

BERT & MAY GLAZED & ZELLIGE 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.

SURFACE PREPARATION

The surface must be properly prepared, suitably level, sound, clean, dry, and free of dust, grease or any loose material. New concrete surfaces must be allowed to dry for a minimum of 6 weeks. If applying a screed on top allow a minimum of a further 3 weeks. If tiles are fixed before it is dry and cracking does occur it is likely that the cracks will appear across the tiles as well. The screed must be fully dry in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and lightly sanded to remove all traces of laitance/dust.

PREPARATION

Damp tiles should be stored in a well ventilated area to dry thoroughly before fixing. We do not recommend pre-cleaning porcelain tiles before installation however brush off any loose grit or dust.

FIXING THE TILES

Carefully follow the mixing recommendations supplied on the reverse of the adhesive product, our recommended adhesive is Mapei Keraflex. Spread the adhesive using a suitable notched trowel. The adhesive should be applied to the surface in straight parallel lines. Spread only enough adhesive that remains workable. Push the tile firmly in the adhesive with a slight twisting movement. Place the next tile adjacent to the first, allowing for the grout joint, and so on over the prepared area. When laying the zellige tiles, as they are a handmade product and have variance in the thickness we suggest making sure you have a deep enough bed of adhesive to use this to adjust the tiles to the desired heights to give a level finish.

Be careful not to allow any adhesive onto the surface of the tiles. Any surplus should be wiped away with a clean, damp sponge. Keep the joints between the tiles free of adhesive and wipe away any excess from the un-tiled area. Once an area has been tiled the adjacent area can be prepared and so on until you have completed the floor. Once the adhesive is dry the remaining perimeter area can be prepared and cut tiles laid. If you prefer, cuts can be fitted as the work progresses. Check the floor level as work progresses with a spirit level and a straight edge.

CUTTING THE TILES

Glazed tiles require high quality diamond-tipped blades for cutting and correct drill bits for drilling - we advise checking your installer has equipment suitable for glazed tiles which is in good condition to avoid any chipping. 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. Rough edges and chips should be smoothed and finished with a sanding block or tile file.

GROUTING

Our preferred grout is Mapei Ultracolor Plus. Ensure the surface of the tiles are free from dust and adhesive before you begin the grouting process.

Sponge the area to be grouted with clean water before applying the grout, working in small areas. We recommend a minimum of 2mm space between tiles. Replace the water when needed, it is essential that the water and sponge are always clean. The tiles should be kept clean throughout the process, wiping off any excess grout before it has time to dry. Allow the grout to dry for 24 hours.

When grouting the zellige tiles, use plenty of grout and spread the grout into all areas of the tiles. Due to the handmade imperfect nature of the zellige, you want the grout to get into every area of the tile to ensure it is waterproof on any exposed areas.

CLEANING AND SEALING

If necessary, clean the tiles after grouting using Fila PS87 degreaser. Dilute in water (1:5) and apply on the surface with a cloth. Leave to act for 10 minutes before brushing with a nylon brush or an abrasive sponge (avoiding any metal-based cleaning tools). Use a cloth or 'aqua vac' to remove residues and then wash the surface thoroughly again with clean water. Any stubborn residues can be cleaned with Fila Deterdek Pro and a final rinse and buff of the tiles with clean water. Though glazed tiles do not require sealing, we do advise sealing the grout lines in bathroom settings or around sinks to avoid staining or cracking of the grout over time. We recommend Fila MP90 Eco Extreme for this.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

For day-to-day cleaning of your tiles we recommend Fila Cleaner Pro, or PH neutral floor cleaners. Avoid anything too abrasive, acidic or bleach, which can affect the pigments in the tiles. For a deep clean, Fila PS87 degreaser can be used to remove staining.