

HOW TO INSTALL CERAMIC TILES

A Detailed installation & care guide

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Please read this guide in full before installation. Relative ceramic tiles are handcrafted using natural materials. Each piece is unique in shape, shade, and texture. These natural irregularities are a key feature of the product and should not be treated as defects. This guide is designed to embrace the artisanal nature of the material.

REVIEW YOUR ORDER

- Check all boxes upon delivery.
 - Expect and embrace **variation in caliber, tone, and flatness**.
 - Blend tiles from multiple boxes during layout.
 - Order **10-15% extra** for breakage, adjustments, and pattern matching.
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REQUIRED MATERIALS

For Installation:

- Porcelain-compatible adhesive
- Trowel (appropriate size)
- Optional: back buttering for uneven tiles
- Rubber mallet
- Hand-operated tile cutter or diamond wet saw
- Clean water and sponges
- No spacers (natural joint formation)

For Cleaning & Finishing:

- pH-neutral porcelain-safe tile cleaner
- **Fila FOB Xtreme**– ideal for areas like kitchens, bathrooms, or splash zones
- Soft cloths and mop
- Clean water bucket

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

- Substrate must be **clean, level, and fully dry**.
 - Cement backer board or other stable underlayment's are acceptable.
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TILE INSTALLATION

1. **Dry Layout:**
 - a. Arrange and **rotate** tiles to naturally vary joints and tones.
 2. **Adhesive Application:**
 - a. Use a high-quality adhesive for porcelain tiles.
 - b. Apply to substrate with a trowel.
 - c. For slightly uneven tiles, apply adhesive on the **back of the tile** as well (back buttering).
 3. **Tile Placement:**
 - a. Do **not use spacers**. Let the tiles form organic joints.
 - b. Gently press tiles with a **rubber mallet** for contact and alignment.
 4. **Cutting Tiles:**
 - a. Use a **manual tile cutter** or **waterjet diamond saw**.
 - b. Always cut with care due to tile density.
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CURING TIME

- Allow adhesive to fully dry (typically 24-48 hours) before proceeding to grout.
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GROUTING

- Use a grout compatible with Ceramic tiles.

- Grout carefully around naturally formed joints.
 - Clean excess grout **immediately** with water and sponge.
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CLEANING CARE

- Use only **pH-neutral** cleaners.
 - Avoid acidic products that may harm the surface.
 - Sealing is not required for normal installations.
 - For **extra protection** in wet or high-use areas, apply **Fila FOB Xtreme** to resist stains while keeping the natural look of the tile.
 - Do not over-apply. Follow product instructions for best results.
 - Clean regularly with soft mop or cloth and clean water.
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INSTALLATION SAFETY

- Always wear a **dust mask** and **safety glasses** while unpacking, cutting, or installing tiles.
- Use gloves when handling grout, mortar, or sealers to protect your skin.
- If you need to do a lot of cutting, try to do it **outside or in a well-ventilated area** to avoid breathing in dust.
- After finishing your work, make sure to **wash your hands thoroughly** with soap and water — especially before eating or drinking.