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TOLENTINO INSTALLATION GUIDE

Claybrook Terrazzo tiles are hand-produced in Italy using natural pigments and recycled content, therefore the tiles will vary in colour, pattern and size - particularly between batches.

Made in the same region of San Severino Marche for over a hundred years, the tiles contain approximately 50% recycled content, including historic terrazzo fragments and other material including glass, cement, stone and brick. This can lead to some slight pitting in the surface, which can be filled with grout during the installation process.

When you first receive your order, please check ahead of your installer arriving to ensure that you have the correct quantity, the tiles are in good condition and you are happy with the variation.

Some of the colours do have a slightly paler perimeter (see left image below), which is part of the production process and quite normal. However, in some cases, the tiles can arrive with some residual moisture in the middle making them appear darker (see right image below).

Simply laying them out in a dry environment before installation, or laying them in the adhesive and allowing 12-24 hrs before sealing, will significantly reduce this appearance. However, do not store the tiles where they will be exposed to excessive sun, rain, or high humidity (like a freshly plastered room) as this may lead to the surface becoming permanently marked or stained.





PRE-INSTALLATION PROCESS

Before installing the tiles, we recommend that you shuffle tiles from different boxes/crates and dry-lay them across the area to be tiled. This will ensure that any variation between tiles/boxes is blended across the floor and that you are happy with the overall look before committing to them being laid. Installing terrazzo tiles is a more complex process than installing machine-made/porcelain tiles, so be sure to employ an experienced tiler that has installed terrazzo or similar encaustic tiles before and follows the correct installation, sealing and finishing process.

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

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INSTALLATION PROCESS

Your contractor will need to correctly prepare the tiling substrate to ensure it is flat, level, solid and clean before the tiler starts laying the tiles. If the tiles are being laid over underfloor heating, this should only be a floor warming system, not a sole source system as these tend to have a rapid increases in temperature and achieve higher temperatures, putting undue stress on the tiles and grout.

There is a free Tile Installation Guide available on our website that details how to prepare different types of substrate, which we recommend you read before speaking to the installer.

Sealing the tiles before they are laid will certainly help prevent staining from any adhesive getting on the surface whilst being handled. The tiles should be laid out for at least 12-24hrs to dry out before being sealed, then allow 12-24 hours for the sealer to cure before the tiles are laid (depending on ambient temperature/humidity).

To cut the tiles the tiler should use a water-cooled tile cutter, with a good, clean and sharp blade and clean water. The minimum suggested grout joint between the tiles is 3-5mm, which your tiler will need to allow for when planning the layout.

If your tiler decides to not seal the tiles before starting the installation, then any scuffs, dirt or adhesive will need to be cleaned from the surface immediately. If these are not cleaned off, they may cause permanent staining to the tile surface.

During installation the tiler should brush any loose grit or dust off the back of the tiles to ensure a good bond with the adhesive. For the best bond, apply Ardex MICROTEC Flexible Tile Adhesive to the substrate with a suitably notched trowel and a thin layer to the back of the tiles to maximise contact.

After placing the tile on the adhesive, the tiler can use clips or a rubber mallet to make sure the tiles are level to each other and there is no lipping.

If your tiler has not opted to seal the tiles until this point, then the tiles need to be cleaned to remove any marks/ adhesive residues before they are sealed. We do not recommend using generic cement removers, acidic or bleach-based products to clean the floor as these can attack the cement finish. Use EcoProTec Cement & Grout & Salt Residue at the correct dilution in order to clean the surface without attacking the finish.

In either case, the tiles MUST be dry and sealed before grouting, otherwise the grout can permanently stain the tiles.

IMPORTANT NOTE - We only recommend using ARDEX FL format grouts that are light in colour, not black or bright coloured grouts as these can cause permanent staining to the surface. If in doubt, please try your chosen grout on a test tile before applying the grout across the floor. We also recommend that you do not use fine grouts (i.e. for joints down to 1mm) such as Bal MicroMax as these can cling to the surface and cause permanent staining.

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SEALING AND FINISHING YOUR TILES

FOR AN UNALTERED/MATT FINISH

Sealer – For an unchanged colour/finish - EcoProTec Natural Stone Sealer

Once the tiles are dry the tiles can be sealed with saturating coats of EcoProTec Natural Stone Sealer leaving 1 hour between coats. To ensure a good seal, completely saturate the surface on the first coat using a brush or small roller, then wait 1 hr before applying further coats to ensure saturation. Saturation is achieved once the surface will not take any more sealer. Make sure any excess sealer left on the surface is wiped away after approx. 20-30 minutes and then buff the surface with a lint-free cloth to prevent any sealer from drying on the surface and leaving a marked finish.

FOR AN ENHANCED/SATIN FINISH

Sealer - For an enhanced colour and matt finish - EcoProTec Colour Enhancing Stone

OR

Sealer - For an enhanced colour and satin finish - EcoProTec Satin Finish Surface Wax

Once the tiles are dry, they can be sealed with saturating coats of EcoProTec Colour Enhancing Stone Sealer or EcoProTec Satin Finish Surface Wax with 1 hour between coats. To ensure a good seal, completely saturate the surface on the first coat using a brush or small roller. Wait 1 hr before applying further coats to ensure saturation. Saturation is achieved once the surface will not take any more sealer. In the case of the Satin Finish Surface Wax, apply the coats at 90 degree angles to each other to minimise streaking. With both products ensure any excess sealer left on the surface is wiped away after 30 minutes and buffed with a lint-free cloth, to prevent them from drying on the surface and leaving a marked finish.

IMPORTANT NOTE – The application of the Satin Finish Surface Wax will give the tile a sheen, which will affect the slip-rating of the tile, so please take this into consideration before applying it. If you require further advice please contact the Technical department at technical@claybrookstudio.co.uk

FINISHING

Once the Natural Finish sealer, Stone Colour Enhancing Stone sealer or Satin Finish Surface Wax has been allowed to fully cure (12 hours minimum), the tiler can start to apply the grout. If the tiler is not using the Ardex FL grout in a lighter colour as we recommend, then they need to test the grout on a sample tile before applying the grout across the floor.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

For everyday cleaning, use EcoProTec Stone & Tile 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 Colour Enhancing Stone Sealer or Satin Finish Surface Wax, to ensure the floor is well protected again.

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