Installation of
COUNTERTOP & WALL TILE

VitaElegante Grigio 6 in. x 24 in. and
12 in. x 24 in. tiles shown in brick pattern

1 STEP 1: SURFACE PREPARATION

- Tile may be installed over most structurally sound substrates.

- Make sure surface is clean, smooth, dry and free of wax, soap scum and grease.

- Any damaged, loose or uneven areas must be repaired, patched and leveled.

- Remove any moldings, trim, appliances or anything that could interfere with installation.

2 STEP 2: WALL LAYOUT

- Find the center point of the wall, using a level to draw a plumb line in the wall's center.

- Lay out a row of loose tiles across the bottom of the wall from the center line leaving uniform joints between tiles.

  NOTE: Tiles can be butted together leaving a consistent 1/16 in. joint automatically.

  TIP: If cuts leave tiles smaller than half to their original size, adjust the center line a half tile closer to the wall.

- Stack two tiles here. At the top, draw a horizontal line on the wall and continue the line around all side walls to be tiled.

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3 STEP 3: COUNTERTOP LAYOUT

- Begin with counter trim, then set full tiles from the first row working back thus all cut tiles will be placed on the back row against the wall.

  NOTE: Trim pieces are available for use around recessed appliances.

- Snap parallel chalk lines on the substrate as needed to keep rows straight.

  NOTE: Tile countertops should have a tile backsplash at least 4 inches high for protection.

  TIP: For backsplashes, match up joints with the countertop tile.

4 STEP 4: APPLYING ADHESIVE

- Mix only enough adhesive or mortar to be used within 30 minutes.

- Using the type of trowel recommended on the adhesive package, spread a 1/4 in. coat on the surface of one grid area, using the flat side of the trowel.

  NOTE: Do not cover guidelines or a larger area than can be set in 15 minutes.

- Use the notched side of trowel to comb adhesive into standing ridges by holding trowel at a 45° angle.

- Remove excess adhesive, leaving a uniform, ridged setting bed.

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5 STEP 5: CUTTING TILE

- Carefully measure tiles and mark with a pencil or felt-tip pen.
- Make straight or diagonal cuts with a tile cutter, curved cuts with a nipper (chipping away small pieces for best results), and full-length curved cuts with a rod saw. Smooth out sharp-cut edges with a carborundum stone.

6 STEP 6: SETTING TILE

- Install tiles in the center, one grid at a time. Finish each grid before moving to the next. Start with the first tile in the corner of the grid and work outward. Set tiles one at a time using a slight twisting motion.
  NOTE: Don't slide tiles into place.
- Insert tile spacers, as each tile is set, or leave equal joints between tiles.
- Fit perimeter tiles in each grid last, leaving 1/4 in. gap between tile and wall.
- When finished, tap in all tiles with a rubber mallet or hammer and wood block, to ensure a good bond and level plane.
- Remove excess adhesive from joints with a putty knife, and from tile with a damp sponge.
- Do not use surface of tiles until they are set (usually in 24 hours).

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7 STEP 7: GROUTING JOINTS

- Using the instructions on the package, make enough grout to use in about 30 minutes.

- Remove tile spacers and spread grout on the tile surface, forcing down into joints with a rubber grout float or squeegee.

- Tilt the float at a 45° angle and remove excess grout from surface immediately with the edge of float.

- Tilt it at a 90° angle and scrape it diagonally across tiles.

- Wait 15–20 minutes for grout to set slightly, then use a damp sponge to clean grout residue from surface and smooth the grout joints, rinsing sponge often.

- Let dry until grout is hard and haze forms on tile surface, then polish with a soft cloth and wait 72 hours for heavy use.

  NOTE: Don't apply sealers or polishes for three weeks, and then only in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

8 STEP 8: INITIAL CLEANING

- The complete removal of grout and construction dirt after products have been installed will improve daily maintenance.

- Clean successfully by scrubbing the installation with hot water and a pH neutral liquid cleaner (soapless), followed by a thorough rinsing, then remove the rinse water with a wet vacuum or dry toweling.

- If some residue remains, further cleaning will need to be done in consultation with the grout manufacturer.

- For more aggressive cleaning, scrubbing machines equipped with nylon pads or brushes should be used. Wet vacuuming of the suspended dirt and grout is recommended.

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A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Back-butter
spreading of a bond coat to the back of a ceramic tile before placing the tile to ensure a strong bond with the thin-set mortar.

Balanced cuts
perimeter tile cut at equal size and installed on opposite sides of an area; also, equally sized cuts on each side of a miter.

Butt joint
a plain square joint between two members with no grout joint.

Grout
a mix used for filling tile joints, commonly based of cement.

Mortar
a mixture of cement paste and fine aggregate used to bond masonry together.

Plumb
perpendicular to true level.

Substrate
the underlying support for a ceramic tile installation

B LEGAL

ATTENTION / ATENCIÓN / ATTENTION

Do not dry cut using motorized equipment due to the potential for exposure to harmful silica dust. Use a wet saw or a score and snap tool when cutting is necessary during the installation process.

No corte en seco usando equipo motorizado debido a la posibilidad de exposición a polvo dañino de sílice. En caso de que sea necesario cortar durante el proceso de instalación, usar una sierra de corte en húmedo o una herramienta cortadora manual.

Ne pas couper à sec à l'aide d'un équipement motorisé en raison du risque d'exposition à la poussière de silice nuisible. Utiliser une scie à eau ou un outil à inciser et rompre lorsqu'il faut couper pendant le processus d'installation.

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