

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND DEMOLITION OF CORSO ITALIA CERAMIC TILES

A. BEFORE INSTALLATION

Prior to installation, the installer, that is to say the technician who carries out the tiled surface and the first person who “sees” and “handles” the ceramic tiles, must inform the final customer or foreman responsible for the works of any faults (quality, colour shade...) in the ceramic tile.

Please consider that colour shading is an intrinsic characteristics of certain ceramic products.

Corso Italia does not recommend zero joint or close joint installation and suggest to carry out a straightforward installation pattern with tiles staggered up to a maximum of approximately 33% of its length:



The width of grout lines must be calculated, during project-planning, according to the following criteria:

- 1) **Type of substrate:**
- 2) Destination of use of the material (**indoor/outdoor flooring, indoor/outdoor wall cladding**);
- 3) Any standard and/or regulation in force in the country where the tiles shall be installed.

B. DURING INSTALLATION

Corso Italia recommends to collect the tiles from different boxes in order to obtain the best chromatic effect.

When planning necessary cuts, never mark the tiles using pencils and/or indelible felt-tip pens.

During installation, the installer must point out the presence of any imperfections on the ceramic tiles (presence of steps or uneven levels between adjacent tiles etc...) and the installer must ask for official written authorisation to proceed with the work from the final customer or from the foreman responsible for the works.

The final customer must also provide an assurance that the lighting and micro-climatic conditions at the workplace are sufficiently good to allow the installer to lay the tiles correctly, and the installer must check the ceramic materials and the installation procedure, as stated above.

Between the installation and the consignment to the final customer, the ceramic tiling must:

- Be kept clean and free from any cement, sand or other dirt residue which can cause stains and/or mechanical abrasion to the surface;
- Be protected from any damage caused by the presence of other operators (painters, electricians, carpenters, etc.).

WARNING:

ONCE THE CERAMIC TILES HAVE BEEN INSTALLED, CORSO ITALIA:

- **DO NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLAINTS RELATING TO MANIFEST FAULTS OF SHADE AND QUALITY;**
- **WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR THE QUALITY OF THE TILED SURFACE BUT ONLY FOR THE QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUPPLIED MATERIAL.**

ON COMPLETION OF THE INSTALLATION IT IS ADVISABLE TO KEEP SOME SPARE TILES ASIDE, SHOULD ANY TILES NEED REPLACING OR AS A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF THE MATERIAL IN CASE OF COMPLAINTS.

C. TESTING OF THE TILED SURFACE

The testing of the tiled surface must be done by the final customer in the presence of the installer or the foreman responsible for the works and consists of a visual examination (naked eye and/or with glasses if normally worn) of the surface from a distance of 1.5 meters.

An “effect” which is only visible close-up or with grazing light, perhaps with the use of a magnifying glass cannot be considered a “defect”.

An “effect” becomes a “defect” only when clearly visible under the conditions stated above.

D. ELIMINATING EXCESS GROUT

To correctly and easily eliminate excess grout, follow the instructions given by the grout manufacturer. In general, proceed as follows:

- **Cementitious grouts:**

When the grout becomes opaque (normally after 10-20 minutes), clean with a hard cellulose sponge using movements on a diagonal to the joints.

It is important to respect the drying time to avoid removing the grout from the joints.

- **Epoxy grouts:**

When the mixture is still fresh, wet the surface with plenty of water, emulsifying with a Scotch-Brite® pad, paying attention not to empty the joints.

The residual grout liquid can be removed with a hard cellulose sponge (to be replaced when excessively soaked with resin).

It is vital to remove epoxy grout rapidly before it starts hardening as it is extremely difficult to remove subsequently.

E. CLEANING AFTER INSTALLATION

The cleaning of the entire surface after installation is of **vital importance** for all subsequent maintenance procedures.

Cleaning eliminates residues as well as dirt such as cement, glue, paint and other kinds of dirt...

Once the cementitious grout has aged properly (at least three-four days depending on the weather conditions), the cleaning using a **buffering acid detergent** can begin but must be carried out in strict accordance of the instructions of use and dilution percentages stated by the manufacturer of the detergent.

WARNING:

This procedure can be aggressive towards materials and objects placed close to the tiled surface; for example doors and window sills made of marble, metallic shutters...; it is advisable to protect these materials before proceeding with the cleaning.

F. MAINTENANCE

A PROPER CLEANING consists in using a wet cloth or a sponge with a commonly used **neutral detergent for ceramic tiles** and following the manufacturer instructions; **avoid using waxes and/or impregnants**.

For large surfaces, the use of a floor washing machine is recommended.

WARNING

If, after any kind of washing, the floor shows residual marks, wash the floor rinsing frequently and with an abundance of water.

Never use excessive amounts of detergent unless the floor is particularly dirty and correct rinsing of the floor is anticipated during cleaning.

G. PROTECTING AGAINST ABRASIVE DIRT

Some types of dirt, for example sand, increase the abrasive effect of pedestrian traffic on the surface, therefore, it is recommended to keep the floor as clean as possible in order to prevent the build-up of this kind of dirt from outside. We recommend the use of a doormat designed to retain moisture (fixed or mobile doormats depending on the destination of use of the area) and to place it to so as to cover the entire length of the entrance.

H. DEMOLITION OF CERAMIC TILES

The fragments produced by the demolition of a tiled surface are scraps of ceramic tiles, and therefore "inert" materials (non-reactive, chemically and physically stable, resistance to long-term exposure to extreme conditions from a thermal, hygrometric and chemical point of view) which can be stored without running the risk of harming the environment and recycled for the preparation of backgrounds, etc..

WARNING:

The recommendations above are the result of laboratory research and years of experience in the industry.

However, the cleanability of a material can vary considerably depending on the installation, conditions of use, types of surface and area.

Generally speaking, the more the anti-slip feature of a tile increases the more difficult the cleaning will be.

The operator in charge of the cleaning and maintenance procedures must always carry out an empirical examination on a small section of the surface prior to any type of cleaning and/or maintenance operation.

In case of particularly difficult conditions of use, incorrect installation and/or wrong cleaning, **Corso Italia** will not be liable for the effectiveness of cleaning and maintenance procedures.

It is understood that **Corso Italia** will not be liable for any events, damages and/or faults on the surface caused by incorrect installation, neglectful cleaning and maintenance and/or inadequate selection of the installed materials with respect to the destination of use.