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TUTTI FLUTTI INSTALLATION GUIDE

The Tutti Flutti is a balance of simple and contemporary design. Featuring a fluted surface and a carefully curated colour palette, this tile offers a sophisticated yet playful aesthetic suitable for a range of interior applications. Each piece is finished with score lines that need to be filled with grout, enhancing its visual appeal and fluted effect. Ideal for feature walls, backsplashes, or decorative accents, the Tutti Flutti collection brings a distinctive character to both residential and commercial interiors.

Available in both soft matt and high sheen glazes, the range enables colours and finishes to be blended together to form subtle yet distinctive changes.

PLANNING

These tiles are designed to mimic kit-kat/finger mosaics by having scored lines that are then filled with grout. Whether you want to install them horizontally or vertically is entirely your choice, there is no recommended direction.

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 important with the Tutti Flutti as there can be some slight variance in finish/tone between batches, especially with matt glazes, which is worth bearing in mind if you are carrying out your project in stages

CHECKS PRE-INSTALLATION

The first thing to consider when installing any tile, is to ensure the substrate is strong, solid and stable. The Tutti Flutti are slightly hollow backed, so ensuring the surface is flat, will ensure good contact when it comes to installing them on the wall.

When tiling 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.

On that note, tiles should not to be considered the waterproof layer when being installed in showers or wet-rooms, so correct preparation of the substrate is essential and is now governed by legislation to prevent leaks affecting your property and those of your neighbours. Therefore, 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.

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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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 these are all aspects which should be discussed with the tiler when they come to quote, to help avoid any unforeseen delays and additional costs added to your project.

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 once the product is installed it is deemed to have been accepted.

INSTALLING YOUR TUTTI FLUTTI 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 and or wet and dry paper. 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.

SEALING AND GROUTING YOUR TUTTI TILES

FOR PROTECTION WHEN GROUTING

Sealer - EcoProTec Wall and Floor Grout Protector (2 coats)

Grout - Ardex FS Flexible Grout

Cleaner - EcoProTec Stone & Tile Aftercare

SEALING

The Tutti Flutti tiles must be sealed before the grouting process starts, otherwise the grout will dry too quickly in the scored lines across the surface, not bond correctly and could potentially fall out.

The EcoProTec Pre-Grout Protector is the product we recommend for both residential/domestic projects and we suggest that at least 2 coats are applied using a brush to ensure the sealer contacts the sides and back of the grooves scored into the glazed face. The coats can be applied 30mins apart, buffing away any excess left on the surface after 10mins. Once the coats have been applied, leave the sealer to cure for 1 hour before starting the grouting process.

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GROUTING

We recommend the Ardex FS grout, ideally in similar shades to your chosen colour i.e. avoid black grout on white tiles, dark grout on light tiles and light grout on dark tiles especially on the matt glazes. Due to the fluted surface, the tiler will need to take care to remove the excess grout carefully, so as not to rub the grout out of the scored lines. Once complete and the grout is dry, the application of EcoProTec Wall and Floor Grout Protector.

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 tile surface 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.

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