ClearFace™ Unglazed Porcelain Mosaics Installation Guide

Before you Begin:
ClearFace™ Unglazed Porcelain Mosaics are designed to provide a lifetime of beauty and use. The following is a general installation guide for ClearFace™ Unglazed Mosaics. As most installations differ in one respect or another it is always recommended to use products from Custom, Laticrete, or Mapei per guidelines supported by the The Tile Council of America Installation Guide (NTCA) revised 2014 www.tcnatile.com, the National Tile Contractors Association www.tile-assn.com and respective installation materials manufacturers guides for the most up to date procedures.

ClearFace™ Unglazed Porcelain Mosaics may be installed on interior or exterior wall and floor areas, in wet or dry locations and submerged into water.

Important: Many substrates may continue to cure and shrink over a period of months, and a crack suppression membrane prevents shrinkage or movement of the substrate to mirror through the tile. Install only over well-cured, stable substrates. Allow for an expansion joint whenever substrates change. Acceptable substrates would include cement mortar beds, gypsum wall board (dry areas only), and concrete backer boards.

Step 1:
Due to various installation applications, always insure you refer to the setting material manufacturer’s recommendations prior to installation. Use a modified flexible white or gray thin-set mortar (meeting the minimum specifications of ANSI 118.4 or ISO-C2SI) or a 2-component, flexible acrylic thin-set mortar system formulated for interior and exterior wall or floor installations. Using the flat side of a trowel to initiate the bond coat, firmly apply the setting material to the substrate.

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Step 2:
With additional setting material, using a 3/16” x 1/4” V-Notch trowel, comb horizontal, full notches in one direction to establish the proper depth of the setting bed.

Step 3:
Using the flat side of the trowel, flatten the notches to achieve a smooth, consistent setting bed approximately 1/8” thick.

Step 4:
Apply sheets into the setting bed with clear faced film Facing Out using light even pressure to establish contact and eliminate any voids.

Step 5:
To achieve a uniform surface, tap lightly using a wooden beating block and a hammer.

Step 6:
Apply each subsequent sheet so that grout joints line up and a consistent field is maintained. Prior to setting each sheet, check the setting bed for skinning (slight drying of the thin set surface). If skinning occurs, remove thin-set and repeat steps 2 & 3.

Step 7:
To unify the tile surface from one sheet to the next, use a wooden beating block and hammer, again lightly tapping from one sheet to the next.

Step 8:
Wait 24 hours for the thinset to cure and remove the ClearFace ™ film in a diagonal direction keeping it flat against the surface of the tile.

Grouting:
Adequate time must be given for bonding materials to dry prior to grouting. This drying time may be extended when membranes are used. Epoxy Grout is preferred in commercial applications but Sanded Grout can be used. Refer to grout manufacturer’s instructions.

Cutting:
It is recommended to use a hand held scoring tile cutter but a tile nipper can also be used.

Cleaning:

Recommended By Aqua Mix:
Aqua Mix Concentrated Stone & Tile Cleaner
Aqua Mix Heavy Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner
(Follow manufacturer instructions for application process)

Recommended By Stone Tech:
Stone Tech Professional Tile and Stone Cleaner
Stone Tech KlenzAll (Follow manufacturer instructions for application process)

Note:
If installation is going to be submerged please check with Custom, Mapei, or Laticrete as additional steps or material may be required.