



FLOOR TILE CHARACTERISTICS

Bellavita Tile's porcelain and stoneware floor material is made with atomized clay. All clays and minerals used within the body of the tile and surface glaze are natural and inert after firing. Minimal variations in minerals and firing timing or kiln-temperature will cause slight differences in size and color. All material is sorted according to ANSI standard (A137) tolerances and packaging is clearly marked with caliber and shade/tone/dye-lot. Rectified formats are mono-caliber and therefore identical in size so may not be marked with caliber numbers. Mosaic formats are fiberglass mesh-mounted.

APPLICATIONS

Porcelain (less than 0.5% Water Absorption) and Stoneware (0.5-3% WA) are applicable in most floor or wall installations for both interiors and exteriors; please refer to individual product data sheets for specific recommendations. If material is recommended for exteriors it has passed ASTM C1026 standard for freeze/thaw cycle testing.

Submerged areas such as (but not limited to); shower bases, pools & fountains should use porcelain material. In addition, porcelain material is recommended for demanding environments including (but not limited to); steam showers, saunas & refrigeration units.

Unglazed porcelain material is recommended for heavy traffic commercial environments and areas anticipating wheeled traffic.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions are meant to be a guide for most installations, under normal conditions. Please follow best practice instructions found in the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) 09300 Handbook for specific installation types.

Verify all products before installation for any damage or defects such as (but not limited to); chipped edges, scratched surfaces or deformities. Confirm the caliber and dye-lot shade, all packaging is clearly marked with shade (overall color tone) and caliber (allowable size variation). **It is not recommended to mix dye lots or calibers.**

Always use appropriate personal protective equipment when handling, drilling, cutting or grinding glass tile, such as (but not limited to); eye, ear & hand protection.

Cutting:

Use a tile cutter (score & snap) with a new diamond wheel for best results when cutting our stoneware and porcelain material. Wetting the diamond wheel with oil before

cutting will produce the smoothest cuts. Alternatively, it is also possible to use a wet-saw or angle grinder with a new diamond blade specifically designed for cutting porcelain. Any exposed cuts should be done with a wet saw to produce the cleanest and smoothest cut edge.

Cut edges and corners will be sharp. Always be sure to smooth cut edges manually with a diamond hand pad or ceramic dressing stone.

Drilling:

If possible, drill holes before installing tile. Using a new diamond coring bit (for large holes) or spade bit (for small holes) will give the best results. Lubricating the bit and tile surface with a continuous spray of oil/water mix will prolong the life of bits and provide a better-finished edge. When possible, the use of a jig will ensure precise placement of holes to be drilled.

When drilling holes for anchoring bolts, plumbing or any other dissimilar material always ensure a minimum of 1/8" (3mm) clearance around the item is provided to avoid cracking due to disparate expansion & contraction rates or stress transfer.

Installation

When setting stoneware or porcelain floor tiles & mosaics it is recommended to use polymer or latex modified thin set or medium bed mortar compliant with ANSI standard A118.4. In exterior installations ensure an exterior rated mortar is specified. For wall installations, a non-sag mortar is preferred. Always follow setting material manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

3/8 or 1/2 inch square-notch trowel should be used when installing our stoneware or porcelain floor tile material. To ensure a good bond and proper mortar coverage all tiles should be "back-buttered" by applying a thin layer of mortar directly to the back of the tile with the flat side of the trowel.

GROUTING

Non-sanded or fine aggregate grouts compliant with A118.4 should be used for our floor tile material when joint width is less than 1/8". If joint width is larger, a sanded grout must be used. When grouting polished unglazed formats or glossy glazed formats with sanded grouts, gentle application of grout with a soft rubber float is recommended to minimize the possibility of surface scratching. A "mock-up" or testing installation should be executed to ensure results are acceptable. Epoxy grouts or adhesives can be used when stain resistant installations are required.

After grouting wipe of excess surface grout with a slightly damp sponge- **do not over wash**. After initial wash has been allowed to haze, wipe once with minimal pressure at a 45-degree angle to joints and rinse sponge after wiping once with each side. Any remaining haze can be buffed off with a dry towel or cheese-cloth after grout surface has dried sufficiently.

Care should be taken to place requisite non-cementitious expansion joints in any glass installation to allow for normal expansion and contraction of the material and preserve the installation from stress fractures. Many grout manufacturers will make urethane or silicone based products to match cementitious grouts for this purpose.

Expansions joints should be placed in areas such as (but not limited to); tile meeting a dissimilar material; any change of plane (like counter to backsplash or floor to wall); and around perimeters of installation.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

For normal care and maintenance of glazed tile, wiping the surface with a damp sponge or cloth with water or a light vinegar solution is sufficient. If stronger cleaning is needed, a nonabrasive, neutral pH cleaner can be used.

Ceramic glazes are impervious and as such glazed formats do not require sealers. If a sealer is applied to grouting, be sure to wipe any excess sealer from tile surface.

Due to the abrasion in the polishing process, microscopic surface pores are exposed in polished, unglazed porcelains. If aggressive soiling or contrasting grout colors are anticipated, we recommend sealing this material with a high quality penetrating sealer and using a grout-release prior to grouting. Again use a "mock-up" or testing installation to ensure results are acceptable.

Ceramic tile may be damaged from impact with hard or heavy objects, which can lead to chipping or breakage causing sharp cutting edges that can cause injuries. Always replace any damaged tiles immediately.

Product liability and manufacture warranty information may be found on the page of www.bellavitatile.com/faq