

CRITICAL LIGHTING ISSUES WITH TILE INSTALLATIONS

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All of Bellavita Tile, Inc. Porcelain tiles conform or exceed ANSI 137.1 dimensional standards

It is an unfortunate fact that any wall-washing lighting source directly on or near walls will be focused to wash the wall with light (often called grazing) will accentuate irregularities in the installation by casting shadows on the tile surface joints.

The following are several conditions that can exacerbate the effect of wall-washing or grazing light on walls and floors

- Floor and wall substrate not within tolerances
- Thinset or adhesive application of stone or tile
- Materials that are subject to inherent irregularities such as warpage

From a contractor's perspective it is important that your project managers, supervisors and installers are aware of the lighting design on each project through proper pre-installation orientation.

Some below are some tips for the installation contractor that can minimize the effects of grazing lighting on tile installations:

- Inform the architect and/or owner of the anticipated results by providing a copy of this brochure.
- Recommend that the lighting be moved at least 24 inches from the wall; and preferably to the center of the room.
- Instruct the contractor and other trades that the strict adherence to ANSI or NTCA preparation and tolerance requirements for walls or slabs be strictly adhered to and provide a copy of the requirements.
- Have the permanent lights installed before the tile installation, or place your temporary lights directly above the tile installation.
- Use tile from manufacturers who meet high standards of mounting, uniform thickness and warpage control.
- Avoid the use of ceramic mosaics and scored tile on critical lighting walls or floors.
- Where wall-wash lighting effects are desired, inspect the subsurface thoroughly prior to installation and require the responsible party to prepare the surface according to ANSI standards. Use Methods W201, W211, W221 or W222 when installing tiles over concrete block masonry; and use Methods W231 or W241 when installing tiles over stud walls to produce the flattest surfaces. For best results, mortar beds should still be plastic during installation of tiles. Don't buy the contractor's or other trades' problems.
- Give proper orientation to the tile installers and emphasize the high-risk aspect of the installation; and make an early inspection of the installation using light directly against the tile.
- Use large beating block and properly "beat-in" tile.
- On multi-room jobs, have the architect inspect the first tiled and grouted wall.