

Encaustic Cement Tiles Installation Guide

Encaustic Cement Tiles are hand-made tiles and show nuances in design and colour. Each cement tile is individually made and slight variations in thickness, size, colour and; imperfection like irregular edges and corners, as well as pattern contours being partly blurred, are inherent to the manufacturing process. These characteristics add to the tile's authentic appeal and do not compromise performance.

Minor gradation in pigmentation and design bleed can occur from tile to tile, and batch to batch. Individual tiles will not be identical as these tiles are not machine-made, and general variations are considered to be a natural charm of the tiles.

Storage

- After receiving your order and inspecting your tiles, it is important to store them correctly before installation. Make sure that your tiles are stored in a dry area away from any wet or dampness. Wet or damp conditions could cause colour damage, stains or surface impairment.
- Tiles MUST always be stored indoors, where the ambient temperature is below 28°C; and in a 40-60% Relative Humidity (RH) condition.

Blending

- Due to the handmade nature of cement tiles, before installation, it is advised that you mix up different tiles from different boxes to achieve a blend. Variation and blend are crucial to getting the most from your tiles aesthetically.

Before Tile Installation

- Just before installation, we advise moving the tiles into your intended area and opening the boxes, allowing them to acclimate to the humidity of the space for up to 48 hours at a minimum. Depending on the Relative Humidity (RH) in the space, the acclimation process might be longer.
- If your tiles have uneven 'damp looking' patches or spots, it means humidity is evident in the tiles--which has to dry out in a temperature-controlled environment.
- Note that expansion joints will be required for large floor or wall installations to prevent cracking the tile due to 'movement'. As a general rule, follow all building expansion joints, but also check with the engineer for expansion joint requirements and recommendations.

Tile installation

- We recommend the installation of cement tiles is done after all other construction works--if at all possible. Fix the tiles at the last stage of the work. Otherwise, the surface will be dirty and will be next to impossible to clean if it is soiled by the result of construction works.
- The tiling substrate must be prepared in accordance with the design and onsite levels. As a general guide, we recommend the substrate be lower than the tiled finish level by -20 to -25mm.
- Cement tiles must be installed on a well levelled, clean and dry surface. Moisture and/or Humidity in screed will cause fur deposits on the tile's surface. This effect is a natural reaction of cement-based products and can cause the tiles to surface stain, colour fade or can damage the surface of the tile showing cracks and pitting.
- If you are laying tiles on a concrete slab, be sure the slab is completely cured to prevent white efflorescence spots and patches from showing up later on the surface of the tile, as water evaporates through it.
- Fill a bucket with clean water. Briefly dip the tiles in the water for 3 to 5 seconds and let the excess drip away in a second empty bucket or vessel. Refresh the water as required. This is to remove any dust and to pre-wet the back of the tiles prior setting-out. Avoid letting the tiles sit in water for long periods of time.
- **This is a good time to mix (blend) tiles randomly from different boxes**, so that colour variations are not laid in rows or clusters and that the overall 'look' has balanced colour and tonal variation.
- Apply good quality cement tile adhesive/thin-set mortar evenly onto the surface the tile is being laid on, using a large-toothed comb trowel. Also, apply adhesive on the back of the tile.
- Once you position the tiles; Press the tile down firmly with your hands ONLY, DO NOT USE A HAMMER OR RUBBER Mallet, since cracks may show up later, even if you do not see them immediately.
- It is necessary to install the tiles using 1 to 2 mm spacers. Joints will be grouted.
- Please bear in mind that the tiles must be kept meticulously clean through the whole installation process - we recommend wearing protective latex gloves. Any staining to the surface of the tile before sealing will be difficult to remove.
- Always wet cut the tiles using a table-mounted wet-saw circular blade cutter, with a diamond blade.
- While pressing and levelling the tiles, you might get some up-spill of adhesive/thin-set mortar. Make sure you clean this adhesive/thin-set mortar with a wet towel or sponge immediately. The adhesive/thin-set mortar must not be allowed to dry on the surface of the tiles as it will stain the tiles permanently.
- Once the tiles are installed and the tile adhesive/thin-set mortar is dry, clean the surface by scrubbing it with clean fresh water. This will remove the thin layer of pigmented dust that can still cover the tiles. Allow the tile to dry completely for 12 hours.
- **Prior to grouting**, clean the surface of the tiles thoroughly with **PS87PRO** from FILA. Follow manufacturer instructions for dilution of the product. Always test the product first on a cut or waste tile. Once cleaned, allow the tiled area to dry completely for 48 to 72 hours.
- DO NOT COVER THE CLEANED TILED SURFACE.

