

Ceramic tile installation guide

Ceramic tiles

Smink Things ceramic tiles are suitable for most interior and exterior applications. Because the purchase of our tiles for your project is an important investment, proper installation is crucial.

Glazed tiles

A glaze is applied to the surface of the clay body.
The tile is fired in a kiln to very high temperatures of over 1.050 C
The glazing process defines the colour and surface texture and produces a hard, non-porous impermeable tile.
Glazed tiles are easy to clean and any liquid on its surface will drain faster.

Size and length variation

Our tiles are hand made and shrink during the production process
You can expect some variation, especially on longer tiles.

Lengthwise Bowing and Surface Undulation

Clay is an elastic material; therefore it will attempt to regain its original shape as it moves through the production process. For this reason, you can expect both an acceptable amount of lengthwise bowing and a surface undulation. Undulation can occur anywhere on the surface and could include a slightly raised corner or edge.

Colour and Glaze Variation

Shade variations is inherent in all fired ceramic products and certain tiles will show a greater variation within their dye lots.

Installation

Tile preparation

Meticulously plan your layout. The time you take for preparation and placement will greatly impact the finished result. Pre-sort your tile by colour and size so you can distribute the range of variation throughout the installation. Blending is recommended.
Inspect each tile for cracks or other deformities that make its use inappropriate for the application intended.

Joint grouting

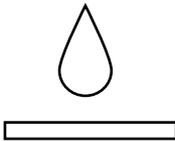
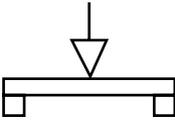
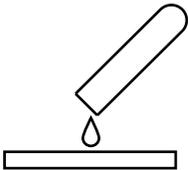
We advise a grout joint (our standing grouting space is 2-3 mm) which joins the tiles so that they touch one another with an irregular space left between tiles, created by the imperfection of the edges.
Grout joint width can be varied to adjust tile alignment with adjacent handmade tiles or other architectural elements.
Give design consideration to the grout colour as relates to the colour of tile chosen. There may be a desire to accentuate the tile with a border of contrasting grout colour. To more closely connect each tile with each other, use a grout colour in a hue that approximates the colours found in the tile.

Tile installation

Install per industry standards for terracotta glazed tiles.
Proper substrate preparation and the right choice of adhesives and grouts for the type of tile and specific project conditions are critical for achieving a long-lasting installation. It is therefore very important to hire a qualified tile installer and to use products that meet the latest international standards.

1. Prepare the surface. Substrate must be clean, leveled and adequately set.
2. Determine the layout and mark the surface. For aesthetic and technical optimization, define starting points and cuttings.
3. Distribute the tiles. Pre-sort your tile by colour and size so you can distribute the range of variation throughout the installation.
4. Apply the proper tile adhesive. Use a large-toothed trowel to spread the adhesive. Installation is easier if you use X-shaped tile spacers.
5. Install the tiles. Lay down tiles by lining them up and pressing them firmly into the adhesive.
6. Cut the tiles. If some tiles need to be trimmed, you can use either a snap tile cutter or a wet tile saw.
7. Grout the joints. Allow the adhesive to cure for about 24 hours and then fill in the joints with the selected grout, using a rubber grout float.
8. Clean the tiles after grouting. The excess grout must be cleaned immediately with a wet sponge, rising often

Technical data

Technical Features	Standards	Test Results	Compliance
 <p>Determination of water absorption</p>	EN ISO 10545-3	14.4%	YES
	ASTM C 373-88	15.9%	YES
 <p>Determination of module of rupture</p>	EN ISO 10545-4	R = 14.8 N/mm ² S = 1066 N	YES
 <p>Determination of frost resistance</p>	EN ISO 10545-12		YES
 <p>Determination of chemical resistance</p> <p>Household chemicals Swimming pool salts Acids Alkali</p>	EN ISO 10545-13	Class A	YES
	ASTM C 650-04	Not affected	YES
 <p>Determination of resistance to staining</p> <p>Green Chromium Iodine Olive oil</p>	EN ISO 10545-14	Class 5	YES
	ASTM C 1378-04	Not affected	YES