

## Tile Installation Guide

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES TO LAYING TILES IN INTERIORS**

1. It is essential that prior to laying the tiles, the supporting surface has set and is completely dry and hard (so that any shrinking as it sets has completed), in order to avoid the appearance of bubbles or cracks due to the lack of stability.
2. Before placing down, check the quality, tone and thickness and make sure the piece is free from any visible defects. For greater decorative effect, mix pieces from the various boxes. Handle the pieces carefully to avoid smudging or chipping along the edges of the tiles.
3. Do not wet or submerge the pieces in water before placing and do not use traditional mortar (thickly laid mortar). Apply a thin layer of fast-drying cement such as C1 (norm EN12.004) using a toothed trowel to place the piece. For large pieces (with one side over 40 cm in length), use the double cement method. Always follow the cement manufacturer's guidelines closely: method, time and amount of water to be mixed, time available to place the piece, etc.
4. At least 1.5mm joints should be used for laying the tile. Ensure the cement has completely hardened before rounding off. Fill the joint with filler in order to prevent leakages. Do not use glue cement, grout or any kind of cement-based joints.
5. If you wish to link pieces, do not overlap for any more than 15% of the longest side of the piece (for example, for 12.8x65 pieces, do not link more than 15% ≈10 cm.)
6. If you have to carry out additional construction, the paving must be protected in order to avoid scratches from any abrasive material.
7. After installing and rounding off the tiles, remove any remaining cement or filler with a product designed for this purpose (scale remover or cement remover), following the manufacturer's guidelines. We always recommend that before using a chemical product, you do a patch test on a piece of the tile that is not visible.

### **EXTERIOR PLACING**

Placing in exteriors is especially important because as well as following the general requirements, it is essential that you also follow the specific guidelines for exterior placing. If the placing is being done in an area where there is a RISK OF FROST, only lay PORCELAIN tiles. Do not lay stoneware or red or white stucco under any circumstances. The following guidelines must be followed in all cases.

1. When placing paving, a minimum gradient of 2% is necessary for the evacuation of water. It is also necessary to install a drainage layer underneath the tiles.
2. Use C2 fast drying cement (according to the norm EN 12.004). Place the pieces using the double cement method; take care to fill it in correctly to avoid gaps underneath the pieces.
3. Use at least 5 mm joints. Use a joiner made specifically for exteriors (like CG2, according to norm EN 12.004).
4. Respect the structural and perimeter joints. Place dilation joints every 10-20 m<sup>2</sup>.
5. Pay special attention to areas where the tile meets other materials such as columns, walls, railings, etc, placing the joints necessary to prevent water leakages.

## LAYING GROUND TILES

Although the guidelines for laying ground tile are the same for every kind of tile, ground material is particularly delicate, especially around the edges. It is therefore very important that, as well as following the general guidelines, you also pay particular attention to the following:

1. It is very important that the supporting surface is flat. The surface upon which the tiles are to be placed should have been levelled.
2. Handle the material carefully to avoid smudges or chipping along the edges of the tiles.
3. Do not submerge the tiles in water as the humidity could cause changes to its surface. Use a thin layer of cement (type C1 for interiors and type C2 for exteriors – according to EN 12.004).
4. Always use a minimum joint of 1.5mm. 5. If you wish to link pieces, do not overlap any more than 15% of the length of the piece.

