

INSTALLATION
GUIDE
&
MAINTENANCE

REV02

Disclaimer: the informations provided herein are not a step-by-step installation guide, but general precautions and tips on how to install and care for our tiles. We always encourage a professional to perform the installation.

Please contact us with specific questions not addressed in this guide.

MAKE SURE:

- The application suits the tile body or glaze for the specific application. For wet areas such as pools, kitchens, or bathrooms, be sure the glaze is suitable. Our White Body Clay tiles are not recommended for outdoor application in areas affected by freeze/ thaw cycles. We have the suitable body clay and glaze that suits most of the application, please contact us with specific projects.
- Tools and products use for the installation are appropriate to the kind of tiles finishes. Precious finishes (like metal, iridescent luster or special hand decorations) should be treated with reasonable care and maintained properly to look their best.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION:

Always verify the acceptability of the product prior to installation.

Our collections are handcrafted made from natural raw materials wet pressed. They may therefore present differences in sizing, flatness, surface irregularities and variations in shades that should be considered as features of the material. During installation, those features should be use to enhance the aesthetic effects.

Typical grout spacing is between ± 3 mm ($\pm 1/8$ ") and ± 2 mm ($\pm 5/64$ "). Size variation is accentuated by grout spacing. Carefully consider grout spacing prior to installation. If deviating from the recommended grout joint size, please have a suitable mock up made that will mimic the conditions on the job site. Be sure to lay out tiles and pull from different boxes to achieve the best overall blend of color. Lay out tiles (or sheet tiles) to determine cuts and grout spacing and double check that you have enough tiles to complete the project with some leftover pieces. Once installed, claims regarding color and size variation will not be accepted. If you need additional pieces please do not start the installation until you have them. Every tile order is handcrafted to order and unique. Additional pieces may vary in color from the original order.

CUTTING:

Recommended Tools:

Diamond blade wet tile saw for cutting

Diamond bit with water for drilling

Safety glasses, gloves

General cutting tips:

If any tiles have imperfections, set them aside for cuts. A new tile blade will make a cleaner cut than an over-used blade. Make sure the water on the blade is clean and working well at full force.

Stone or sand edges after cutting if needed.

Use cut edges against the outside walls or ceiling where they are hidden.

Make sure the faucet flange covers any chipping on the edges of a cut-out.

Dip tiles in clean water before cutting.

Dry tiles after cutting and before applying silicone and/or caulking.

SETTING AND MATERIAL :

Recommended Tools:

Notched trowel, sponge, safety glasses

The appropriate substrate and setting materials should be determined on a case-by- case basis. Anyway in most cases, the tile application - where the tile is installed - clearly determines the best mortar option. Consult with your installer, contractor, or architect. Be careful not to spread thin-set in areas larger than can be set within 5–10 minutes.

When applying tiles or mosaic sheets do not apply an excessive pressure.

SPACING:

When installing mosaics, place the sheets with the same joint as within the sheet.

When installing single tiles make sure the grout line is not too tight. Specially for Flora collection we recommend that the pieces be placed next to one another, without using spacers, and rotated so that the joints become formed naturally.

Prior the installation make sure lay out tiles to determine cuts and grout spacing and double check that you have enough tiles to complete the project with some leftover pieces.

The tighter the grout joint, the more noticeable the size variation of handmade tile will become. Due to the handcrafted nature of our tile, small variations in size occur and there could be variation in size and thickness from tile to tile (say it can fluctuate by $\sim 2,5$ mm - $7/64$ " in any direction). With handcrafted tiles, we always recommend larger grout joints to account for these irregularities.

Adhesive can also be applied to the back of the tile itself in order to compensate for differences in flatness

Having more space between the tiles will trick the eye into thinking the size is more uniform from piece to piece.

GROUT:

Recommended Tools:

Rubber gloves, grout soft sponges (not abrasive) , clean rags, clean water, soft grout float (not abrasive), safety glasses. Do not use abrasive pad or sponge.

Grout release: should be used with tiles with crazing/crackle surface or on our STANDARD FINISHES (please see below on these section) and CLEAR SATIN FINISHES. Grout release" is a removable, water soluble surface coating that is used to protect tile from staining when using a colored grout. It also makes grout clean up a little bit easier. Try the chosen grout release in an inconspicuous spot first to verify it works fine.

Grout haze remover: make sure to use a non-aggressive, neutral solution (always refer to the manufacture's guidelines for specific details). Should be used only on our STANDARD FINISHES (please see below on these section). On our PRECIOUS FINISHES use only warm water and a grout soft sponges (not abrasive).

