Installation instructions

IMPORTANT
Please follow these instructions carefully as they contain relevant information for the installation that may avoid future problems. Please read and make sure that you understand these instructions before beginning to install our products, as problems related to ceramic surfaces are usually due to a poor laying process and rarely due to ceramic products.

Please bear in mind that:
- Some materials or works may require different and more detailed specifications. This document is intended as a general guide to placement and does not replace professional technical advice for work that requires it.
- Installation should be carried out by a qualified professional.
- It is recommended to purchase a minimum quantity of 5% extra product in order to cover contingencies. If additional material is required, ESTUDIO CERAMICO will try to deliver the same shade of the material that you have, but this will not always be possible if stocks of the needed shade are exhausted since slight variations in shade are inherent in the manufacturing process.
- Before installing ensure that the material is in perfect condition. Make sure you check the colours, finishes and thicknesses because ESTUDIO CERAMICO will not accept any claims or returns of material after it has been installed.
- Before each stage, on one part test all of the materials and tools to be used and evaluate the final finish of the test. Should you fail to achieve the desired results do not continue with the installation, and consult our sales team.

- ESTUDIO CERAMICO will absolutely not accept claims regarding installation or removal costs if these installation guide has not been followed. It is the responsibility of the setter to ensure both the conformity of the product before tiling and to know the conditions under which it can be placed.

1. PROPER PREPARATION OF SURFACE
The surface must be firm, levelled, dry and clean, since any residue or dirt affects the correct adhesion of the piece at that point, and may cause detachment or breakage in the future, without this being attributable to a failure of the material or the adhesive.
It should always be checked that the wall has a proper cohesion (no pieces are detached from the surface), as otherwise there may be detachments over time.
Uneven surfaces greater than 2 mm must be levelled with specific products. Any cracks and imperfections must be repaired, so that the wall is completely smooth.
The moisture content of the surface must be under 2%.
Water-sensitive substrates (wood and chipboard, plaster and precast gypsum, etc.) may require a waterproofing primer. If you are installing intermediate layers (insulation or waterproofing), check instructions for these products before start tiling.

IMPORTANT: It is essential that the surface is stable. Unstable surfaces generate movements and stresses in the tile, which can cause cracks or detachments.
If you are not sure whether the surface is suitable for laying placement, do not proceed and seek technical advice.
ESTUDIO CERAMICO will not accept claims for materials placed on surfaces that do not meet the conditions detailed here.

2. INSTALLATION MATERIAL
For a correct installation, several factors must be taken into account: Material kind of the wall to be tiled (synthetic panels, plaster, wood, etc.), wall stability, environmental conditions, kind of surface to be covered, speed of carrying the work, etc. All the above parameters determine the choice of the adhesive kind.

All the adhesive materials recommended by ESTUDIO CERAMICO have been previously tested in our facilities, in controlled environmental conditions and on rigid brick and/or concrete walls. Under different conditions from the above mentioned, it is recommended to test firstly and if in doubt, please contact ESTUDIO CERAMICO or the adhesive distributor.

ESTUDIO CERAMICO does not recommend the use of traditional mortar for the placement of its products. There are currently products with much better performance that produce excellent results.
The installation must be carried out using C2 cement-adhesive or R epoxy adhesive. In case of chemical requirements, R epoxy adhesive is recommended.
ESTUDIO CERAMICO always recommends to test first the material with minimum two pieces before placing all the material.

- ESTUDIO CERAMICO will absolutely not accept claims regarding installation or removal costs that are a consequence of not having carried out the corresponding tests before starting the installation. These claims are expensive and time-consuming and they can easily be avoided just with a few simple initial checks.
Take your time before starting the placement and make sure that the materials to be used are compatible with the product and the surface to be tiled.

