



FOCUS

- Glazed porcelain tile is suitable for all interior floor, wall or ceiling applications including wet areas. Exterior flooring application suitability is subject to slip & abrasion resistance requirements
- All products should be inspected prior to installation for any defects or unacceptable color/shade variation. Claims will not be accepted after installation
- It is not recommended to mix shades without a visual verification of consistency using at least 1 carton of each shade
- Proper substrates, preparation and installation materials are required for a successful installation. For reference please see the TCNA 09300 Tile Handbook
- Ensure all grout haze is buffed off before 48 hours have elapsed after installation
- Glazed tile should not be treated with a sealer for any reason

WALL TILE CHARACTERISTICS

Casabella Tile's ceramic wall material is made with white, atomized clay. All clays and minerals used within the body of the tile and surface glaze are natural and inert after firing. Minimal variations in minerals and firing timing or kiln-temperature will cause slight differences in size and color. All material is sorted according to ANSI (A137) standard tolerances and packaging is clearly marked with caliber & shade/tone/dye-lot. Mosaic formats are always fiberglass mesh-mounted.

APPLICATIONS

Wall tile material (greater than 7% water absorption) can be used in most wet or dry interior wall and ceiling applications. This material is not recommended for demanding environments such as (but not limited to); steam showers, saunas or refrigeration rooms.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions are meant to be a guide for most installations, under normal conditions. Please follow best practice instructions found in the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) 09300 Handbook for specific installation types.

Verify all products before installation for any damage or defects such as (but not limited to) chipped edges, scratched surfaces or deformities. Confirm the caliber and dye-lot/tone/shade. All packaging is clearly marked with shade (overall color tone) and

caliber (allowable size variation). **It is not recommended to mix dye lots or calibers.**

Always use appropriate personal protective equipment when handling, drilling, cutting or grinding glass tile, such as (but not limited to); eye, ear & hand protection.

Cutting:

Use a tile cutter (score & snap) with a new diamond wheel for best results when cutting our ceramic material. Wetting the diamond wheel with oil before cutting will produce the smoothest cuts. Alternatively, it is also possible to use a wet-saw or angle grinder with a new diamond blade specifically designed for cutting ceramics or stone. Any exposed cuts should be done with a wet saw to produce the cleanest and smoothest cut edge.

Cut edges and corners will be sharp. Always be sure to smooth cut edges manually with a diamond hand pad or ceramic dressing stone.

Drilling:

If possible, drill holes before installing tile. Using a new diamond coring bit (for large holes) or spade bit (for small holes) will give the best results. Lubricating the bit and tile surface with a continuous spray of oil/water mix will prolong the life of bits and provide a better-finished edge. When possible, the use of a jig will ensure precise placement of holes to be drilled.

When drilling holes for anchoring bolts, plumbing or any other dissimilar material always ensure a minimum of 1/8" (3mm) clearance around the item is provided to avoid cracking due to disparate expansion & contraction rates or stress transfer.

Installation

When setting ceramic wall tiles & mosaics it is recommended to use polymer or latex modified thin set or medium bed mortar compliant with ANSI standard A118.4. In dry area installations mastics can also be used. Always follow setting material manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

3/16 or 1/4 inch square-notch trowel should be used when installing our ceramic wall tile material

GROUTING

Non-sanded grout compliant with A118.4 should be used for our wall tile material. If sanded grout must be used for technical or aesthetic reasons, gentle application of grout with a soft rubber float is recommended to minimize the possibility of surface scratching. A "mock-up" or testing installation should be executed to ensure results are acceptable. Epoxy grouts or adhesives can be used when stain resistant installations are required.

After grouting wipe of excess surface grout with a slightly damp sponge- **do not over wash**. After initial wash has been allowed to haze, wipe once with minimal pressure at a 45-degree angle to joints and rinse sponge after wiping once with each side. Any remaining haze can be buffed off with a dry towel or cheese-cloth after grout surface has dried sufficiently.

Care should be taken to place requisite non-cementitious expansion joints in any tile installation to allow for normal expansion and contraction of the material and preserve the installation from stress fractures. Many grout manufacturers will make urethane or silicone based products to match cementitious grouts for this purpose.

Expansions joints should be placed in areas such as (but not limited to); tile meeting a dissimilar material; any change of plane (like counter to backsplash or floor to wall); and around perimeters of installation.

