

BERT & MAY GLAZED, ZELLIGE & BEJMAT TILES INSTALLATION GUIDE

This document is designed as a guidance note for certified trade professionals. Please note that it is essential to wear suitable protective eyewear and clothing when cutting or drying tiles.

****PLEASE CHECK THE SUITABILITY TAB ON OUR WEBSITE FOR EACH OF OUR GLAZED PRODUCTS, AS GLAZED TILES ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR WET ROOM/SHOWER FLOORS**

PLEASE NOTE – THIS GUIDE IS FOR GLAZED TILES ONLY - FOR OUR RAW UNGLAZED BEJMAT/RAW THICK BEJMAT/RAW AND WHITE MOSAIC ZELLIGE TILES – THESE DO REQUIRE SEALING – PLEASE FOLLOW OUR TERRACOTTA INSTALLATION GUIDE **

DO GLAZED TILES NEED TO BE SEALED ON INSTALLATION

For **solid glazed** tiles, these do not need to be sealed.

For **crackled glazed tiles, or glazed tiles with imperfections in surface only** we recommend these are sealed.

Where we say the tiles do not require to be sealed, we do advise sealing the grout lines in a bathroom setting or around sinks to avoid staining or cracking of the grout over time. We recommend FILA MP90 ECO XTREME for this.

RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

MP90 ECO XTREME SEALER

FILA CLEANER PRO - FOR ONGOING GENERAL MAINTENANCE

The manufacturer of the installation products we recommend is Fila. We have worked closely with the Fila Team to develop our guide using their products and our tiles, and extensive testing on our tiles has been carried out.

Fila believes it is fundamentally important to ensure a **constant commitment to ethically sustainable products, and they have been awarded the Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold Award (low VOC emissions) for their MP90 Eco Xtreme product. All their packaging is also totally recyclable.**

Any products which come into contact with the tiles i.e., other sealants, silicone, cleaning products, or even foods, can cause damage if acidic, pigmented or abrasive.

CUTTING

We recommend that a high-quality diamond cutter for Porcelain tiles. The cutting blade should be water suppressed to control dust and cool the blades. Whilst cutting or drilling tiles, the surface of the tile may become wet and/or dirty. Wipe the tile clean immediately after cutting.

PRE-INSTALLATION PREPARATION

Bert & May recommends that the tiles are the last material to be installed during a building project. Remove any dust gathered on the tiles to improve adherence. Before installing glazed tiles, the floor must be clean,

free from dust and moisture, ensuring the sub-surface is level and stable. Please ensure new floor screeds are dry for a minimum of 6 weeks.

INSTALLATION

Apply adhesive to the floor using a notched trowel, working in small areas in parallel lines, spread only enough adhesive (we recommend Mapei Keraflex) that remains workable. We recommend using grout spacers with minimum 1mm between tiles, although the tiles can be butt jointed if required. However, if the tiles are being installed outside, we would recommend a minimum spacing of 2mm between tiles. Ensure the tiles are level by using a spirit level and do not step on the tiles for a least 6hrs (if using rapid set adhesive) or preferably overnight. The ambient temperature does affect the drying and curing times. The longer you can leave the tiles, the greater assurance you have that they have dried out. Please remember to protect your tiles from liquids and heavy foot traffic.

Should you need to wash the tiles, use PH neutral soap and water or PH neutral Fila Cleaner Pro.

PRE-GROUT SEALING

For glazed tiles with crackles or imperfections in surface only, we recommend sealing these tiles before grouting.

Ensure your tiles are clean and dust free before moving on to the next step. Should you need to wash the tiles, use PH neutral products. We recommend using **FILA CLEANER PRO**, which should be diluted in a 1 part product:200 part water ratio and worked into the tiles with a white nylon pad. Once tiles are clean, wipe off any residue with a dry cloth and leave the tiles to completely dry out for 24 hours.

Using a paint brush/fleece pad or other appropriate applicator, apply a moderate application of MP90 Eco Xtreme Sealant, ensuring the surface of the tiles are fully covered. Leave for 10 minutes and then promptly remove any sealant sitting on the surface, using a clean dry microfibre cloth, to avoid any mottling on the surface.

For solid glazed tiles only, please proceed straight to grouting section below

GROUTING

(For glazed tiles with crackles/surface imperfections only - We recommend using light coloured grout on light coloured tiles. We recommend that you avoid dark coloured grouts, unless on dark coloured tiles. If you do choose to use a dark grout, we recommend taking extra care to clean the surface of the tile throughout the grouting process, as the tiles have a textured surface and grout can get trapped)

Ensure the surface of the tiles are free from dust and adhesive before you begin the grouting process. We recommend point grouting as spread/slurry method of grouting is likely to sit in any textured surface of the tiles. A grouting gun can be used. Sponge the area to be grouted with clean water before applying the grout, working in small areas. Replace the water when needed, it is essential that the water and sponge is always clean. Allow the grout to dry for 24 hours.

POST GROUT CLEANING

To clean the tiles post grouting, we recommend using **FILA CLEANER PRO**, which should be diluted in a 1 part product:200 part water ratio and worked into the tiles with a white nylon abrasive pad (or a clean nylon floor brush for larger areas). Leave to activate for 4-5 minutes and remove with clean sponge and repeat as

necessary. Once the tiles are clean, with a damp sponge (wet vacuum for larger areas) remove the residue. Rinse thoroughly with clean water. The tiles then must be left to dry out fully i.e. approx. 24 hours

Proceed to seal the grout lines/around sinks

SEALING

Where we say the tiles do not require to be sealed, we do advise sealing the grout lines in a bathroom setting or around sinks to avoid staining or cracking of the grout over time. We recommend FILA MP90 ECO XTREME for this.

Once happy with the look of your installed tiles, sealing around the grout lines/around sinks is recommended. They should be sealed with **Fila MP90 ECO XTREME**. Start by ensuring the tiles are clean and dried. Apply **MP90 ECO XTREME** evenly, using a paintbrush, soaking the grout lines well. Leave for 10 minutes and then promptly remove any excess sealant sitting on the surface, using a clean dry microfibre cloth, to avoid any mottling on the surface. The tiles are not fully cured until 24 hours later.

Bert & May recommend professional advice is sought from a certified trade professional.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

We recommend for day-to-day cleaning of your tiles to use FILA CLEANER PRO, or PH neutral cleaners, avoiding anything too abrasive, acidic or bleach which can affect the tiles.

HEARTHES AND FIREPLACES

Care should be taken when tiling into hearths or fire surrounds. Ensure that the tiles are kept a minimum of 300mm away from direct contact with the flames or the main heat source.