usual, no need to rinse. Alternatively, you can also use a mild, pH neutral soap. Under NO circumstances should an acid-based product be used. If the surface of the tile becomes damaged, the best method to repair it is by mechanically polishing the tiles after washing them with warm water and a mild detergent. The floor should be polished softly without the use of abrasive or aggressive products. We recommend that you reseal your tiles every 12-18 months.

Please note, the above is intended for guidance only and the ultimate responsibility for laying these tiles remains with the tiler. We cannot accept any responsibility for any issues arising from the incorrect placement of these tiles as a result of this guidance.