Sealers

- Dependent on the design, pattern and colours pigments in your tiles, we recommend the use of either of two sealers: **FOB EXTREME** or **MP90** from FILA.
- We request you to check with us for the correct sealer to use, before purchase and application.

First Sealer Application

- Before application of the grout, apply one coat of sealer to seal the surface of the installed cement tile. Follow product manufacturer instructions.
- Always try the sealer on a loose tile before applying it on the entire surface. This is to measure the grade of absorption of the tiles.
- ALWAYS CHECK THE MOISTURE CONTENT OF THE TILED SURFACE WITH A MOISTURE METER BEFORE APPLICATION OF SEALER.
- The sealers are solvent-based that limits water and oil penetration.
- The sealers impregnate the tile, reduces its porosity and keeps its natural matt aspect.
- Sealers must be applied with a low-nap roller (max 5mm) or a paint pad applicator, on a dry and clean tiled surface.
- **ATTENTION:** The key to success is putting a thin coat of the product on the tile. **DO NOT** allow the sealant to puddle on the tiled surface. The excess sealant will leave glistening stains on the surface and not dry evenly. This will inhibit curing.
- Spread a thin coat of the sealer evenly using vertical or horizontal motions without pressure. Let the applicator glide over the tiles' surface.
- **DO NOT** go back over an area until it is dry to the touch.
- You may buff with a fine cloth to give the application an even distribution.
- DO NOT COVER THE SEALED TILE SURFACE.
- Allow a full 24 hours for the product to dry prior to any foot traffic.

Grouting

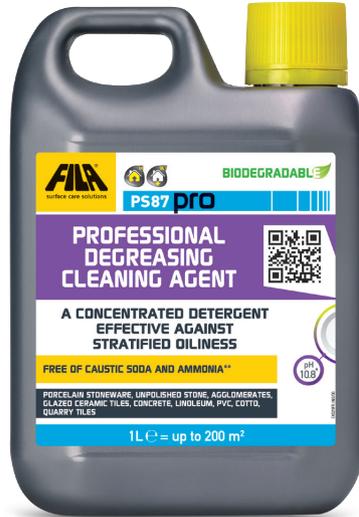
- Before grouting, cement tiles should be completely sealed and dry. We recommend grouting 3 days after fixing and the first sealer application is complete.
- Use white or light grey non-pigmented/un-tinted unsanded grout ONLY, **never use dyed or dark grout; as pigments from the grout will stain the tiles irreversibly.** Coloured grouts can cause the tiles to be stained by the grout tint, causing haze over dark regions, or make lighter regions appear dingy.
- Wipe the tiles with a water-dipped moist sponge before grouting.
- Knife-out all the joints to remove any excess adhesive/thin-set mortar.
- Fill the gap between the tiles using a rubber grouting tool (never use a metal scraper), without spreading the grout on the tiled surface. Apply the grout just enough in the area around tile joints and only moving diagonally across the joints. DO NOT apply the grout over the entire tiled surface.
- Any grout excess/surplus must be removed and cleaned immediately with a wet cloth/sponge before it dries.
- Once the grout is dry, clean the tiles with a neutral pH cleaner like **CLEANERPRO** from FILA.
- Do not use any oils or cleaning chemicals on the tile face.
- Never use acid (cement dissolver) to remove the excess or stains of grout.

