

INSTALLATION GUIDE

Disclaimer: the informations provided herein are not a step-by-step installation guide, but general precautions and tips on how to install and care for our tiles. We always encourage a professional to perform the installation. Please contact us with specific questions not addressed in this guide .

MAKE SURE:

- the application suits the tile body or glaze for wet or outdoor areas. For wet areas such as pools, kitchens, or bathrooms, be sure the glaze is suitable and acid resistant. Our White Clay body tiles are not recommended for exterior application in areas affected by freeze/thaw cycles. We have the right body clay and glaze that suits most of the application, please contact us with specific questions.
- Tools and products use for the installation are appropriate to the kind of tiles finishes. Precious finishes (like metal, iridescent luster or special hand decorations) should be treated with reasonable care and maintained properly to look their best.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION:

Always verify the acceptability of the product prior to installation. Given the handmade nature of our tile, there will be some color, size, and thickness small variation. Typical grout spacing is between $\pm 3 \text{ mm}$ ($\pm 1/8''$) and $\pm 2 \text{ mm}$ ($\pm 5/64''$) . Size variation is accentuated by grout spacing. Carefully consider grout spacing prior to installation. If deviating from the recommended grout joint size, please have a suitable mock up made that will mimic the conditions on the job site. Be sure to lay out tiles and pull from different boxes to achieve the best overall blend of color. Lay out tiles to determine cuts and grout spacing and double check that you have enough tile to complete the project with some leftover pieces. Once installed, claims regarding color and size variation will not be accepted. If you need additional pieces please do not start the installation until you have them. Every tile order is handmade to order and unique. Additional pieces may vary in color from the original order

CUTTING:

Recommended Tools:

- Diamond blade wet tile saw for cutting
- Diamond bit with water for drilling
- Safety glasses, gloves

General cutting tips:

- If any tiles have imperfections, set them aside for cuts.
- A new tile blade will make a cleaner cut than an over-used blade.
- Make sure the water on the blade is clean and working well at full force.
- Stone or sand edges after cutting.
- Use cut edges against the outside walls or ceiling where they are hidden.
- Make sure the faucet flange covers any chipping on the edges of a cut-out.
- Dip tiles in clean water before cutting.
- Dry tiles after cutting and before applying silicone and/or caulking.

SETTING AND MATERIAL :

Recommended Tools:

- notched trowel, sponge, safety glasses

• The appropriate substrate and setting materials should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Anyway in most cases, the tile application—where the tile is installed—clearly determines the best mortar option. Consult with your installer, contractor, or architect. Be careful not to spread thin-set in areas larger than can be set within 5–10 minutes.

- When applying tiles or mosaic sheets do not apply an excessive pressure

SPACING:

- When installing mosaics, place the sheets with the same joint as within the sheet.
- When installing single tiles make sure the grout line is not too tight, otherwise the tile could chip at stress points while the grout dries

- Due to the handcrafted nature of our tile, small variations in size occur. Prior the installation make sure lay out tiles to determine cuts and grout spacing and double check that you have enough tile to complete the project with some leftover pieces.

- The tighter the grout joint, the more noticeable the size variation of handmade tile will become. Because we make everything by hand there could be a considerable amount of variation in size and thickness from tile to tile (say it can fluctuate by ~2,5 mm - 7/64" in any direction). With handmade tile, we always recommend larger grout joints to account for these irregularities. Having more space between the tiles will trick the eye into thinking the size is more uniform from piece to piece.

GROUT :

Recommended Tools:

- Rubber gloves, grout soft sponges (not abrasive) , clean rags, clean water, soft grout float (not abrasive), safety glasses. Do not use abrasive pad or sponge.

- Grout release: should be used with tiles with crazing/crackle surface or on our STANDARD FINISHES (please see below on these section) and CLEAR MATT FINISHES. "Grout release" is a removable, water soluble surface coating that is used to protect tile from staining when using a colored grout. It also makes grout clean up a little bit easier

- Grout haze remover : make sure to use a non-aggressive, neutral solution (always refer to the manufacture's guidelines for specific details) . Should be used only on our STANDARD FINISHES (please see below on these section). On our PRECIOUS FINISHES use only warm water and a grout soft sponges (not abrasive).

- Dark grouts with pigments can stain the tile and should be pretested for staining.
- Please refer always to the grout manufacturer's guidelines for specific details on the grout.
- We recommend a grout release to ease cleaning after installation and to prevent staining from a dark coloured grout.
- Tile with crazing/crackle and tile with clear matt surface should have a grout release/wax sealer applied and allowed to dry before grouting.
- A grout release on all unglazed tile is necessary.

- All the products must be tried in an inconspicuous spot first.

GROUT COLOR:

Color of the grout can significantly affect your overall design.

Matching:

If the tile color has to be the center of attention, we suggest matching grout color (or just get as close to it in tone if a bright color have been chosen). This will prevent the eye from being distracted from the pattern found within the grout line.

Contrasting:

a contrasting grout highlight the pattern found in the layout and shape of the tile

Neutral:

A neutral grout is always a safe choice - most of the time it goes with everything. The pattern will be more noticeable than a matching grout but not the main feature as seen with contrasting grout installations.

RECOMMENDED GROUT PRODUCTS:

As general recommendation please use always high performance, non sanded and non grit grout

BOTTEGANOVE PRECIOUS GLAZE FINISHES

- We suggest to use a non-sanded cement-base grout.
- An epoxy grout could ruin the precious glaze (metal, iridescent or special hand glaze decoration).
- Try the chosen grout in an inconspicuous spot first.
- User must carry preliminary practical tests in any case
- For our samples panel we use the grout “Fugabella color” from Kerakoll company.

Note: these are just hints and are not to be considered binding indications.

BOTTEGANOVE STANDARD GLAZE FINISHES

- We suggest to use a non-sanded epoxy grout.
- An epoxy grout is the most expensive grout choice but is also the most durable
- Try the chosen grout in an inconspicuous spot first.
- User must carry preliminary practical tests in any case
- For our samples panel we use the grout “Starlike” from Litokol company.
- Our matt finishes are considered as standard finishes, however must be treat with care

Note: these are just hints and are not to be considered binding indications.

GROUTING:

- Always try the chosen grout in an inconspicuous spot first
- When grouting proceed with grouting small part of the surfaces and remove surplus grout from the tiles as much as possible.
- While the grout is still fresh regulate the depth of the joint with a wet grout soft sponges (not abrasive) using only water to clean it.

CLEANING :

As general recommendation do not use too much water to clean the grout haze off and do not clean it too soon or you can pull the grout out of the joints.

BOTTEGANOVE PRECIOUS GLAZE FINISHES

- Use only warm water and a soft cellulose sponge
- Do not use acid based cleaners
- Do not apply an excessive pressure while cleaning from the exceed grout
- Always operate with care

BOTTEGANOVE STANDARD GLAZE FINISHES

- When the grout is dry, the tile surface can be polished using a detergent with an alkaline pH.
- Always try the chosen detergent in an inconspicuous spot first

- For our samples panel we use the detergent “Litonet Gel” from Litokol company.
- Always refer to the manufacture’s guidelines for specific detail

MAINTENANCE:

BOTTEGANOVE PRECIOUS GLAZE FINISHES

- Use only warm water and a soft cellulose sponge
- Do not use acid based cleaners
- Do not apply an excessive pressure while cleaning from the exceed grout
- Always operate with care

BOTTEGANOVE STANDARD GLAZE FINISHES

- Tile surface can be polished using a detergent with an alkaline pH.
- Always try the chosen detergent in an inconspicuous spot first
- Always refer to the manufacture’s guidelines for specific detail

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