

Claybrook.

TERRACOTTA INSTALLATION GUIDE

Claybrook Handmade Terracotta and Villa Terracotta tiles are produced from natural materials and clays so will vary in tone, surface texture, porosity and size. The nature of the handmade production can also mean that pitting, undulations and uneven edges are normal and part of the product's character.

Claybrook Reclaimed Terracotta tiles are reclaimed from old houses and buildings across Europe, which are then cleaned and re-sized for use in future projects. The nature of this process means these tiles will vary quite widely in colour from pale yellows through to dark reds, and vary in tone, surface texture, porosity and size. In some cases, the tiles still bare the natural patina accumulated over many decades of use.

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.

Colour Intensity

The final tonal colour of the floor/wall can be significantly influenced by your choice of sealant. You can choose to either retain the natural tones, or intensify and darken the natural colour of the terracotta. Both sealing options detailed below offer protection against everyday spills, though we also recommend the application of a finishing product in order to support that protection and make the floor easier to maintain.

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 our approved sealer and installation process.** For details see below.

If laying our Handmade, Villa or Reclaimed Terracotta tiles in bathrooms or areas where water may splash onto the surface, we recommend discussing your project with our technical team before installation to get the correct sealing advice.

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

If you require any further assistance please email enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk or technical@claybrookstudio.co.uk

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 want to save your tiler time waiting for sealers to dry and to reduce any marks from laying the tiles, then you can opt to seal the tiles prior to work starting by following the guidelines on the container. Please see the product's webpage under the Suitability & Installation tab online, for further information.

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INSTALLATION PROCESS

Your tiler will need to correctly prepare the tiling 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 loose grit or dust off the back of the tiles to ensure a good bond with the adhesive. We also recommend they use Ardex Standard Set Flexible Tile Adhesive OR Ardex Microtec Adhesive which should be applied to both the substrate and the back of the tiles to create the best bond.

To cut the tiles, they should use a water-cooled flat-bed tile cutter, or (depending on skill set) a smooth profiled, unslotted and fine-cut handheld cutter. The suggested grout joint between the Handmade Terracotta tiles can vary from 5-8mm due to size tolerance and edge finish. The Reclaimed Terracotta feature an even greater size variation, so will require a grout joint between 5-10mm to allow for this. The Ema mosaics have a set grout joint of 3mm and are already set-out on a mesh backing.

SEALING AND FINISHING YOUR HANDMADE, VILLA AND RECLAIMED TERRACOTTA TILES

FOR A NATURAL/UNALTERED COLOUR

Sealer – LTP Mattstone H20

Finisher - LTP Ironwax Satin/Gloss

Cleaner – LTP Floorshine

Sealing

Either before the tiles are laid, but definitely before grouting, the tiles should be sealed with a generous coating of LTP Mattstone to completely saturate the surface. Then once the initial coat has dried (approx 2hrs) a final, thinner coat can be applied and allowed to dry 24 hrs before grouting. Due to the surface texture of all the terracotta, an application of the finishing product Ironwax Satin/Gloss 12 hours after the Mattstone and before grouting, can greatly assist with the cleaning-down process.

Grouting

Allow 4 hours for the Ironwax finish to cure before starting the grouting process using Ardex FL grout. If the tiler is not using our recommended Ardex FL grout, then please test your chosen grout on the surface of a sample tile prior to installation, to ensure the grout can be cleaned away successfully.

Finishing

Once the excess grout has been cleaned-down and the joints are completely dry, apply two further 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 help protect the floor and assist with ongoing maintenance.

Ongoing Maintenance

For everyday cleaning, use LTP Floorshine 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 Ironwax Satin/Gloss.

FOR AN ENHANCED COLOUR

Sealer - LTP Boiled Linseed Oil

Finisher – LTP Ironwax Satin/Gloss

Cleaner – LTP Floorshine

Sealing

Either before the tiles are laid, but definitely before grouting, the tiles should be sealed, by applying the at least 2-3 coats of linseed oil. Apply the linseed generously and evenly to the face and edges of the tile with a short-haired roller and continue to saturate for 3-4 minutes moving the product continuously with the roller at 90 degrees strokes to ensure complete coverage. Allow 8-12 hours between coats and apply a minimum of 2 coats to ensure a good seal before grouting.

The floor has a good seal once the sealer does not completely soak into the surface after 5-10 minutes. Be sure to remove any excess with a lint-free cotton or microfibre cloth after 10 minutes, otherwise the excess sealer can tackify on the surface and become very difficult to remove.

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Please ensure that any rollers, brushes or cloths are thoroughly cleaned with white spirit and dried before being put away. If not cleaning the cloths, please ensure they are laid out to completely dry, before being disposed of. Linseed oil generates intense heat as it cures, so if left in an enclosed space can spontaneously combust.

Due to the surface texture of terracotta, an application of the finishing product Ironwax Satin/Gloss 12hours after the Mattstone and before grouting, can greatly assist with the cleaning-down process.

Grouting

Allow 4 hours for the Ironwax finish to cure before starting the grouting process using Ardex FL grout. If the tiler is not using our recommended Ardex FL grout, then please test your chosen grout on the surface of a sample tile prior to installation, to ensure the grout can be cleaned away successfully.

Finishing

Once the excess grout has been cleaned-down and the joints are completely dry, apply two further 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 help protect the floor and assist with ongoing maintenance.

Ongoing Maintenance

For everyday cleaning use LTP Floorshine 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 Ironwax finish.

SEALING AND FINISHING YOUR EMA MOSAICS/TILES

Sealer – Ema EasyCare

Remover – Ema EasyCleaner

Finishing – Ema EasyWax

Our Ema Mosaics are made from a unique clay that is de-gassed and extruded, making it suitable for use in wet-rooms when correctly installed, sealed and finished

with the recommended products – Ema Easy Cleaner, Ema Easy Care and Ema Easy Wax

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.

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 EcoProTec Aftercare. For the occasional deep clean, use Fila PS87 or EcoProTec 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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