Treatment with Final Sealer and Protective Wax

- Once grouting is completed as described in the 'Grouting' section of this document, seal the tiles with a final coat of sealer. This is the second sealer application. Follow manufacturer instructions for application in conjunction with the outline guide above.
- For Walls: Once the Final Sealer is completely dry, your installation is complete.
- For Floors: It is highly recommended (*as an added advantage*) to apply a coat of **MATT** natural effect protective wax from FILA. Follow manufacturer instructions and always test the product first in an inconspicuous area of your installation. This product must be allowed to dry for 24 hours.
- **MATT** is Not Recommended for use on outdoor surfaces or in damp/wet environments and where water remains (bathrooms and showers).

PROFESSIONAL DEGREASING CLEANING AGENT

**PORCELAIN TILES, UNPOLISHED STONE AND
AGGLOMERATES, GLAZED CERAMIC TILES,
CONCRETE, LINOLEUM AND PVC, TERRACOTTA,
QUARRY TILES**



A concentrated detergent effective against stratified oiliness:
A unique and innovative formula from the FILA research laboratories, encompassing all the professional degreasing power without caustic soda or ammonia.



COVERAGE

APPROXIMATE COVERAGE AND DILUTION (1 litre):

Maintenance 1:20	200 m ²
Wax removal 1:5	20 m ²
Initial stone wash 1:5	30 m ²

"Coverage shown is for guidance purposes only and refers to single coats"

Packaging

1 litre: boxes of 12.
5 litres: boxes of 4.

WARNINGS

- Keep out of reach of children.
- Do not disperse into the environment after use.

TEMPERATURES

Storage temperature: from 5° to 30° C.
The product should be applied to materials with temperature between 5° and 30° C.

WHAT IT'S FOR

- When diluted, it cleans and removes grease from dirty floors in porcelain tiles, ceramics, natural stone, terracotta and concrete.
- When undiluted, it removes stubborn stains from porcelain floor tiles.
- Excellent for basic cleaning of natural stones that are sensitive to acids.
- Ideal for basic cleaning of concrete surfaces.
- Wax-remover for water-based, metallic and re-polishable waxes.
- Eliminates pre-treatment residues from polished porcelain tiles.

ADVANTAGES

- Biodegradable
- A 3-in-one product: cleaner, stain-remover, wax-remover.
- The only one that can eliminate stubborn stains from porcelain tiles.
- It cleans but does not attack.
- Extremely easy to use.

HOW TO USE IT

Dilution: according to use

For cleaning and degreasing all surfaces. Dilute in water (1:10-1:20) and apply on the surface. Leave to act for 4-5 minutes before brushing with a single-disc floor scrubber or scrubbing brush. Use a cloth or liquid vacuum cleaner to clean any residues and then rinse thoroughly.

For a more vigorous cleaning, dilute 1:5. To remove stains from porcelain tiles: Pour undiluted onto the stain and the entire tile. Leave to act until fully dry, then wash and rinse the surface.

To remove wax: Dilute 1:5, apply on the surface and leave to act for 10 minutes. Clean using a scrubbing brush or single-disc floor scrubber. Use a cloth or liquid vacuum cleaner to clean any residues and then rinse thoroughly.

Caution:

1. Do not use on new marble or polished stone.
2. Do not use on wood.
3. Do not use on methacrylate tubs.
4. Linoleum: carry out a spot test beforehand to check colour fastness.

EXTREME WATER- AND OIL-REPELLENT PROTECTION

NATURAL STONE AND AGGLOMERATES, MARBLE AND GRANITE, CONCRETE, TUFF, WPC, TERRACOTTA, QUARRY TILES



FOB XTREME, a water- and oil-repellent breathable protective agent, is based on the innovative **ADVANCED SOLVENT-BORNE TECHNOLOGY**, developed in the **FILA** research laboratories. It does not create a surface film and withstands UV rays, preserving its performance over time.



