

The cement tiles are beautiful but also fragile, and they need a special approach on every step of installation, so please read this text carefully prior to installation. Please bear in mind that these are hand made tiles and they may vary from one tile to another. Keep boxes with the tiles in dry and clean place. Always choose tiles randomly from different boxes. There are several different method of installation of cement tiles but we recommend to seal the tiles before installation or after installation but before grouting.

### SEALING

1. Check carefully if tiles are completely clean and dry before sealing. It is usually enough to dust the tiles with dry brush. We carefully lay the tiles on the ground close to each other in order to reach them without walking on them.
2. Use the big clean brush to put **HMK 34N sealant**. Use it extensively in a well-ventilated room and then leave the tiles for 2 days.

### FLOOR AND WALL PREPARATION:

1. A. Prepare a perfectly level, clean, dry, slightly rough surface in concrete 22 mm below the desired finished floor height (18 mm for the tiles and 4 mm for mortar).
2. Let the concrete slab surface dry completely before installing the cement tiles, otherwise the moisture in the concrete will evaporate through the tiles, resulting in powdery white limestone deposits (efflorescence). Do not lay cement tiles directly onto fresh (uncured) concrete.
3. Wall tile can be installed over drywall, plaster, cement block, cement backer board (for moist areas). The surface should be flat, smooth, and dry and any loose paint or cracked surface should be scraped off and patched. Be sure to use thinset behind the backer board, not to adhere the backer board but rather to fill voids beneath the backer board.

### TILE SETTING:

1. Decide on the layout of the tiles and put them in position to ensure the result before installing them. If you choose a traditional carpet style pattern, start with the center pattern, then lay down the border tiles. Finally, lay down the outside tiles and cut them to fit using a saw with a diamond blade.
2. Polish the sharp edges of each tile with sand paper if necessary.
3. Evenly apply the adhesive mixture to the floor subsurface, using a 1 cm trowel with semicircular notches. Then, cover the entire back of the tile with thin set material. We recommend Mapei Keraquick product.
4. Lay the tiles, and press them into place with the palm of your hand, ensuring that they are perfectly level with each other. (Don't beat the tiles with a tool, such as a rubber hammer, or micro-cracks will begin to appear in the tile over

time.)

5. Be sure that that the tiles are perfectly level throughout the installation, as they cannot be polished down like marble or granite.
6. Use the 1mm tile spacers to separate each tile.
7. Immediately clean thinset or mortar off the face of the tiles. The longer you leave it, the harder it will be to clean it off.
8. Let the thinset mortar dry completely, usually 2 - 4 days, before grouting.

#### **GROUTING:**

1. If the tiles are not pre-sealed or sealed, apply the Grout Release following the manufacturer's instructions. This will help to protect the tiles from being stained by the grout. We prefer to seal the tiles prior to installation and do not use Grout Release.
2. Prepare the grout with 2 parts of cement and one part of very fine white silica sand (0,1-0,2 mm)
3. Fill the small gaps between the tiles with grout, using a rubber float.
4. Immediately remove any excess grout with a clean damp cloth or sponge. As you clean the tiles of any grout, you will also be removing the Grout Release.
5. Do not let any excess grout dry on the surface as it may be difficult to remove and may stain the tiles.
6. When the grout is absolutely dry, usually after 2-3 days cover it with sealant. You may seal all the tiles once again.

#### **DAILY MAINTENANCE:**

1. The tiles should be cleaned using mild soap based detergents (diluted soft soap is the best). Repeated cleaning with soft soap will also help maintain a satin finish to the tiles and to an extent acts as a continuous re-sealant.
2. Never use acidic cleaners or other acids on cement tiles.
3. In case of stains hard to remove, use products for cleaning and stain removing for marble, ex. Fila PS 87. and brush or britte-scotch sponges.