

CERAMIC INSTALLATION & CARE

■ **Debris Series** ■ **Vitrail Series** ■ **Express Series**

Applications

Please be sure your application suits the product. Please note our ceramic tiles are frost resistant but not frost proof. If being used in a wet area such as a pool or wet kitchen or bathroom area please be sure the glaze is suitable and is acid resistant.

Cutting

Use a diamond blade wet tile saw for cutting. A new tile saw blade will make a cleaner cut than an old overused blade. Stone or sand edges. Whenever possible use cut edges against the outside walls or ceiling where they are hidden. Dry tiles after cutting before applying silicone. Use a diamond bit with water to drill holes. Make sure that the faucet flange covers any chipping on the edges of the cut out.

Setting

Setting materials are largely determined on a per job basis and this question is best answered by your installer, contractor or architect. Generally, an installation in a wet area, like a shower or bath, requires a mortar set and dryer areas are fine to use Thinsset.

Spacing & Grout

Use a sanded grout with a $\frac{3}{16}$ " grout line ($\frac{1}{4}$ " for 12" modules). We recommend using a sanded grout. Grout should be a natural color or a color similar to the tile. Dark grouts with pigments can stain the tile and should be avoided.

It is possible to achieve a tighter grout joint however it depends on whether or not the natural irregularity in tile size and shape allows for a tighter fit (typically easier with smaller sizes). It also requires a much more skilled installation to get a good end result. If the grout line is too tight the tile could chip at stress points while the grout dries.

Sealing

Sealing is not required for our Debris and Express Series products. Debris Series tiles with a crackle finish that have an Engobe base do not require sealing, either. Our Vitrail Series Tiles are pre-sealed before packing with penetrating sealer. This protects them during installation and grouting. We recommend that a coat of penetrating sealer is wiped on the Vitrail Tiles after grouting and drying. We recommend sealing 1x per year thereafter. We suggest sealing for non-acid resistant tile in an area such as a bathroom or pool to prevent a patina from forming on the tile. It is always a good idea to seal your grout however, to ward off staining and discoloration from harsh cleaners and hard-water.

All dirt, dust and grout haze should be removed and the floor given 30 days to dry before applying 2-3 coats of sealer to your grout. To guard against stains from dirt and oils, 2-3 coats of Aqua Mix Sealer Choice Gold does a great job. We recommend sealing 1x per year.

Care

To remove everyday wear and tear on your tile we suggest using soap and water and a clean rag or mop. Diluted dishwashing soap does the job without the worry of damaging the tile or stripping the sealer from your grout. You should be able to use any cleaning product specified for tile, though we suggest first testing the product to be sure. A good rule of thumb is using cleaning products that do not contain phosphoric acid. This ingredient is common in many harsh smelling cleaners as some tiles in the Fireclay offering are not acid resistant (see the Debris and Vitrail Colors and Specifications download for specific glaze information). If you have selected a non-acid resistant Fireclay glaze please avoid cleansers that contain acids such as vinegar and lemon juice.

Avoid highly abrasive cleansers on higher gloss tiles as they may become scratched. Some tiles should be towel dried after cleaning to avoid watermarks caused by hard water. To clean grout haze, use a weak vinegar solution with a soft rag or a manufactured grout haze remover type cleaner.

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