

INFORMATION & GUIDELINES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ENCAUSTIC TILE

SUBSTRATES

All substrates should be firmly fixed, flat, clean, dry and free of contaminants such as dust, oil, paint, sealers etc. to ensure proper adhesion. Painted surfaces must be scuffed or sanded for the product and adhesive to bond correctly. Wet areas need special attention and require appropriate substrates, e.g. concrete, cement boards (compressed sheet), and/or treated plywood. The use of reinforced waterproof membranes is suggested, and in the case of floors, a fall to the drainage point of no less than two inches.

In laying cement or concrete floor tiles, be sure to install over a flat, level and stable **cured** subfloor. It is critical that the cement base be completely cured before laying the tiles. If it is not, moisture from the base may seep up into the tiles and cause efflorescence to appear on the tile surface.

WATERPROOF MEMBRANES

Waterproof membranes prevent leakage of water through to the sub-floor framing and/or habitable spaces below. Particular attention must be paid to: carrying the membrane up the wall, outside shower boxes, installation of bond breakers, and sealing around penetrations. It is strongly recommended that membrane systems be used in all wet areas. Some systems may involve the use of a primer.

CUTTING

Encaustic tiles can be cut with a wet saw or a hand grinder with a diamond or masonry blade.

ADHESIVE

Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions carefully. We do not recommend one brand of adhesive over another. Please check with your local tile supply store for alternative and comparable products.

Using a sponge, wet the back of the tile completely to enable the thinset to adhere to the tile. For more complete instructions, follow the thinset manufacturer's guidelines for laying floor tile.

Apply the mortar to the back of the tile using a trowel with 1/2" semicircular notches. Cover the entire back of the tile with thinset. Tiles should be leveled using hand pressure.

Move the tile back and forth so that the new tile is leveled with the first tile you installed. Bring the tiles together to a grout joint of 1/16th of an inch and continue laying them until all tiles are set in place.

It is very important that each stone is embedded in the adhesive. To make sure there is 100% coverage, you can tap the tiles into the adhesive with a rubber mallet.

GROUTING

Grout should be suitable for joints up to 3/4" in width and designed for external or internal conditions whichever may be the case. Sanded grout is generally recommended for any grout joint larger than 3/16". It is important to wait the interval recommended by the adhesive manufacturer before grouting to minimize dirt ingress between the tiles and avoid the opportunity for dislodging of the tiles.

SEALANTS

Cement tile surfaces must be cleaned, free of grease, oil, dirt, wax or any other foreign matter including grout release material. It is important to allow the grout to dry for 24-48 hours before proceeding to seal the tiles. To seal the cement floor tiles, SOLI recommends using: Desert Brand - Paver Tile Sealer #2 and #3. You can obtain information on your nearest dealer by calling Hill Brothers Company toll free at: 1-800 438-8515 or by checking their web site at www.desertbrand.com and click on Desert Brand Paver Tile Sealer.

If you cannot find a dealer in your area, find a sealer suitable for concrete pavers and follow the manufacturer's instructions. The finish look will vary from sealer to sealer. Decide beforehand which sealer look is the one you want to have on your cement tile floor.

The first coat of sealer to use is Paver Tile Sealer #2.

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Shake content thoroughly and apply by using a fine textured cleaning sponge. Do not over soak the sponge. Apply sealer as is. Do not dilute. After the first coat is complete, let dry for an hour or two and apply the second coat the same way you did with the first one. Let the second coat dry and apply the last third coat. Let dry for 24-48 hours. Follow the manufacturer's instruction for complete instructions on sealing cement floor tiles.

Once the sealing is complete, it is time to apply the final Top Finish Coat. Make sure 24-48 hours have elapsed before applying the Top Finish Coat.

A final Top Finish Coat is important because it will ensure that the sealer is always intact, thus reducing the maintenance of the cement floor tile.

Shake content thoroughly and apply to the cement floor tile by using a fine textured cleaning sponge. Do not oversoak the sponge. Apply the Top Finish coat as is. Do not dilute. After the first coat is complete, let dry for 2-3 hours before walking on the tiles. Follow the manufacturer's instruction for complete instructions.

2-3 hours after the cement tiles have been sealed, return with the floor polisher and attach the white pad onto the brush attached to the machine and begin buffing the tiles motioning back and forth. This will give your tiles the shine desired. Do this step as long as you like.

CARE & CLEANING

After installing the encaustic tiles, wash them regularly with soapy water. CAUTION: Never use acid-based or abrasive cleaners. If a re-sealing job is needed after a year or more (depending on the use of the tile), apply a coat of Top Finish Coat and consult an installer about buffing the floor. High traffic tile floor areas will require more frequent applications.