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# Cement Tile Installation Roadmap

Cement tiles show variation in colors and design; cement tiles will not be identical piece to piece. This is a result of the handmade process and the nature of cement. Mixing tiles from different boxes during setting is suggested to produce a beautiful naturally rich appearance. Details can be seen in a close-up, but will be invisible when installation is completed. If properly installed, cement tiles will result in a beautiful, durable, easy to maintain surface that can be enjoyed for many years.

**Please note treatments must be done after installation and when tiles are completely dry. It is also recommended to make a test on a single piece to check the desired finish.**

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## Required Materials

### For installing tiles:

- Flexible tile glue, suitable for natural stone
- Flexible grout, suitable for natural stone
- Water-cooled tile saw
- 1/2" Grout trowel, glue trowel glue pot
- Breathable foil or colorless drapery
- 1/16" to 1/8" thick tile spacers

### For cleaning, impregnating and maintaining cement tiles:

- Grout stain remover (cleaner)
- Tile sealant (impregnation)
- Tile oil or color intensifier (impregnation)
- Tile soap (maintenance product)
- Paint roller, paint tray, sponge and water bucket
- Lint-free cotton cloth

## Care and inspection

- 1) Do not let cases or cement tiles get wet. Store material in a dry area. Moisture or dampness can cause tiles to get stain, color fades or damage the surface tile showing cracks and pitting.
- 2) Inspect your order carefully. Clay Imports will not be responsible for material that has been cut or installed. Throughout the installation process and handling of the tile, be careful not to damage the finished surface, edges and corners of the tiles.
- 3) Cement Tile, as a product of cement and natural materials, is subjected to color and shade variations and it is recommended to mix the tiles from the different cases. Allow tiles to get dried in their final environment prior to installation.
- 4) Cement Tile is a cement-based product and may have residue on the surface. Before starting the installation, it is highly recommended to clean all tiles with clean cloth to remove any residue and get a clean tile surface. Please be aware that our tile is a handmade product. Due to this process, slight variations in size, shade, irregular edges and the appearance of fine cracks are inherent to this product and can vary from piece to piece. Prior to installation, we advise a blending of the tiles to create a more aesthetic appearance.

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## Installation

- 5) Glue the tiles on a flat, dry surface with a flexible tile adhesive of your choice. Use a trowel with recesses of 10-20 mm (½ - ¾ in). Use 2 mm thick tile spacers for best results. Remove excess glue and dirt from the tile quickly. Glue will require at least 24 hours to dry properly.
- 6) Clean the floor with water after bonding using a sponge and / or cloth. (Mix a small amount of select tile stain remover through water- 3 bottle tops for best results). Wring the sponge every time while cleaning the floor. Avoid getting tiles too wet as this may affect later steps. Allow the floor to dry completely.
- 7) The tiles should be impregnated at least once (twice is recommended) with tile sealer before grouting and ensure the floor space is clean. Use a paint roller to apply the sealer and follow with a sponge to remove any excess bubbles. Do not apply any pressure. Repeat this step. Then leave the sealer treatment to dry for 6 hours before you proceed to the next step.
- 8) Typical grout colors are light or white in color. Avoid use of charcoal or black colored grouts on cement tiles (may stain cement tiles). Remove any excess grout while grouting. Clean tile with tile stain remover after the top of the grout has hardened (occurs after 1 hour usually). Wring your sponge frequently and renew your cleaning water regularly while cleaning your tiles. Allow the grout to dry for at least 12 hours.
- 9) Impregnate the tile at least 2 more times for best results. Please note for a matte finish, rub in directly with a cotton cloth. For a satin finish, leave as is when rolled
- 10) Maintain your tiles periodically (recommended once a week) with soap and water or cement tile specific cleaner.

## Final Thoughts

- Please be sure to read all instructions on the products used.
- For safety purposes, always work in a well-ventilated area.
- Mixing tiles from different boxes leads to the best results.
- During a renovation, covering the floor with a breathable foil for best results. Avoid the use of plastic or cardboard (non-breathable materials).
- Avoid cleaning agents that contain acids.
- If you are uncertain about what steps to take for your installation, feel free to contact Clay Imports where we can provide our expertise on next steps required.