Please contact us with specific questions not addressed in this guide.

Dark grouts with pigments can stain the tile and should be pre-tested for staining.

Please refer always to the grout manufacturer's guidelines for specific details on the grout.

We recommend a grout release to ease cleaning after installation and to prevent staining from a dark coloured grout.

Tile with crazing/crackle and tile with clear matt surface should have a grout release/wax sealer applied and allowed to dry before grouting.

All the products must be tried in an inconspicuous spot first.

GROUT COLOR:

Color of the grout can significantly affect your overall design. Our tech office is always available to give suggestion based on our experience.

Matching:

If the tile color has to be the center of attention, we suggest matching grout color (or just get as close to it in tone if a bright color have been chosen). This will prevent the eye from being distracted from the pattern found within the grout line.

Contrasting:

A contrasting grout highlight the pattern found in the layout and shape of the tile

Neutral:

A neutral grout is always a safe choice - most of the time it goes with everything. The pattern will be more noticeable than a matching grout but not the main feature as seen with contrasting grout installations.

RECOMMENDED GROUT PRODUCT

As general recommendation please use always high performance, non sanded and non grit grout.

BOTTEGANOVE PRECIOUS GLAZE FINISHES

We suggest to use a non-sanded epoxy grout.

An epoxy grout is the most expensive grout choice but is also the most durable.

Try the chosen grout in an inconspicuous spot first.

User must carry preliminary practical tests in any case.

For our samples panel we use the epoxy grout "Starlike" from Litokol company.

For some particular precious finishes we suggest to use a cement base grout (we tested Fugabella from Kerakoll). It will be our tech office to suggest which one is better, in any case this must be tested on site before proceeding.

Note: these are just hints and are not to be considered binding indications,

BOTTEGANOVE STANDARD GLAZE FINISHES

We suggest to use a non-sanded epoxy grout.

An epoxy grout is the most expensive grout choice but is also the most durable.

A cement base grout (we tested Fugabella from Kerakoll) can be used on our Standard finishes

Try the chosen grout in an inconspicuous spot first.

User must carry preliminary practical tests in any case.

For our samples panel we use the grout "Starlike" from Litokol company.

Our satin finishes are considered as standard finishes, however must be treat with care

Note: these are just hints and are not to be considered binding indications.

GROUTING:

Always try the chosen grout in an inconspicuous spot first

When grouting proceed with grouting small part of the surfaces and remove surplus grout from the tiles as much as possible.

While the grout is still fresh regulate the depth of the joint with a wet grout soft sponges (not abrasive) using only water to clean it.

CLEANING:

As general recommendation do not clean it too soon or you can pull the grout out of the joints.

BOTTEGANOVE PRECIOUS GLAZE FINISHES

Use only warm water and a soft cellulose sponge.

Do not use acid or basic based cleaners.

For our samples panels grouted with epoxy, we use the detergent "Litonet Gel" from Litokol company

Do not apply an excessive pressure while cleaning from the exceed grout.

Always operate with care.

BOTTEGANOVE STANDARD GLAZE FINISHES

When the grout is dry, the tile surface can be polished using a detergent with a neutral Ph.

Always try the chosen detergent in an inconspicuous spot first.

For our samples panels grouted with epoxy, we use the detergent "Litonet Gel" from Litokol company

Always refer to the manufacture's guidelines for specific detail.

MAINTENANCE:

BOTTEGANOVE PRECIOUS GLAZE FINISHES

Use only warm water and a soft cellulose sponge

Do not use acid or basic based cleaners

Do not apply an excessive pressure while cleaning

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BOTTEGANOVE STANDARD GLAZE FINISHES

Tile surface can be polished using a detergent with a neutral pH.

Always try the chosen detergent in an inconspicuous spot first. Always refer to the manufacture's guidelines for specific detail.

PROPER TILES STORAGE:

Leave the tile that is to be stored in its original packaging.

Do not remove any plastic cellophane wrapping if the tiles are wrapped in it.

Raise the tiles off of the ground so it will not be exposed to dirt or water.

If the tiles came on a wooden pallet, use the pallet to store the tiles.

Keep the elements out from tiles stored directly outside.

Covering the tile with a tarp or other plastic covering will keep the elements out.

Do not stack boxed tiles over 2,5 feet (75 cm) high.

Always operate with care.

Botteganove SRL is not liable for any damage occurred during the mise en place and/or the grouting. In any case we will not accept complaints on laid material. The tonalities and shades of the products and any sample are explanatory and not binding. Minor variations in colour tones characterise the product and are index of the total craftsmanship in the manufactured item.

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