To ensure that the bonding material is effective, mix it until a homogeneous finish is obtained, do not use it while it is lumpy, an incorrect mixing drastically reduces the properties of the adhesive, which may cause future problems.
In case of using cementitious adhesive, discard the material if it is hard and/or very dense, since it might have lost its adhesion capacity. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C2 CEMENT-ADHESIVE</th>
<th>EPOXI ADHESIVE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H40 ECO FLEX (KERAKOLL)</td>
<td>SUPERFLEX ECO (KERAKOLL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERAFLExX MAXI S1 (MAPEI)</td>
<td>KERALASTIC T (MAPEI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. INSTALLATION
Make sure that you have all the necessary tools and materials for a correct placement:
- Meter to measure dimensions
- Bowls to prepare the adhesive and the grouting paste.
- Trowel and notched trowel to place the adhesive
- Rubber hammer to ensure that the tiles stick well to the adhesive
- Trowel and rubber trowel to apply the grouting paste
- Water bucket and sponge for cleaning
- Gloves, glasses and safety boots

Make sure that these elements are suitable for its intended use, consult the manufacturer’s instructions and, if in doubt, contact the manufacturer directly or qualified staff who can advise you.

When working outdoors, do it when the environmental conditions are favorable (no rain, wind, frost, heatwave, etc) otherwise, the products may not perform properly.
Please avoid submerging the tiles in water before installation.
It is recommended to initiate starting the installation from the floor to the ceiling, continue in phase to allow the adhesive the necessary time to get dry.

Extend a thin layer of adhesive on to the surface where the piece is to be placed (3mm approx.) Place the tile while the adhesive is still soft and before a dry layer of film forms on the adhesive surface. To achieve the desired thickness of adhesive, a notched trowel must be used to “comb” the adhesive removing the excess and leaving a uniform layer that guarantees both the correct thickness and the adequate contact between the back of the tiles and the adhesive. Once the tile is placed, press gently to obtain a correct adhesion and eliminate possible bubbles without adhesive. It is recommended that a rubber mallet be used to ensure that no gaps remain. If the tiles are not completely in contact with the adhesive, they may come off in the long run, it is convenient to often check it by pulling up the last tile just laid to see if its back is really 100% covered by the adhesive. If clean, the adhesive has dried and it is no longer effective.
Check every tile before laying it, to make sure it does not have any defect.

Do not apply the adhesive in blobs to avoid weak points that might become breaking or cracking points in the future. For formats with sides larger than 40cm, the double gluing technique is recommended, which consists of placing a thin layer of adhesive on the back of the tiles, using a notched trowel, and another thin layer on the surface to be tiled, thus ensuring the correct adhesion of the material.

Do not add glue to the adhesive already laid with the trowel, as it would make the placement less effective and could cause problems in the future.

To improve the hold of the pieces while drying the adhesive, it is recommended to fix them with a wooden strip or adhesive tape. To adjust the position of the tiles once they are placed, it is recommended to remove them and clean the back before replacing them, since, in case of moving them, the adhesive might have partially set and lost its performance.
IMPORTANT: Leave a joint of at least 2 mm and use crosspieces. In areas with strong thermal expansion or on unstable surfaces (plasterboard) it is recommended to leave a minimum 3 mm joint and use adhesives with elastic properties of an epoxy type (deformable R), since the typical movements of these surfaces can weaken the material and the adhesive, which may cause the tile to crack or detach, as well as the appearance of cracks in joints.

ESTUDIO CERAMICO will absolutely not accept claims of material installed when joints have not been respected or, for not having used crosspieces, the achieved finish is not the expected one.

The placement of a locked joint greater than 25% is not recommended to avoid the appearance of uneven or lippage between adjacent pieces. Claims of material placed on a locked joint greater than 25% will not be accepted.

4. GROUTING

As with adhesive, each use may require a different type of grouting paste. CG2 or RG grouting paste is recommended. For surfaces with strong expansion, deformable grouting paste (S1 / S2) is recommended. For water contact areas, waterproof grout paste is recommended.

