

Recommendations for fixing and maintenance of Popham tiles

Popham tiles are a Bi-encaustic product, consisting of coloured pigments, white cement powder, marble powder and water.

Each tile is handcrafted by Artisans in Marrakech. The beauty of this process results in subtle colour variation, hairline cracks and uneven edges which contribute to the overall appearance.

A chalky residue & small salt crystals may appear on the tile and is a result of the production process. Some light shadowing will remain after installation and cleaning, and is an inherent part of the tile.

Tiles retain moisture from the manufacture process and will dry to their correct colour a few days after installation, pending site conditions.

The final installed patina differs from the raw state of the tiles, and it is important to follow the steps below to ensure this result is achieved.

Exterior applications may experience some fading over time due to UV exposure and this is more obvious in brighter colours.

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

2. Adhesive:

PRIOR to adhering the tiles they need to be blended (as per a natural stone) as they are laid to distribute the hand made colour variations evenly across the space.

Tiles to be adhered to the substrate using a glue such as Laticrete 335 flexible premium cementitious adhesive or equivalent.

3. Grout:

Tiles to be grouted. Do not use pigmented/ Coloured grouts. Non- pigmented grouts such as Grey sand cement or Off-white sand cement are recommended. Pigmented grouts will stain the tile.

4. Cleaning tiles:

To remove the chalky residue & excess pigment, grout/dirt on the surface of the tile, wash the tile using 100% white vinegar. Let the vinegar dwell on the surface for 2 minutes. The surface should be scrubbed with the vinegar and a white non-abrasive pad, and then thoroughly washed down with mild soapy water. This process should be done after grouting.

The tiles MUST be completely clean & dry prior to the next step, sealing.

If there are contaminants still present on the surface of the tile you must clean them again with the vinegar wash until completely clean.

If not cleaned thoroughly the dirt will be sealed into the tile. The sealant is not designed to be stripped making it extremely difficult to remove any dirt once the sealer is applied.

If not dried thoroughly this will compromise the sealant.

5. Sealants:

Part A)

After cleaning & drying the tiles apply a penetrating sealer.

Recommended Sealer:

Aqua Mix - Sealers Choice Gold (penetrating sealer) -2 coats recommended

For further information see product packaging.

Once penetrating sealer is dry, the tiles are to be washed with a mild soapy water & dry before continuing with part b.

Part B)

After application of the penetrating sealer a coating sealer is recommended:

Aqua Mix - Seal & Finish Low Sheen (durable coating sealer- wax-like effect) 3-4 coats recommended. If an increased gloss level is desired, further coats can be applied. In exterior situations the wax sealant is optional. For further information see product packaging.

NB. Areas that remain constantly wet, ie. shower floors & uncovered external areas, should only be sealed with the penetrating sealer (Part A).

Normal Maintenance

The tiles should be cleaned with Aqua Mix Concentrated Stone and Tile Cleaner. Use a sponge mop for general cleaning and if required a white non-abrasive pad to remove heavier build up. The seal and finish low sheen should be reapplied once the floor starts to dull down and may require more than one coat if it is left to long. The wax dries in approximately 30mins.

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