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KROMATIC INSTALLATION GUIDE

The artisan nature of these tiles, means that that alongside a soft pillowed edge, they may vary in size and colour tone of glaze. Therefore, if you are carrying out your project in stages, it is advisable to buy all the tiles required for you project at the same time. The variance in size tends to be more noticeable between different colours, so if you are planning to use a mix of colours, please check with our showroom team before purchasing your tiles, so they can confirm compatibility. Small differences can be absorbed by allowing for a 3mm joint as minimum.

PLANNING

The artisan nature of these tiles means that they will vary in size, finish and colour tone between batches and sometimes even between boxes. If you are carrying out your project in stages and the tiles are going to be adjacent to each other, then we would recommend buying all the tiles you need at the same time.

If you are planning on using different colours together, then it is worth contacting the showroom team before ordering, so they can check the size of the different colours and if they are compatible.

You will also need to make your tiler aware that there can be size differences, as whilst they will be able to allow for the slight differences with a slight larger grout line and setting the tiles by eye rather than usng spacers, they will need to factor in the additional time this takes.

DELIVERY

We always recommend having the tiles delivered well in advance of the tiler starting work. Upon arrival, the first thing to check is that the tiles are undamaged, you have had the correct product delivered and to open a few boxes to check you are happy with any variation in size, finish and tone.

This is especially important with Kromatic, as there can be a lot of variation between batches.

If for any reason you are not happy with your product, please contact our enquiries team before fitting them, so we can discuss your options as installed product will be deemed as accepted.

CHECKS PRE-INSTALLATION

The first thing to consider before installing any tile is to make sure the substrate is strong, solid, stable and there is no movement.

If being installed on a floor, there must be no movement in the substrate and any ‘bounce’ or trampolining effect in the floor, must be corrected before tiling can commence. This might entail the addition of joists/noggins and/or a layer of marine grade plywood or equivalent tile backer board, all of which can be installed by your builder, or in some cases your tiler.

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

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When tiling the walls, the best substrate is tile backer boards as these are specially-made boards that can be fixed directly to studwork or brick/block walls and provide an excellent and secure grip for the tiles to bond to. The worst surfaces to tile onto are freshly skimmed plaster walls or stud work covered in standard plasterboard, as whilst the tiles may initially bond to the nice clean surface, they could eventually pull the thin plaster skim or the paper-front of the plasterboard off the wall, especially if any water or damp is allowed to get behind the tiles.

We always recommend using a waterproofing system behind tiles in the shower, as even the smallest crack or pinhole in the grout can create a capillary effect that can literally suck water behind the tiles.

The system we recommend is the Ardex Waterproof Protection Coat, as it is easily applied by roller/brush and provides a waterproof barrier preventing any water getting past the shower area and into the fabric of your building.

Eitherway, all the above should be discussed with the tiler when they come to quote, so you avoid any unforeseen delays and additional costs to your project.

INSTALLING YOUR KROMATIC TILES

For fixing the tiles to walls or floors, we always recommend using the Ardex adhesives and grouts. To cut the tiles, we recommend the use of a flat-bed, water-cooled tile cutter, fitted with a unslotted, smooth profile diamond-edged cutting blade. Cut the tile face-side up and where possible avoid cuts of less than 15mm. If this is unavoidable, cut slightly wider and then remove the excess with a tile file/rubbing block. Once the tiles have been initially fixed, remove any excess adhesive from the grout joint/tile surface, using a weak dilution of EcoProTec Stone & Tile Intensive Cleaner if necessary.

GROUTING YOUR KROMATIC TILES

Grout - Ardex FL/FS Flexible Grout

Cleaner - EcoProTec Stone & Tile Aftercare

SEALING

Whilst the Kromatic are glazed and therefore require no sealing, due to the matt glaze finish it is advisable to use the EcoProTec Pre-Grout Protector to help reduce the chance of grout haze. Apply two coats in opposite directions, allowing 30 mins and allow one hour before grouting.

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GROUTING

We recommend the Ardex range of grouts, particularly in similar shades to our stone ranges. The Ardex FL gives a slightly gritty look, whilst the FS grout is much smoother in finish. If you require any advice on which grout/colour to choose, just contact the showroom team who will be happy to help.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

For everyday cleaning, we recommend you use a ph-neutral detergent, such as our EcoProTec Stone & Tile Aftercare, as this cleans both the stone and grout without affecting the finish. For spills, hard-water stains and the occasional deep clean (3-6 months) you can use EcoPro Tec Stone & Tile Intensive Cleaner.

In summary, we are here to help and want both you and your tiler to get it right first time. Taking time to discuss your expectations with your tiler and for them to establish the best way to achieve that expectation will help you both avoid difficult conversations, costly mistakes and unnecessary delays to your project.

If you or your tiler have any questions regarding our products and their application/installation, then before they start work, please ask them to contact our team at technical@claybrookstudio.co.uk or enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk who will be happy to advise accordingly.

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