



PLACEMENT

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

1 - Concrete base

- Prepare a perfectly levelled surface in concrete or self-levelling screed/cement 20mm below the line of the intended floor height (16mm for 20x20 slabs and 4mm 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 centre carpet, then lay down the border tiles.
- Finally, 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.
- 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. (Do not use a hard rubber hammer to set the tile. This could cause micro-cracks to appear in the tile.)
- Ensure that the tiles are perfectly levelled throughout the installation; because mosaic cement tiles cannot be reduced or water polished like marble or terrazzo.

3 - Grout

- Grout should be 1mm wide to let the cement grout 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.

4 - CLEANING

- Immediately clean any cement residue or stains following installation using mop/brush and water, using a PH neutral soap.
- *Never use strong acidic or alkaline products* (cement remover, strong detergents) or bleach as they would irreparably damage the tiles.
- Paint stains or hard cement spots can be delicately removed with water sanding paper #600 or "Scotch Brite"

PROTECTION OF ENCAUSTIC CEMENT TILES

Recommendation before protecting cement tiles

1 - Dry floor

- The floor must be perfectly dry.
- Tiles should breath for a sufficient period of time to allow any water to evaporate.
- If the newly tiled floor is sealed too early, humidity will get trapped underneath the sealed layer, and dark spots will appear.
- A damp tile will not absorb the protective applications.

2 - Clean floor

- Immediately clean any cement residue or stains following installation.
- Never use cement remover, strong detergents or bleach as they would irreparably damage the tiles.
- Paint stains or hard cement spots can be delicately removed with water sanding paper #600 or "Scotch Brite"

Private house floors

1 - Sealers (MOSAIC Sealer)

Sealer protects from stains.

Sealers for cement tiles are the same as for natural stones slabs, marble or terrazzo.

Sealer penetrates and should be 100% absorbed inside the cement tile.

Apply thin layers with a brush or sponge, till the floor is saturated. Do not apply in excess, otherwise "brush stains" may appear. We can provide you with MOSAIC del Sur SEALER.

2 - Waxing or Natural "green" soap

The traditional and most common protection for cement tiles floor.

Wax or natural green soap protects and brings out colours, giving the tiles a glossy finish.

Heavy traffic floors, bars, restaurants

1 - Crystallization

A local specialist in marble/terrazzo floor should apply these protective treatments which consist in:

- Floor mechanical cleaning (rotating fiber disc)
- Floor abrasion resistance improvement. The process needs a rotating machine, iron wool of fiber disc, and magnesium fluoride silicate among other products.
- Finally a "wax-like" mechanical application, more or less glossy, for a definitive surface finish.

2 - Protective << plastic >> surfacing

Surface protective layer, such as polyurethane applications, transparent composites or similar ... are done under client responsibility. They protect perfectly from stains but risk is possible lacks of adherence on the tiles and scratches.

IMPORTANT!! Maintenance

For routine maintenance, clean the floor with natural liquid green soap (PH neutral) in the water used to mop.

Never use strong acidic or alkaline detergents or bleach as they would irreparably damage the tiles.

For heavy traffic cement floors, as well as for marble or terrazzo, a periodical crystallization can be profitable.