

## **Recommendations for fixing and maintenance of Zellige tiles**

Zellige tiles are a traditional Moroccan terracotta product in glazed, unglazed & special finishes crafted as loose tiles and pre-assembled mosaics in various sizes.

Each tile is handcrafted and the method of manufacture means there may be variation in colour & glaze thickness. Small imperfections such as chips, hairline cracks & uneven edges are inherent to the tiles & contribute to the overall appearance.

The pre-assembled sheets are made up of the glazed terracotta tiles, a plaster/sand mix & resin epoxy. The tiles are arranged in a set sheet size & then the plaster/sand mix is applied to each join, this is put in place to stop the resin epoxy running out between the tiles.

Installation of the tiles must always be carried out by a capable and experienced professional. Laying of the tiles constitutes acceptance of the goods.

## **STEP BY STEP Installation Instructions**

### **1. Preparation**

For wet areas and full submersion, a waterproof membrane is to be applied over the screed prior to gluing the tile.

### **2. Laying & Adhesive**

All boxes or crates should be opened and inspected by the installer to ensure they are aware of the variation in colour. Tiles should then be selected and blended to achieve a consistent mix.

Prior to adhering the pre-assembled sheets to the wall, the face of the tile sheet should be made wet with clean water and the plaster/sand mix be removed from the joints with a nylon brush from the front surface. The pre-assembled sheets are to be laid off-set to create a homogeneous appearance.

The traditional method & for aesthetic reasons we recommend laying these tiles is almost edge to edge with a gap of maximum 1mm.

Tiles are to be adhered to the substrate using a DOUBLE SPREAD of glue such as Laticrete 335 Flexible Premium cementitious adhesive or equivalent. Or in a fully submerged installation, the use of Laticrete Latapoxy 300 or equivalent is recommended. A double spread will absorb the thickness disparities & occasional sharp edges inherent in the handmade product.

### **3. Grout**

Tiles are to be grouted using a liquid non-sanded grout, as sanded grouts can potentially scratch the tile glaze. For a fully submerged installation, Laticrete Permacolour or equivalent is recommended.

Apply the grout & wipe the edge of the joints with a damp sponge, perform this operation several times until the joints are completely filled.

Clean immediately with water & sponge and remove any contaminates from the surface of the tile as soon as possible.

## STEP BY STEP Installation Instructions (cont.)

### 4. Special Instructions

On occasion the epoxy resin holding the pre-assembled sheets together may show through the plaster/sand mix.

To remove this excess epoxy resin the sheets must be installed on the wall with the plaster/sand mix brushed out of the joints as indicated above.

A heat gun and sharp blade can be used to carefully scrape out the excess epoxy resin, taking care not to scratch the glazed surface of the tile.

### 5. Unglazed Terracotta Tiles

As Terracotta is a porous material by nature, we recommend this raw finish be grouted using non-pigmented grouts such as Grey sand and cement or Off-white sand and cement. Pigmented grouts will stain the tile.

After the tiles are thoroughly cleaned and dried, apply a penetrating sealer. We recommend Aqua Mix Sealer Choice Gold. For further information please see product packaging.

### 6. Special Finishes- Gold, Silver and Copper leaf

These special surfaces are a delicate finish and are not a glaze, so extra care needs to be taken during installation and regular maintenance.

As the leaf is quite fragile, make sure the surface is not scratched with any applicators or abrasive cleaning products. It is suggested that they be cleaned with a light sponge and soapy water, if this is not effective then you could move to a PH Neutral Cleaner such as Aqua Mix Concentrated Stone and Tile Cleaner.

In wet areas, we recommend the use of an epoxy grout as this will eliminate any moisture penetrating between the joints. It is suggested to use a penetrating sealer with a spray applicator prior to grouting so this sealant can sit against the edges of the tiles. Aqua Mix Sealers Choice Gold is a preferred product. This delicate finish is to be used on wall applications only, and is not recommended for full submersion such as swimming pools.

**IF THERE ARE ANY QUERIES PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CALL THE SHOWROOM ON (03) 9510 5055.**

