



MACHUCA BALDOZAS, INC.

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MACHUCA CEMENT TILE INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

These instructions are provided as a helpful guide to installing your cement tiles. Machuca Baldozas Inc. will not be held responsible for improper installation of your cement tiles or specific jobsite conditions. Please consult a professional contractor who is familiar with installing cement tiles. Prior to starting installation, be sure to have a copy of these recommendations and familiarize yourself and/or the installer with these guidelines.

- 1) Throughout the installation process and handling of the tile, be careful not to damage the finished surface or corners of the tiles.
- 2) Store the boxes / cement tiles in a dry area. Moisture or dampness can cause the tiles to get discolored, stained, or damaged.
- 3) Your cement tiles may have residue on the surface. This will be removed during the cleaning & buffing process after installation and/or after the implementation of an ongoing maintenance routine.
- 4) Wipe the back of the tile with a damp sponge prior to placing in thin set to remove concrete dust residue and enable proper adhesion.
- 5) Install over flat, level, and cured concrete surface/ stable sub-floor/wall surface.
- 6) Use a high quality thin-set adhesive, such as a Mapei product. Cement tiles are not intended for installation methods that employ large quantities of water. If a cement mixture were to be used, **use only Dry-Pack cement**. Dry-pack cement mix is a mixture of 1 part cement, 2.5 parts Sieved "Binistay" Sand, and enough water to produce a mortar.
- 7) Apply adhesive to the full back of each tile (100% coverage) using a large notch trowel. Make sure all tiles are level. **Do not beat with a mallet or rubber hammer** to set tiles. Level your tiles using hand pressure. Remove excess adhesive from the surface with a damp cloth or sponge while it is fresh. If needed, tiles should be cut using a sharp diamond blade in conjunction with water to avoid chipping of edges.
- 8) Allow two (2) to three (3) days after tiles are laid before grouting of joints.



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9) Recommended grout joint width is a tight joint of 2mm or less. Joints should be full and free of all voids and pits. Grout should be applied in small areas and immediately cleaned. Apply grout using a rubber float at a 45 degree angle to face the tiles. Do not spread the entire floor with grout. Remove excess grout immediately once grout has been applied and starts to dry. Typical cement tile grout is white or light colored grout. If you decide to use colored grout, we recommend that it be a color that is the same, or lighter than, the lightest color used in the pattern. Note: When using black or dark grout, take extra care. Dark grout can stain lighter colors on the tile and be very difficult to remove after installation.

10) After installation, wash the floor with a neutral detergent. Remove any extra residue or mortar. Do not allow water or other liquids to spot or pond on the surface of the tiles (i.e. do not leave spillages, wet buckets, cups, footmarks, etc. on the surface). For hard to remove residue, a single-disc floor polisher with a white pad may be used.

11) For ongoing maintenance, clean regularly with a neutral detergent and buff the tiles with a white pad. Extremely heavy foot traffic may require additional maintenance. A natural patina will occur as the floor is maintained and wears. Water spotting will be eliminated through an ongoing maintenance routine.