

PURE | STELLAR

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APPLICATIONS

- Interior walls
- Showers (sealed)
- Light duty floors and countertops (matte only)

Mattes are resistant to abrasion, but may be prone to staining. If crackles are used in wet areas or backsplashes, staining may result. This can be minimized by following the notes in the Installation & Maintenance section.

HANDCRAFTED CHARACTERISTICS

OVERALL: These product lines are made with a semi-absorbent talc clay body. With this body particular attention must be paid to the following:

- **installation of an absorbent clay body;**
- **usage of matte glazes;**
- **extra care required for crackles in wet area.**

CRACKLES: To create a crackle glaze, the glaze surface actually develops the cracks, not the tile body. As a result, crackle glazes are more prone to water staining in wet areas and require special care (see Installation & Maintenance).

MATTE: Our matte glazes have a very durable surface that holds up to most abrasion tests. However, some matte glazes are more prone to surface staining. Surface staining may develop when particles get trapped in the “micron size pits” on the glaze surface.

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

- We recommend the use of pre-formed waterproof shower systems (such as Schluter Kerdi-Shower-Kit, Laticrete Hydro 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.
- **For crackle glazes installed in wet areas, use a penetrating sealer to help prevent or delay the effects of water staining.** Fully submerge each tile in a penetrating sealer for 3-5 seconds. Allow tile to dry thoroughly before installation. Installing these tiles using a penetrating sealer was tested under ASTM C484-02 “Bond Strength of Ceramic Tile to Portland Cement” and passed the ANSI specification of adhesion exceeding 50 psi between tile and bond coat. If unsealed crackle glaze tiles get wet, they will temporarily darken from the moisture. Allow tile to dry thoroughly before resealing the area. Please note that unsealed tile will stain.
- **For crackle glazes installed on backsplashes** sealing is recommended to help prevent staining in cracks from splashes such as food or other substances that can stain.
- **For all other ceramic tiles, we recommend sealing the entire tile (especially the edges).** This should first be done once the tile is set but prior to grouting. Sealer should then be reapplied after grouting.
- **Resealing the area should be repeated every 6 months** and does not affect the quality or look of the tile surface.
- **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 may prevent staining,** but must be tested prior to using a grout color and always follow sealer manufacturer’s instructions.
- **Large Format Sizes:** A critical issue when installing large format tiles is a flat substrate. The effects of an uneven substrate on the installation are magnified with large format tile, making it harder to avoid lippage or misalignment.
- **Due to the manufacturing process ceramic tiles are not perfectly flat.** Therefore patterns that have the center of one tile near the end of another may sometimes create slight lippage.
- **12x24 Brick joint patterns to be set with a maximum offset of 33% and minimum grout joint of 1/8”** unless otherwise approved by homeowner.