COVERAGE

APPROXIMATE COVERAGE (1 litre):

Stone	10/30 m ²
Terracotta rustic Tuscan, polished	15/20 m ²
Terracotta handmade	up to 10 m ²
Concrete	up to 5 m ²
Polished Marble/Granite	up to 30 m ²

"Coverage shown is for guidance purposes only and refers to single coats"

Packaging

1 litre: boxes of 6.

5 litres: boxes of 4.

WARNINGS

- Keep out of reach of children.
- Do not disperse into the environment after use.
- Ventilate the area if applied on internal surfaces.
- The use of a single-disc cleaning machine is permitted only if it is perfectly undamaged.
- Outdoor flooring must be properly laid before being treated and must satisfy all specific requirements, including: adequate sloping, properly executed expansion joints, perfect insulation from underlying ground, proven compatibility with sub-zero temperatures.
- Does not protect against acidic aggression.

TEMPERATURES

Storage temperature: from 0°C to 30°C

The product should be applied to materials with temperature between 5° and 30°C.

WHAT IT'S FOR

- Water- and oil-repellent: it hampers the absorption of common watery and oily stains.
- Protective base coat before waxing internal surfaces with rustic or textured finishes.
- Excellent for coloured concrete tiles.
- Natural effect breathing protection.

ADVANTAGES

- Does not alter original colour and appearance.
- Does not form surface film.
- Does not alter terracotta frost resistance.
- Excellent on rustic ground terracotta and tumbled marble.
- Ideal for use near kitchens, barbecues and car driveways.
- Ideal for internal and external surfaces.

HOW TO USE IT

No dilution required: ready to use.

Application:

For materials with matt finish (indoors and outdoors): Apply the product evenly and continuously on a clean and dry surface using a brush or fleece pad, wetting the grout lines as well. Dab any excess product with a clean cloth before it dries (roughly 10-15 minutes).

For glossy or brushed finishes (indoors and outdoors): Apply **FOB XTREME** on a clean and dry surface, wetting the material and grout lines completely using a brush or fleece pad. Before the product dries (roughly 10-15 minutes), rub the surface and remove any residues using a microfibre cloth wetted with the product. Dry the surface with a clean cloth. When requested on high-absorption materials, apply two coats of the product with an 8-hour interval in between (e.g.: highly-trafficked areas, humid areas, outdoor surfaces). To speed up the process, it is possible to treat the surface with a single-disc floor scrubber.

To complete the cycle with the finish: on porous materials such as natural stone, reconstructed tiles, agglomerates and concrete tiles laid in indoor environments, a finishing wax can be applied depending on the material and on the desired effect (**MATT, SATIN, CLASSIC, LONGLIFE**). The surface can be walked on after just 8 hours. The stain-proofing effect starts after 24 hours.

Maintenance: use a diluted solution of **CLEANER PRO**.

Caution:

*Never apply **FOB XTREME** onto a surface that is already waxed.*

*Do not apply **FOB XTREME** during the hottest hours of the day in summer.*

Carry out a patch test on a small surface area to check for any changes in colour.

Do not apply the product externally if rain is forecast.

Does not protect against acidic aggression.

WATER- AND OIL-REPELLENT PROTECTION

POLISHED PORCELAIN TILES, MARBLE AND GRANITE, STONE AND AGGLOMERATES



MP90, a breathable oil- and water-repellent protective agent, prevents the absorption of oily or greasy substances (oil, soap, shampoo, etc.) and water on surfaces, preserving their original appearance.



COVERAGE

APPROXIMATE COVERAGE (1 litre):

Marble/Granite	30 m ²
porcelain tiles	30/40 m ²
Terrazzo	30 m ²

“Coverage shown is for guidance purposes only and refers to single coats”

Packaging

375 ml: boxes of 12.
1 litre: boxes of 6.
5 litres: boxes of 4.