ESTUDIO CERAMICO does not recommend in any case the use of builders lime for grouting, there are technical products with which excellent performance can be achieved.

All joints must be perfectly clean and dry and having a minimum depth of 2mm. Use a flat rubber trowel to spread the paste, being sure that the joints are completely covered. In the case of using CG2 cementitious grouting paste, use the appropriate powder / water ratio to ensure the correct setting of the joint and thus avoid the appearance of cracks. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions, if in doubt contact the manufacturer.

When using epoxy grout paste, pour hardener / catalyst over resin and mix it until a smooth and textured finish is obtained. Remember that epoxy grout paste has a lifespan before it hardens permanently, so do not prepare all the quantity of grouting material you will need at once and make sure to clean it at the times indicated by the manufacturer to avoid the part being veiled.

Do not allow the excess material to dry and clean it as soon as possible. To do this, use a sponge moistened with water and cleaning products with neutral pH. Never use abrasive products to avoid scratching the tiles (never use esparto or metal bristle brushes). Change the water as many times as necessary to avoid leaving dirty water on the tiles after cleaning.

Follow the grouting paste manufacturer’s instructions carefully and respect the times indicated. It is very important to do clean before the paste dries. If this happens, use a cement remover to clean the surface.

ESTUDIO CERAMICO will not accept claims resulting from incorrect cleaning of the tiles. It is the responsibility of the tile setter to leave the surface in perfect condition before completing the work. In areas where there is frequent contact with water, to achieve greater waterproofing and avoid stains, it is recommended to use epoxy, fungicide and algacide grouting pastes.

If non-waterproof joints are used, it is recommended to seal them to avoid the appearance of efflorescence or the accumulation of dirt.

Important: The colour of the grouting paste might change the product’s appearance. It is recommended to perform a test in a corner before proceeding with the rest of the surface. You can spare a lot of work by spotting any grout paste problems early on a small surface, a ’hidden spot’. If the problem is detected after placement, the solution can be very expensive.

Please consult the grouting materials table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEMENT PRODUCTS</th>
<th>EPOXI PRODUCTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FUGABELLA ECO PORCELANA</td>
<td>FUGALITE ECO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERACOLOR FF</td>
<td>KERAPOXY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATICRETE serie 1600</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. CUTTING AND DRILLING

To get the finest possible finish, proceed slowly, without creating excessive pressure or forcing. Straight cuts can be made with a manual ceramic cutter or with a continuous rim diamond blade.

Drilling for water intakes or drains should be done with electric drills, without striker, equipped with diamond-tipped drill bits.

ESTUDIO CERAMICO always recommends cooling with water when cutting or drilling, both to cool and to avoid the emission of ceramic dust (safety data sheet available if required). Necessary safety equipment must always be used to safeguard the integrity of any personnel involved. The cutting tools described here are dangerous and should only be used by expert personnel. Always use all safety equipment and scrupulously follow the machinery manufacturer’s instructions. If in doubt, do not continue working until you are sure there is no danger.

6. CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

For everyday cleaning, use regular pH neutral cleaners. Do not use abrasive products.

Floors with high slip resistance values (class 2, class 3), especially in light colors, get dirty more easily but they can be cleaned just as easily as any other materials without using aggressive products.

For persistent stains we recommend to use of the products on the following table, depending of the type of dirt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF STAIN</th>
<th>CLEANING PRODUCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cement, lime</td>
<td>Vinegar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxide</td>
<td>Phosphoric acid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>Alcohol etílico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grease</td>
<td>Sodium bicarbonate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoe polish, bitumen</td>
<td>Trichlorethylene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Specific solvent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>Organic solvent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer, wine</td>
<td>Alkaline detergent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iodine, blood</td>
<td>Peroxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee, tea, juice, ink</td>
<td>Bleach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mold</td>
<td>Bleach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In case of any doubt, please consult our technical department.

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