

# ENCAUSTIC INSTALLATION GUIDE

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Claybrook Encaustic cement tiles are produced from natural materials. Therefore, the tiles may have colour, pattern or size variation. When you receive your order, check that you have all of your tiles and that they are in good condition. Do not stack the tiles in a manner in which they are not intended (such as exposure to sun, rain, humidity) this may lead to marking or chipping.

Our encaustic cement tiles are coated with a sealer during production. This coating is to protect the tile surface during transport and storage. However, this coating is not strong enough to protect the tile surface from staining. Therefore, the tiles should be carefully protected during installation to keep the surface stain free.

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## INSTALLATION PROCESS

We recommend that you 'shuffle' tiles from different boxes/crates so that you have a uniform effect across the entirety of the new surface. Installing Encaustic tiles is a more complex process than many other tiles and is a reflection of the handmade nature of them. It requires care so as not to damage the surface of the tiles and the steps for sealing and treating need to be followed carefully. The finished floor will look truly beautiful if the time is taken up front to ensure an experienced tiler is hired, who understands the nature of this tile and its fitting.

Prepare the tiling substrate and ensure it is flat and clean.

For the best adhesion, apply Ardex MICROTEC Flexible Tile Adhesive to both the substrate and the back of the tiles.

After placing the tile on the substrate, use hands or a rubber hammer to balance the tile surface. The gap between the tiles is normally up to 2-3 mm. Check that the tiles are level as once the adhesive has dried, it will be tricky to adjust.

If there are any scuffs, dirt or adhesive on the tile surface, please clean the surface immediately. If the tiles are not cleaned off, it may cause staining on the tile surface and after that, further cleaning will be difficult. Test Lithofin MN Power Clean (diluted 1:10) with a white pad to wash the tile if necessary, following the bottle instructions.

Never use acid or bleach to clean the floor. Be aware that cleaning tiles will extend the drying time.

Allow 7-9 days or until the tiles are fully dry and released of all moisture before sealing the tiles. Once the surface is completely dry, a coat of Lithofin MN Stain Stop can be applied. The purpose of the first coating is to provide a protective layer to prevent grout sticking to the tiles and to prevent fading and staining.

Allow a minimum of 24 hours for the impregnator/sealant to cure. We recommend applying the Lithofin MN Stain Stop to the surface of two unlaidd tiles to carry out a grout release test. Once the unlaidd tiles are sealed and cured, apply some of the grout to the surface of the tile, leave and then wipe off. Check that the grout comes off the surface cleanly.

Ensure you are happy with the results of the grout release test before applying grout to the full floor.

Do not slurry grout but compress it into the tile joints. Once the grout is fully dry and released of all moisture, a final coat of impregnator / sealant can be applied. This application is to cover the grout as well as the tile.

We recommend using lighter coloured grouts, not black or bright coloured as these can cause staining in the natural pores of the tiles.

**NOTE: please consult your professional installer on correct drying times and laying.**

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If you require any further assistance, or have any queries regarding the installation of Encaustic tiles, please contact us at [enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk)