WARNINGS

- Keep out of reach of children.
- Do not disperse into the environment after use.
- Ventilate the premises well during use and while the product is drying.
- Does not protect against acidic aggression.
- The use of a single-disc cleaning machine is permitted only if it is perfectly undamaged.

TEMPERATURES

Storage temperature: from 0° to 30°C.
The product should be applied to materials with temperature between 5° and 30°C.

WHAT IT'S FOR

- The best stain-proofing product for porcelain tiles, marble and granite.
- It offers an anti-graffiti treatment for vertical natural stone surfaces.
- It is ideally suited for protecting kitchen and bathroom tops.
- Stain-proofing: it hampers the absorption of common watery and oily stains.

ADVANTAGES

- Does not change the natural colour of surfaces.
- Does not form surface film.
- The treated surfaces are suitable for food contact.
- Impregnates, protects, and makes cleaning easier.
- It waterproofs, protects and facilitates cleaning.
- Ideal for the protection of crackle-effect ceramic tiles.

HOW TO USE IT

No dilution required: ready to use.

Application: Apply **MP90** evenly and continuously on a clean and dry surface using a brush, wetting the grout lines as well. Before the product dries completely (after roughly 10–15 minutes), rub the surface and remove any residues using a microfibre cloth wetted with the product. Dry the surface with a clean cloth. To speed up the process, it is possible to treat the surface with a single-disc floor scrubber. On highly absorbent materials, apply two coats of the product with an 8-hour interval in between. The surface can be walked on after 12 hours while the water- and oil-repellent protection becomes effective after 24 hours.

Maintenance: use a diluted solution of **CLEANER PRO**.

Caution:

Before applying to the entire surface, test the product on a small area to check for colour changes.

Do not apply the product externally if rain is forecast.

Warning: ventilate the premises well during use and while the product is drying.

Does not protect against acidic aggression.



NATURAL-EFFECT PROTECTIVE WAX

TERRACOTTA, QUARRY TILES, UNPOLISHED STONE AND AGGLOMERATES, TUFF, RESIN

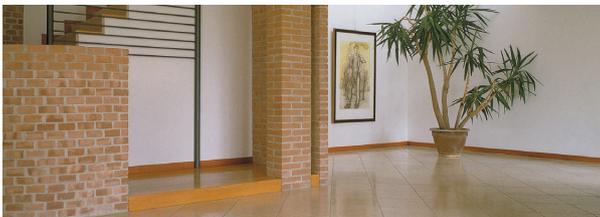


WHAT IT'S FOR

- For floor maintenance and matt finish for treatments of terracotta, quarry tiles, tumbled marble and natural stone floors.
- The ideal finishing coat after the application of a water-based water-proofing sealer.
- Ideal on internal walls made of bricks and natural stones, on decorative coverings made of gypsum, manufactured stone and concrete to prevent flaking and strengthen the surface.

ADVANTAGES

- Provides natural finish.
- Highly concentrated: can be diluted according to requirements.
- Can be polished to achieve a satin finish.
- Completely removable.
- Has a high self-levelling capacity.
- Dirt and dust repellent.



HOW TO USE IT

For the protection of floors and bare walls: Dilute **MATT** slightly to make it more fluid and easier to apply, by adding 200 ml of water per litre of product. On a clean and dry surface, apply one even coat of **MATT** using fleece (wall brush). Wait until completely dry (about an hour) and then apply a second coat in the opposite direction to the first (i.e. horizontal if previously applied vertically or vice-versa). The floor can be walked on after one hour. For a greater sheen, buff with a floor polisher or a wool cloth. If treating terracotta and highly absorbent natural stone (limestone, sandstone, old quarries, rough quartzite), we recommend a base coat of a water-proofing product such as **FOB XTREME** or **W68**.

