



PRODUCT INSTALLATION – MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

INSTALLATION OF CEMENTITIOUS TILES PREPARE SUBSTRATE:

All surfaces are to be clean and free from loose or bond breaker substances. It is recommended to test the area in question with a sample tile bonded to specification and remove in 24 hours in order to check adhesion.

CUTTING AND PREPARING LAYOUT:

Use a diamond blade to cut tiles for desired layout. It is important to clean all surfaces of the powder residue. This can be accomplished with a damp cloth or compressed air. The floor layout should be pre-determined in advance with snap chalk lines.

SPREADING THINSET:

To apply thin-set, use only a ½ x ½ inch Square Notched Trowel.

Important Note: *Water-based mortar* is not recommended on concrete tiles, as they are very porous and absorb moisture rapidly. This could compromise the integrity of the bond. 100% additives (such as Latex) should be substituted as the mixing agent. Use a low speed drill motor to mix the thin-set.

APPLICATION:

A) Spread thin-set on substrate with flat side of trowel to compress and break surface tension.

B) With the notched side of the trowel, run grooves in one direction, allowing air to escape as tile is pressed down. It is very important not to spread thin-set for more than two tiles at one time. Do not allow thin-set to "skim over", as this will inhibit bonding. Hold a ½ x ½ inch notched trowel in a near vertical position to completely fill all ridges.

C) Read all thin-set instructions regarding temperature fluctuations, as it will influence open time.

D) **BACK-BUTTER ALL TILES.** Spread a medium bed layer of thin-set completely over the entire back of tile with the flat side of the trowel. Then place tile on grooved thin-set already spread on the substrate.

E) Clean all tile surfaces as you proceed. Otherwise clean up will be extremely difficult when thin-set is cured. If grooves are run in different directions, air gets trapped under

tile, producing a false 'hollow' sound when tapping the tile face.

SETTING TILES:

Place and press tiles following all the procedures stated above, twisting back and forth until a desired fit. DO NOT use a rubber mallet. Instead, use a beating block to adjust as needed. Wash tiles with warm water as they are being set, and cover. Secure cover with pressure sensitive tape.

GROUTING TILES:

With wide joint lines, use grout with a ratio of two and a half to one. For finer joints, add Silica sand to the mixture. When grouting concrete tiles, it is important to keep grout mixture as dry as possible to eliminate any hairline cracks in the joints. As a general rule, the wider the joint the dryer and coarser the mixture should be. Piping or bag grouting is recommended. Do not spread grout on an area larger than you can easily clean. Completely remove all grout scum or haze. All tiles must be sealed with a penetrative sealer prior to grouting, for ease of clean up. Do not leave job without completely cleaning tiles. Clean up later will be extremely difficult.

DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ACID WASH TILE OR GROUT SURFACES.

ATTENTION:

This concrete product is made of a porous material and has variations in its color. When the finishes are applied, a random collection of shades will appear, creating a beautiful array of colorful luster, which will complete the desired look of this concrete product.

WARNING:

Alda Design recommends that these installation instructions be strictly followed. Any deviation from these procedures may forfeit the guarantees the manufacturer offers.