

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES AND CONDITIONS OF PURCHASE

CERAMIC & PORCELAIN TILE SERIES

Please read carefully before installing.

Inspection

Ceramic and porcelain tiles are precision-manufactured and fired at high temperatures. While batch variation is minimal, it is still important to inspect all product prior to installation. Use of product constitutes acceptance, and **no claims will be considered after installation has begun.**

The following points are a general guide. Although more forgiving than glass tile, proper preparation and workmanship remain essential for a successful installation. Expansion and movement joints must be included and properly detailed, especially around perimeters, changes in plane, or where dissimilar materials meet.

Maximum distance between joints:

- Internally 20-25 feet (6-7.5 meters)
- Externally 8-12 feet (2.5-3.5 meters)
- Grout joints should be a minimum 1/16 inch (1.5-2 millimeters)

Fixing

Use a premium quality, polymer-modified thin-set mortar suitable for porcelain or ceramic tile. Apply with a notched trowel appropriate for tile size. Ensure full coverage beneath each tile by keying the mortar into the substrate, notching in one direction, and back-buttering larger tiles as needed.

Refer to the current TCNA Handbook for installation best practices.

Cutting

Straight cuts can be made with a score-and-snap cutter or a quality tile saw. For cleanest results, use a wet saw with a continuous rim diamond blade. Cut edges should be smoothed with a rubbing stone or diamond pad. For specialty cuts or holes, use low-revolution, water-cooled saws or drill bits designed for ceramic/porcelain.

Cutting Tip:

Use clean, sharp blades and mark cuts precisely. Warm tiles may cut more cleanly, especially in colder environments.

Grouting

The tile's surface finish and grout joint size will determine the appropriate grout. For glazed or polished tiles, use unsanded grout for joints under 1/8 inch. For textured or matte finishes, sanded grout is acceptable for wider joints. Always follow grout manufacturer's guidelines.

For exterior, wet, or high-stress installations, modify grout with a polymer/latex additive as part of a complete system.

Use caution with sanded grout on high-gloss or polished tiles to prevent scratching. Test a small area first if uncertain. Grout color will influence the final appearance, especially on tiles with minimal variation or solid color glazes. Select a grout that complements or subtly contrasts with the tile. Grout only after thin-set adhesive has fully cured.

Only grout as much area as can be properly cleaned at a time. Use a segmented sponge to avoid dragging grout from joints. Wipe diagonally with short strokes and follow with a dry microfiber cloth to polish the surface once the joints have begun to set.

Grout Cleaning

Grouting ceramic and porcelain tile requires careful attention during cleanup to avoid haze. Glossy surfaces in particular show residue easily. Begin cleaning immediately after grouting, before the grout fully sets on the tile surface.

Recommended Approach For Cleaning Off Grout Haze

Wait until grout has set but not hardened - typically 15-30 minutes after application. Wipe diagonally across the tile using a damp, clean sponge, rinsing frequently. Avoid over-wetting.

For any residual haze, apply a diluted solution of sulfamic acid or other manufacturer-approved cleaner the next day, following all safety precautions. Rinse thoroughly.

T.C.N.A.

All installations of ceramic and porcelain tile should meet or exceed the guidelines and specifications outlined by the Tile Council of North America. Refer to www.tileusa.com for information regarding the guidelines.

