

CEMENT TILES

Installation Guide

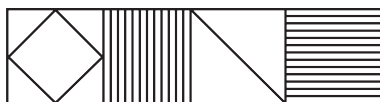
For appropriate cement tile installation, it is important that the installer carefully read this guide before starting the task. The installation must be made by a duly qualified installer.

1. Considerations prior to cement tile installation

- 1.1. For a perfect cement tile installation, the surface where it will be laid must be perfectly regular and dry in depth. Never apply cement tiles on poorly cured slabs or surfaces. The moisture present in a curing slab when evaporating can cause irreversible stains on the visible face of the cement tile.
- 1.2. Although it can be dispensed under certain conditions of application, it is advisable to provide a gap between the different planes of the surfaces where the cement tile is to be applied, for example in the meeting between a wall and the floor. This clearance must be sufficient to absorb structural expansion that can cause cracking in the cement tile by compression. This gap can be finished off with a skirting.
- 1.3. Before starting to install the cement tile, study the space and plan how the product will be placed in order to better display the geometric shapes or patterns that your product may have. Predict where the pieces will be cut. As a rule, the cuts should be in the hidden or less visible areas, for example under a cupboard or where your eyes will look less often.

2. Cement tile laying process

- 2.1. The application must be carried out by applying adhesive cement with a wide toothed trowel on the support surface and on the cement tile (double bonding). This ensures the best adhesion and avoids possible voids that may cause the cement tile to break or detach.
- 2.2. The laying of the cement tile must be done by manually levelling piece by piece according to its application. For this purpose and if necessary, a soft rubber mallet can be used but never tools that by its nature can damage the material.



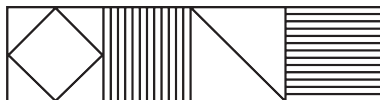
- 2.3.** During laying, the grout joint size between the cement tiles must be minimum and constant, between 1 and 2mm. The correct alignment of the cement tiles must be a concern to obtain a good final alignment of the shapes or patterns.
- 2.4.** By the cement tile installation end, and after the drying of the adhesive cement, wash the entire surface with water only. This wash serves to eliminate the fine layer of dust that covers the cement tiles from the manufacture.

3. Filling the cement tile grout joints

- 3.1.** After washing the cement tile and prior to filling the grout joints, a water repellent must be applied to the surface of the cement tile (FILA HYDROREP is recommended). The application of the repellent is necessary to prevent grout residues from filling the joints to deeply adhere to the pigment of the cement tile surface.
- 3.2.** The grout for filling the joints must be of a neutral colour or similar to the cement tile. In the case of using coloured grout to fill the joints, care must be taken in the process since these colours can irreversibly stain the cement tile.
- 3.3.** The joints must be filled with a small spatula in order to minimize contact with the remaining surface of the cement tile. Excess grout from filling the joint must be immediately removed with a clean, damp cloth.
- 3.4.** Do not use any acidic or corrosive products to clean or remove excess grout from the joints.

4. Protection and final work cleaning of the cement tiles

- 4.1.** After filling and drying of the joints, a final work wash should be carried out. Wash the cement tile with water and soap or neutral pH detergent to prepare the surface of the cement tile for the application of an anti-stain water repellent.
- 4.2.** Make sure the cement tile is perfectly dry in depth.
- 4.3.** For better protection against organic stains (grease, food, drinks ...) apply FILA FOB XTREME over the entire cement tile surface.



5. Cement tile maintenance and cleaning

- 5.1. Whenever possible, try to keep the cement tile surfaces free of dust and sand. Vacuum or sweep regularly to reduce the wear and tear caused by the sands on the surface of the cement tile and to prevent dirt from depth adhering.
- 5.2. The cement tile should be washed using water and soap or neutral pH detergent, ideally biodegradable and environmentally friendly. Washing allows to remove dirt and keep the surfaces clean and hygienic. FILA CLEANER PRO is also recommended for washing cement tile.
- 5.3. To remove persistent stains, you can use a soft Scotch-Brite and FILA PS87 PRO detergent diluted in a 1:5 ratio.
- 5.4. To achieve a perfect finish, with a silky touch and greater protection of your cement tile, we recommend to finally applying a natural FILA CLASSIC wax. This protection must be renewed annually or according to the use of your space.
- 5.5. Never use acidic, corrosive or bleaching cleaners on cement tile coated surfaces.