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# EMA INSTALLATION GUIDE

Claybrook Ema Mosaic tiles are made using a unique clay from Italy, that is slip-resistant and less porous than most terracotta tiles. Whilst this enables them to be used on the floor in wet rooms, Ema Mosaic is still a natural terracotta product with a very textured finish (R13 slip-rated) so will need correctly sealing and finishing after grouting.

Suitability

Our Ema Mosaics are the only terracotta that can be used in wet zones, such as shower walls and wet-room floors. In wet zones we only recommend using the approved sealer and installation process. For details see below.

The most important factor in achieving a good finish is to use a tiler with proven experience of laying and sealing natural terracotta tiles, as the wrong application of adhesive, sealers, grout and finishing products can ruin these beautiful tiles, costing you time and money.

## PRE-INSTALLATION PROCESS

When you receive your order, please check that you have received all of your tiles and that they are in good condition. Damp tiles should be stored on end in a well-ventilated area, so they are thoroughly dry before installation. We recommend that, prior to installation, the tiles/sheets are well shuffled and dry-laid to create an even blend of colour and tone across the floor.

It is also a good idea to seal and finish one or two tiles before installation, so you and your tiler can agree how the tiles will look once sealed.

If you require any further assistance, or have any queries regarding the installation of Terracotta tiles, please contact us at enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk

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## INSTALLATION PROCESS

Your tiler will need to correctly prepare the substrate to ensure it is flat, level, solid and dust-free before they start laying the tiles.

When laying the tiles, they will need to brush any dust from the back of the tiles to ensure a good bond with the adhesive. We also recommend they use Ardex Standard/Rapid Set Flexible Tile Adhesive OR Ardex Microtec Adhesive.

Follow our Tile Installation Guide for advice on preparing the substrate.

### CUTTING

To cut the tiles we recommend using a water-cooled flat-bed tile cutter, with a smooth profiled unslotted blade. You will need to regularly change the water to make sure the discoloured water doesn't stain the tiles. We recommend avoiding cuts of less than 15mm. Terracotta tiles are not suitable for external mitres.

### SEALING

See process below.

### GROUTING

The Ema mosaics have a set grout joint of 2-3mm as they are already set-out on a mesh backing. With the Ema bricks we recommend a minimum joint width of 3mm and recommend the Ardex FL Flexible Grout for all the terracotta's.

Once the excess grout has been cleaned-down and the joints are completely dry, you can apply finishing coats of Ironwax Satin or Gloss (the satin has a soft sheen, the gloss has a high sheen) leaving two hours between coats and applying them at 90 degrees to each other across both the tiles and grout to avoid streaks. This final layer will help protect the floor and assist with ongoing maintenance.

### ONGOING MAINTENANCE

For everyday cleaning, use LTP Floorshine or EcoProTec Tile & Stone Aftercare at the appropriate dilution stated on the bottle. For spills, stains and the occasional deep clean you can use EcoProTec Intensive Cleaner, again checking you are using the correct dilution. After using the EcoProTec Intensive Cleaner you will need to re-apply the EasyWax.

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## SEALING AND FINISHING YOUR EMA MOSAICS/TILES

**Remover** – Ema EasyCleaner

**Sealer** – Ema EasyCare

**Finisher** – Ema EasyWax

**Cleaner** – Fila Cleaner Pro

Our Ema Mosaics are made from a unique clay that is de-gassed and extruded. This makes it suitable for use in wet-rooms when correctly installed, sealed and finished with the recommended products – Ema EasyCleaner, Ema EasyCare and Ema EasyWax

The sealing process is actually the polar-opposite of sealing the Handmade, Villa and Reclaimed Terracotta's in that it **must not be sealed** before grouting.

Instead the tiles should be grouted and then once the excess grout has been removed, they can be cleaned back with Ema EasyCleaner. This is because the unique clay continues to cure after firing, which can push any salt residues to the surface, appearing as white specks. The Ema EasyCleaner is an acidic remover that will remove these salts, along with any grout haze present on the surface. Please take care when using this product and be sure to follow the Ema EasyCleaner technical guide and the instructions on the bottle. Once the salt has been removed to your liking, allow the Ema to completely dry before applying the sealer and finishing products.

### SEALING

Once the tiles and grout are completely dry, the tile and grout need to be sealed with Ema EasyCare. The first coat should be applied liberally with a brush to ensure saturation and complete coverage. After 40mins, apply a second thinner coat and then if any sealer remains on the surface after a further 30mins, this should be wiped away and the floor buffed clean. The floor can be walked on after 12hours and will be fully cured after 24hours, after which showering can begin.

### FINISHING

To increase the resistance of the floor/wall to everyday spills, an additional coat of Ema EasyWax can be applied once the sealer has fully cured. This will also help with ongoing maintenance.

### ONGOING MAINTENANCE

For daily cleaning only use a ph-neutral cleaner like Fila Cleaner Pro or EcoPro Tec Aftercare. For the occasional deep clean use Fila PS87 or EcoPro Tec Intensive Cleaner and a white bristle nylon scrubbing brush to clean it back. Once dry, a re-application of the Ema EasyWax will be required.

In terms of re-sealing the floor, this will largely depend on usage, but generally once a year is to be expected. A quick test to show whether the sealer is still protective is to splash water on the surface. If the water sits/beads on the surface without darkening the tile, then the sealer is intact. If the tile starts to darken then the tiles need to be cleaned back with the Ema EasyCleaner, allowed to fully dry and then re-sealed with the Ema EasyCare and Ema EasyWax.

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