



WALL TILE CHARACTERISTICS

Bellavita Tile's ceramic wall material is made with white, 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 (A137) standard tolerances and packaging is clearly marked with caliber & shade/tone/dye-lot. Mosaic formats are always fiberglass mesh-mounted.

APPLICATIONS

Wall tile material (greater than 7% water absorption) can be used in most wet or dry interior wall and ceiling applications. This material is not recommended for demanding environments such as (but not limited to); steam showers, saunas or refrigeration rooms.

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/tone/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 ceramic 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 ceramics or stone. 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 ceramic wall tiles & mosaics it is recommended to use polymer or latex modified thin set or medium bed mortar compliant with ANSI standard A118.4. In dry area installations mastics can also be used. Always follow setting material manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

3/16 or 1/4 inch square-notch trowel should be used when installing our ceramic wall tile material

GROUTING

Non-sanded grout compliant with A118.4 should be used for our wall tile material. If sanded grout must be used for technical or aesthetic reasons, 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 tile 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 this material does not require sealers. If a sealer is applied to grouting, be sure to wipe any excess sealer from tile surface.

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 FAQ page of www.bellavitatile.com/faq