

PURE | STELLAR | ASHBURY

sonomatilemakers.com

APPLICATIONS

- Interior walls
- Showers
- Steam Showers (gloss, matte)
- Light duty floors and countertops (matte)

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.

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**
- **use of dark grouts**
- **extra care required for crackles**

BEFORE INSTALLATION

- Our products are handcrafted. Variation in color, size, thickness and texture should be expected. For this reason, all tiles should be unpacked, inspected and **BLEND** prior to installation. Make sure the installer understands the blending requirements.
- Stellar is handcrafted and field tile will vary slightly in size and thickness, particularly with the large format sizes such as 4x12 and 6x12. Grout lines may not always be perfectly straight and square. Once properly installed and grouted, the beauty of Stellar handcrafted tile is enhanced by such variation.
- **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.
- **Pure 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. A critical issue when installing this large format tile 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.

INSTALLATION

- Install ceramic tile 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"

SEALING

- **FOR ALL APPLICATIONS CRACKLE GLAZES SHOULD BE SEALED BEFORE GROUTING USING A PENETRATING SEALER TO HELP PREVENT WATER PENETRATION AND TILE DISCOLORATION. We recommend a sealer such as Aquamix Gold or similar.** To create crackle glazes, the glaze surface develops cracks (which do not affect the integrity of the tile), not the tile body. As a result, **unsealed crackle tile will stain.** If unsealed crackle glaze tiles get wet, they will temporarily darken from the moisture. Allow tile to dry before resealing the area. Crackle glazes may continue to crackle over time and resealing is highly recommended every 6 months based on usage and application. Some water related darkening may still occur.
- Sealing is also recommended for backsplashes to help prevent staining in the cracks from food splashes while cooking. Unsealed tile may stain. Resealing the area should be repeated every 6 months to maintain best appearance.

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.

SHOWERS

- 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.

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 gloss and matte glazes 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. **Note: The unique moisture environment of a steam shower is not recommended for the crackle glazes in these collections.**

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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.