For maintenance:

Restoring finish (every 2-3 months): after cleaning the surface with a diluted solution of **CLEANER PRO** (1:200), apply **MATT** diluting 500 ml of product in 5 litres of water. The floor can be walked on once it is dry. Restoring protection (once a year): apply slightly diluted wax (200 ml of water per litre of product) using a fleece pad, cloth or other applicator. The floor can be walked on once it is dry.

For Anti-flaking treatment: apply an even coat of undiluted **MATT** to the dry floor using a paintbrush. The treated surface will be dry after approximately one hour.

COVERAGE

With one litre:

Terracotta 30 m²

Stone 30/40 m²

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Packaging

1 litre: boxes of 12.

5 litres: boxes of 4.

WARNINGS

- Keep out of reach of children.
- Do not disperse into the environment after use.
- Store at room temperature; protect can from frost.

TEMPERATURES

Storage temperature: from 5° to 30° C.
This product must be applied to surfaces with temperature between 10°C and 30°C.

Caution:

The product can be removed by using the specific wax-remover for water-based waxes **PS87 PRO**.

Not recommended for use on outdoor surfaces or in damp environments and where water remains (bathrooms, showers).

The product can change the appearance of the material, first spot test a small area to check for any changes.

PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE FOR SURFACES

PORCELAIN AND CERAMIC TILES, CONCRETE, WOOD, MARBLE, GRANITE AND NATURAL STONE, PLASTIC LAMINATES AND LVT, LINOLEUM, RUBBER AND PVC, TERRACOTTA AND QUARRY TILES, LAMINATE FLOORING, LINOLEUM



TECHNOLOGY FREE OF RINSE AID, developed in the FILA research laboratories: **CLEANER PRO**, can be used for ordinary cleaning and protects the surfaces against opacifying layers created by rinse aid or detergents, preserving the original appearance of the surface over time.



COVERAGE

APPROXIMATE COVERAGE AND DILUTION (1 litre):

Maintenance 1:200	1500 m ²
Initial stone wash 1:30	50 m ²

The coverage is purely indicative

Packaging

- 1 litre: boxes of 12.
- 5 litres: boxes of 4.

WARNINGS

- Keep out of reach of children.
- Do not disperse into the environment after use.

TEMPERATURES

Storage temperature: from 5° to 30° C.
The product should be applied to materials with temperature between 5° and 30° C.

WHAT IT'S FOR

- Delicately cleans all types of floors and surfaces.
- Does not affect treated and delicate surfaces.
- It's essential for washing natural stone floors after being laid particularly those with polished finish that are sensitive to strong detergents.

ADVANTAGES

- Biodegradable
- It cleans but does not attack.
- With high dilutions of product (1:200) there's no need to rinse as it does not leave any residues.
- Highly concentrated, can be used at various dilutions.
- Ideal for maintenance of all waxed surfaces.
- It can be used with scrubber dryer machines at 1:200.
- Ideal for laminates.
- Pleasant perfume.

HOW TO USE IT

Dilution: from 1:30 to 1:200 depending on requirements.

Application:

For ordinary maintenance of all surfaces: Dilute **CLEANER PRO** at 1:200 (25 ml in 5 litres of water). No need to rinse. For more stubborn dirt, wash using more concentrated solutions.

For washing after laying of delicate surfaces (marble, travertine, granite, polished agglomerates etc.): Dilute **CLEANER PRO** at 1:30 and wipe over the floor with a soft single-disc floor scrubber or scrubbing brush. Remove any residues using a liquid vacuum cleaner or cloth. Rinse after cleaning.

For scrubber-dryer machines: Dilute **CLEANER PRO** at 1:200. Pour the solution into the tank.

For extraordinary maintenance of heavily soiled surfaces: dilute **CLEANER PRO** from 1:30 to 1:50 depending on dirt intensity. Wash using a cloth or large brush. Remove the dirt and rinse.

Caution:

do not use **CLEANER PRO** on fabric or waxed wooden floors.