

Claybrook.

# TERRACOTTA INSTALLATION GUIDE

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Claybrook Terracotta tiles are produced from natural materials and clays. Therefore, the tiles will vary in colour, surface texture and size. Please note: the colour variation will be emphasized by the sealant, enhancing the natural beauty of both traditional and reclaimed terracotta tiles. The sealant will darken and strengthen the appearance of the tiles.

When you receive your order, check that you have all of your tiles and that they are in good condition. Damp tiles should be stored on end, in a well-ventilated area to dry thoroughly before installation. 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.

Prior to installation the tiles should be well shuffled from all of the boxes and dry laid. We recommend treating 1-2 tiles with sealant to ensure you are happy with the finished appearance before installation begins. Ensure your tiler is aware of the expected finish.

Be aware, Reclaimed Terracotta features high colour variation and will vary from white and red shades within a batch, it is imperative the tiles are well shuffled before installation.

The tiles should be carefully protected during installation to keep the surface stain free. Ensure all ancillary product instructions and packaging are thoroughly read and followed carefully.

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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 Terracotta tiles is a more complex process than many other tiles. 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. Brush any loose grit or dust off the surface of the tiles. For the best adhesion, apply Ardex Standard Set 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 can vary from 3-10mm depending on the size variation and edge finish. Handmade and Reclaimed Terracotta will feature higher size variation and will require a larger grout joint to allow for this. Check that the tiles are level as once the adhesive has dried, it will be tricky to adjust.

After laying, allow 7-9 days or until the tiles are fully dry and released of all moisture from any pre-cleaning and installation processes. Be led by your professional installer to these drying times.

**Note:** We would recommend the sealing products are tested on 1-2 un-laid tiles to determine application process and effect prior to completing the floor area.

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If you require any further assistance please email [enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk)



## SEALING TERRACOTTA TILES

### Lithofin Classic Primer

Once the floor is laid and completely dry, the Lithofin Classic Primer can be applied first.

Ensure you shake the bottle well and apply the product with a sponge, sponge roller or brush.

Lithofin Classic primer should be applied in small controlled sections (1-2 square metres at a time). If confident with these areas, work through the floor in small controlled sections.

Apply the product generously and evenly to the face and edges of the tile. Keep wet for 5-6 minutes moving the product continuously with the sponge or brush.

After the application time, remove all excess primer with an old white towel or similar and ensure that the tiles are fully dry with a matt finish. Continue this process, working in sections to complete the floor.

Leave this product a minimum of 24 hours, prior to pointing in the grouting areas. Do not contaminate the face of the tile with the grouting product.

**Note: If further cleaning has to be carried out at this stage the floor will require further drying time before the next process.**

After grouting, leave the grout to fully dry and release all moisture. Be led by your professional installer to these drying times.

Apply a second coat of Lithofin Classic Primer to the tiles and grout areas. Again, working in small controlled sections and ensuring full removal of any excess product. Leave the floor for a minimum of 4hrs or preferably overnight before the next procedure.

**Note: After use of this product (Lithofin Classic Primer) dispose of any cloths or tools by leaving these outside for the product to fully dry as any remaining live product can self-combust. Do not dispose of these tools in bins and skips in a wet state.**

### Lithofin Classic Wax

Following the treatment with Lithofin Classic Primer, the Lithofin Classic Wax can be applied straight from the tin to small controlled sections. During application the wax will liquefy giving greater coverage and easier application. Apply this thinly with a rag or lint-free cloth.

Leave to dry for 2-5 minutes and then semi buff to take out any streaks.

Then leave 10-15 minutes and buff to fully dry or polish, using a soft brush or white pad. Between two and three coats of Lithofin Wax can be applied.

Lithofin Classic wax should be applied and buffed once a week for the first 4-6 weeks, in order to build up a hard-wearing surface.

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

## MAINTENANCE

### Lithofin Ever-Sheen

As an alternative maintenance schedule to re-waxing on a regular basis, the Lithofin Ever-Sheen can be used. This is a solvent free, wax-emulsion that contains care and sheen producing additives which preserves the wax protection over a long period, promotes patina formation and develops a silky sheen.

1-2 neat base coats are applied after two coats of the Lithofin Classic Wax.

2-3 thin coats can be applied and topped up when required.

When refreshing the shine of these tiles, Lithofin Ever-Sheen can be used as a neat coat or diluted as manufactures instructions.

Routine maintenance should be carried out on a regular basis. Ensure that all grits are removed regularly as these can score surface finishes.

Vacuum lightly (brushes down) so as not to disturb the surface finish or alternatively sweep with a soft brush.

Use Lithofin Easy Care diluted 20ml per 10 litres of water to mop through.

#### NEED HELP WITH YOUR INSTALLATION?

Call 020 7052 1555  
Email [enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk)  
Visit Our Studio at 123 Curtain Road, Shoreditch, London, EC2A 3BX

If you require any further assistance please email [enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@claybrookstudio.co.uk)

