

DAKOTA



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APPLICATIONS

- Interior walls
- Light duty floors and countertops
- Fireplace faces
- Showers (including steam)
- Exteriors (including freeze thaw areas)
- Pools/fountains (no freeze thaw, vertical surfaces only)

This is not a step-by-step installation guide, but general precautions and tips on how to install and care for your tile. Select installers for our products with great consideration and care as proper installation is critical. Installation constitutes acceptance.

HANDCRAFTED CHARACTERISTICS

Dakota is a handcrafted tile and some variation in color, thickness and size is to be expected. The clay body includes some recycled materials (including roof tiles) and minor surface irregularities are a natural characteristic of Dakota. The colors, edge texture and thickness will have naturally occurring variation due to the inherent characteristics of this clay body. Once properly installed, the beauty of this tile is enhanced by such variation.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

- Make sure the installer understands the blending requirements given the variation in color, size and surface texture. **All tiles should be unpacked, inspected and BLENDED prior to installation.**

INSTALLATION

- Install Dakota per industry standards and always refer to the most current Tile Council of North America (TCNA) "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation"
- Movement joints are essential for the success of tile installations. Follow recommendations on movement joints EJ 171 in the most current TCNA "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation"
- Use a tile blade for cutting, not a coarse brick or stone blade.

GROUTING

- **Dark grouts may stain tiles.** If a dark grout is desired, sealer and grout must be tested on tile prior to installation. **Sealers such as Miracle Sealants 511 Porous Plus or Aquamix gold may prevent staining,** but must be tested prior to using a grout color and always follow sealer manufacturer's instructions.
- For Dakota matte colors, always pre-seal the tile prior to grouting if using a contrasting grout.
- The natural surface of Dakota may collect grout during the grouting process. Continually clean the surface with a clean, damp cloth or tile industry hydrophilic sponges. Once set, use a soft clean dry cloth to polish off the haze and remaining grout residue.
- Grout joints should be sealed after installation and periodically as needed.
- Use a PH neutral cleaner and avoid any citric or abrasive cleansers.

SHOWERS

- We recommend the use of pre-formed waterproof shower systems (such as Schluter Kerdi-Shower-Kit, Laticrete Hydo Ban or similar products), or one of the TCNA methods that require a gap and flexible sealant between the mortar bed and shower wall substrate.

NOTE ON STEAM SHOWERS

- Because of their unique moisture environment, steam showers require specific installation methods. Follow TCNA guidelines for steam shower installation and always refer to the most current version of the TCNA "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation."
- When installing in steam showers we also recommend sealing the top and sides after setting but before grouting. A second coat of sealer should be applied once the grout has set. This will help prevent water penetration and tile discoloration. In addition we recommend sealing grout joints or using a water resistant grout to help mitigate moisture absorbing into the tile. Follow grout manufacturer's recommendations for resealing periodically.

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POOL INSTALLATION

- Sonoma Tilemakers recommends following tile industry installation standard P602 swimming pool tile found in Tile Council Of North America's (TCNA) Handbook For Ceramic Tile Installation (current year).
- In the TCNA Handbook – Pools & Water Features, P602 you will find information regarding substrate preparation, water proofing, adhesives, grouts and reference to the specific installation technique found in American National Standard (ANSI) A108.16 featuring specific techniques for installing ceramic tile.
- Maintaining a proper chemical balance is important for any pool installation, consult a local pool technician for more info on keeping your pool water properly balanced.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

- For everyday cleaning use a mild dishwashing soap with water or a ph neutral cleaner made for tile
- Avoid harsh chemicals (such as phosphoric acid, vinegar, lemon juice etc.)
- Use a non-abrasive cloth/sponge for cleaning
- For any cleaning products, always test a small inconspicuous area first to make sure it doesn't affect the tile's glaze
- Clean up any spills or stains immediately not allowing them to dry
- Grout lines can be cleaned with warm water and soft bristle cleaning brush
- Vacuum floor tiles regularly to remove dirt and other gritty particles
- Periodic resealing every 6 months based on usage and application is highly recommended

IMPORTANT!

We recommend wet cutting or the “score and snap” method during the installation process. Do not dry cut using power tools during the installation process. Improper installation techniques could expose installer to harmful dust.