FLOOR TILE CHARACTERISTICS

Casabella Tile's porcelain and stoneware floor material is made with atomized clay. All clays and minerals used within the body of the tile and surface glaze are natural and inert after firing. Minimal variations in minerals and firing timing or kiln-temperature will cause slight differences in size and color. All material is sorted according to ANSI standard (A137) tolerances and packaging is clearly marked with caliber and shade/tone/dye-lot. Rectified formats are mono-caliber and therefore identical in size so may not be marked with caliber numbers. Mosaic formats are fiberglass mesh-mounted.

APPLICATIONS

Porcelain (less than 0.5% Water Absorption) and Stoneware (0.5-3% WA) are applicable in most floor or wall installations for both interiors and exteriors; please refer to individual product data sheets for specific recommendations. If material is recommended for exteriors it has passed ASTM C1026 standard for freeze/thaw cycle testing.

Submerged areas such as (but not limited to); shower bases, pools & fountains should use porcelain material. In addition, porcelain material is recommended for demanding environments including (but not limited to); steam showers, saunas & refrigeration units.

Unglazed porcelain material is recommended for heavy traffic commercial environments and areas anticipating wheeled traffic.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions are meant to be a guide for most installations, under normal conditions. Please follow best practice instructions found in the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) 09300 Handbook for specific installation types.

Verify all products before installation for any damage or defects such as (but not limited to); chipped edges, scratched surfaces or deformities. Confirm the caliber and dye-lot shade, all packaging is clearly marked with shade (overall color tone) and caliber (allowable size variation). **It is not recommended to mix dye lots or calibers.**

Always use appropriate personal protective equipment when handling, drilling, cutting or grinding glass tile, such as (but not limited to); eye, ear & hand protection.

Cutting:

Use a tile cutter (score & snap) with a new diamond wheel for best results when cutting our stoneware and porcelain material. Wetting the diamond wheel with oil before cutting will produce the smoothest cuts. Alternatively, it is also possible to use a wet-saw or angle grinder with a new diamond blade specifically designed for cutting porcelain. Any exposed cuts should be done with a wet saw to produce the cleanest and smoothest cut edge.

Cut edges and corners will be sharp. Always be sure to smooth cut edges manually with a diamond hand pad or ceramic dressing stone.

Drilling:

If possible, drill holes before installing tile. Using a new diamond coring bit (for large holes) or spade bit (for small holes) will give the best results. Lubricating the bit and tile surface with a continuous spray of oil/water mix will prolong the life of bits and provide a better-finished edge. When possible, the use of a jig will ensure precise placement of holes to be drilled.

When drilling holes for anchoring bolts, plumbing or any other dissimilar material always ensure a minimum of 1/8" (3mm) clearance around the item is provided to avoid cracking due to disparate expansion & contraction rates or stress transfer.

Installation

When setting stoneware or porcelain floor tiles & mosaics it is recommended to use polymer or latex modified thin set or medium bed mortar compliant with ANSI standard A118.4. In exterior installations ensure an exterior rated mortar is specified. For wall installations, a non-sag mortar is preferred. Always follow setting material manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

3/8 or 1/2 inch square-notch trowel should be used when installing our stoneware or porcelain floor tile material. To ensure a good bond and proper mortar coverage all tiles should be "back-buttered" by applying a thin layer of mortar directly to the back of the tile with the flat side of the trowel.

GROUTING

Non-sanded or fine aggregate grouts compliant with A118.4 should be used for our floor tile material when joint width is less than 1/8". If joint width is larger, a sanded grout must be used. When grouting polished unglazed formats or glossy glazed formats with sanded grouts, gentle application of grout with a soft rubber float is recommended to minimize the possibility of surface scratching. A "mock-up" or testing installation should be executed to ensure results are acceptable. Epoxy grouts or adhesives can be used when stain resistant installations are required.

After grouting wipe of excess surface grout with a slightly damp sponge- **do not over wash**. After initial wash has been allowed to haze, wipe once with minimal pressure at a 45-degree angle to joints and rinse sponge after wiping once with each side. Any remaining haze can be buffed off with a dry towel or cheese-cloth after grout surface has dried sufficiently.

Care should be taken to place requisite non-cementitious expansion joints in any glass installation to allow for normal expansion and contraction of the material and preserve the installation from stress fractures. Many grout manufacturers will make urethane or silicone based products to match cementitious grouts for this purpose.

Expansions joints should be placed in areas such as (but not limited to); tile meeting a dissimilar material; any change of plane (like counter to backsplash or floor to wall); and around perimeters of installation.