



Each cement tile is made by hand in steel molds using high-pressure hydraulic presses and brass dividers to create the pattern. Unlike ceramic and porcelain tile, no kilns or heat sources are used to create this unique product, which is made up of portland cement, sand, water & powder colored with water-soluble pigments. Always seal encaustic tile immediately after installation.

PLANNING & SURFACE PREPARATION

- Because they are made individually, variation in thickness, size, & color is expected. Irregular edges/corners and blurring of pattern or contours are normal. Unique character is built-in by design and does not compromise the performance of the tile.
- The pattern is designed to connect. Always dry lay tiles before installing, & keep outer surfaces level with one another. Try mixing them randomly from different boxes when laying them out in order to balance color and tonal variation.
- This product is often thicker than other tiles. Consider the space needed under doors, and plan for the height difference when transitioning to other materials. These tiles are not recommended for outdoor applications or direct sunlight.
- Properly treat concrete slabs, or use an uncoupling/waterproofing membrane, before installing on a cement surface.

CUTTING & PLACEMENT

- Be extra cautious to keep these tiles clean through the whole installation process. Surface stains are difficult to remove.
- Use either a wet saw with a diamond blade or an angle grinder for cutting. Wipe away debris from cuts/drilling immediately. When using an angle grinder, cut along the surface at least two-thirds of its depth; then the tile can be snapped. Chips and rough edges should be smoothed and finished with a sanding block or tile file.
- Encaustic tiles are extremely absorbent and should be "dunked" in clean water before bedding into thinset. This prevents the tiles from pulling moisture from the thinset and causing it to cure improperly. Shake or use a clean sponge to wipe away excess water to prevent diluting the thinset bed.
- White modified thinset is recommended. Achieve 100% coverage with a properly troweled bed surface and back-buttering each tile. A 1/2" notched trowel is recommended. Wipe excess adhesive from the tile's surface using a clean, damp sponge.
- Bed tiles firmly into place only by hand. Do not use a mallet; this creates small cracks that will show after washing.

GROUT & MAINTENANCE

- They are highly porous and must be sealed before applying grout. Use of Grout Release is highly recommended. Allow tiles to dry completely before sealing. Moisture trapped during installation can cause moderate to severe aesthetic problems, such as ghosting or a blotchy appearance.
- Recommended grout joint width is a tight joint of 1/16" - 1/8" allows for seamless pattern look.
- Lightly colored flexible unsanded grout is recommended. Test the grout in a small, inconspicuous area prior to grouting the whole floor to ensure that surplus grout can be removed without staining tiles. Press grout into joints only; do not spread grout across the entire floor. Quickly use a damp sponge to wipe off any excess. *Note: Although dark-colored grouts may be used, they can stain light areas on the surface of the tile and cause difficulty cleaning after installation.*
- After cleaning, apply an additional coat of sealer over both tiles and grout.
- Clean using mild, non-detergent soap. Never use acidic/caustic cleaners on cement tile. Reseal periodically, more frequently where heavy foot-traffic is present. A natural patina will develop over time.

