

INSTALATION INSTRUCTIONS

The placement method we recommend is similar to the one used for installing ceramic tiles.

1 - CONCRETE BASE

Prepare a perfectly 26mm (1,02") leveled surface in concrete or self-leveling screed cement below the line of the intended floor height (22mm for 20x20cm tile and 4mm for adhesive / 0,15" for adhesive).

Wait until the concrete base is dry. This will prevent the formation of white calcium spots that can result from the evaporation of water through the tiles.

2 - PLACING THE TILES

If you choose a traditional carpet style pattern, you must first frame the center carpet, and then lay down the border tiles. Then, place the outside tiles, which can be resized without disrupting the pattern you have created.

Clean and dampen the underside of the tiles to help adhesion.

Soak the tiles a few seconds and apply the adhesive mixture evenly to the floor subsurface, using a wide comb. Also apply adhesive to the back of the tile.

Lay down the tiles, and carefully press them into place using your hands, or white rubber mallet (Do not use a metallic mallet to set the tile. This could cause micro-cracks in the tile).

Ensure that the tiles are perfectly leveled throughout the installation; because encaustic cement tiles cannot be reduced or water polished like marble or terrazzo can.

3- GROUT

We recommend to apply a light sealer before grouting.

Grout should be 1mm wide (use spacers) to let grout cement penetrate. Wider grout disrupts the entire pattern.

Take care to align the tiles so that a regular pattern is maintained throughout the floor.

Grout is filled with liquid grout cement using a spatula.

Immediately remove any excess joint filler with a damp cloth.

Never use pigmentation for the cement joint filler (grout cement). The dye in liquid phase would infiltrate nearest slabs leaving irreversible stains.

CLEANING AND SEALING RECOMMENDATIONS

1 – CLEANING

Never use strong acidic or alkaline products (cement remover, strong detergents) or bleach as they would irreparably damage the tiles.

Hard cement spots can be delicately removed with water sanding paper #600 or "Scotch Brite".

Cement tiles floor should be perfectly dry and clean before any protective application. Before sealing, the slabs must breathe and all the moisture evaporates.

Evaporation of floor humidity through cement tiles may leave white salt deposits on the cement tiles surface.

These white "spots" may be removed with water brushing and scrubbing the tile.

If the sealing treatment is performed too early over a wet floor result could be darker spots of moisture blocked under the sealant. So we have to leave the tiles to be completely dry.

2 - FILA PRODUCTS

All the products you'll need for the protection and maintenance of our cement tiles can be found here: <http://www.filasolutions.com>.

A sealer is applied with a brush or wool roller in very thin layers. Do not apply too much. If, after saturating the slab sealer is applied in excess and do not penetrate any more, would remain in surface spots of dry product and "brushstroke."

Always test the sealer on a loose tile before applying to the entire floor. In order to measure the grade of absorption of the tiles.

3- DAILY MAINTENANCE

Never clean with harsh detergents, acids or alkaline. They would definitely destroy your cement tiles (as they destroy natural materials such as marble, natural stone, limestone or terrazzo).

Clean with mop or brush with water and natural soap (green soap, Marseille soap or products for marble). This natural soap hardens cement tiles and gives them patina and caché.

Transparent wax (for marble) enhance colors and protects the tiles.

4- HEAVY TRAFFIC FLOORS / HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS RECOMMENDATION

Bars, shops, restaurants; public areas... cement tiles floor require special protection and attention on daily maintenance.

