

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

- tiles with crackle glazes

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

The surface where the product is going to be installed must be clean and level.

We strongly recommend dry laying prior to installation. Blending of the ceramic tile glaze is key to insuring a pleasing overall look to your room. This will resolve any color or size issues prior to installation and will serve as a review of tile placement.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

MATERIALS

Adhesive – Install with any high-quality ceramic tile adhesive suitable to the intended application.

Mud installation can be done as well.

Grout - Unsanded grout is typically used for grout joints 1/8” or smaller. Sanded grout is recommended for grout joints larger than 1/8”, as long as the excess material is removed with a damp sponge.

Using notched trowels or grout floats might scratch the tile.

The color of the grout should be as close as possible as the color of your tile. We do not recommend the use of contrasting color

grouts.

METHOD

Relief decorative borders or liners can be taped off during grouting to facilitate cleanup.

To help keep border, liner and molding grout joints tight, offset the joints between field tile, trim and accent rows.

SEALING

Sealing is not required for Solid Glazes. Sealing is mandatory for Crackle Glazes. We recommend to seal our tiles with a penetrating sealer before and after grouting.

1. The sealer penetrates the fine, hairline fissures in the glaze and prevents dirt and dusk darkening the crackle over a period of time.
2. Sealing the crackled glaze makes it easier to maintain and clean.
3. The sealer is wiped off the glazed surface of the tile and will not harm it or change its appearance.
4. We do not recommend the use of contrasting grouts with this type of glaze.

We recommends the following products and procedures:

Once the tile is mounted on the wall and before grouting, the tile surface must be clean and free of dirt and dust. Use the FILAMP90 - Natural Look Penetrating which is a solvent based sealer. Apply an even coat of FILAMP90 with a paintbrush or lambswool applicator pad. Wait 24 Hours to allow the product to cure. Apply grout with a sponge evenly distributing grout over joints. Do not use a grout float.

NOTE: When using Contrasting Color Grouts, it is imperative that the tiles are thoroughly sealed to avoid the discoloration from the grout pigment. Please follow the mixing grouting instructions of the Grout Manufacturer.

Once the grouting is completed and allowed to dry, the surface of the tiles must be cleaned using FILA CLEANER - Neutral Cleaner:

Dilute to 1:30. Clean the surface with a cloth and scrubbing brush. Remove any residue and rinse thoroughly.

After the thorough cleaning of the surface and grout residue, the tile will need to be resealed using the FILAMP90 - Natural Look Penetrating Sealer observing the following guidelines: Apply an even coat of FILAMP90 with a paintbrush or lambswool applicatorpad. Wipe off product excess after 15 minutes, making sure to rub the product and help its complete penetration into the material. Wait 24 Hours to allow the product to cure.

NOTE: Future Sealing of the product should be done if you see any discoloration/darkening in the body of the tile. This will vary by end usage, care and maintenance products and tools used.

If you use any other sealer, please check with the manufacturer for the proper instructions and products to use for sealing crackled glaze ceramic tile.

MAINTENANCE

Walls and counters: clean glazed ceramic tile regularly with a non-abrasive/non-acidic, mild and PH neutral cleaner.

We recommend FILA CLEANER - Neutral Cleaner for all cleaning purposes of our tile.

Sealer: Reapply to grout joints and crackle glazes periodically as needed. When water no longer beads on the surface of the joints, resealing is required.