



Cement Tile Installation for

## **Residential and Low-Traffic Installations**

Preparation – Installation – Sealing – Maintenance Requirements  
Using

## **VLT Grout Release and Nanosealant**

**PLEASE READ**

Villa Lagoon Tile

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# Villa Lagoon Tile

## Preparation – Installation – Sealing – Maintenance Requirements Using **VLT Grout Release and NanoSealant**

### Tools – Supplies - Equipment Needed

- Level
- Tile Wet Saw-Diamond Blade
- Carpenter's Square
- Notched 1/2" Hand Trowel
- Grout Float—Rubber
- Tape Measure
- Buckets for Mortar
- Chalk Line
- Tile Adhesive - Regular or Modified Thinset Mortar
- Unsanded Grout
- Sponge
- Clean Rags
- Goggles for Cutting Tile
- VLT Grout Release and NanoSealant
- Short-nap Roller Applicator - 1/4"

### Important

**Cement tiles show nuances in design and colors. Individual tiles will not be identical. This is a result of the hand-crafted process and the nature of cement. Mixing tiles from different boxes during setting is suggested to produce a beautiful natural appearance.**

### Precautions and Hints

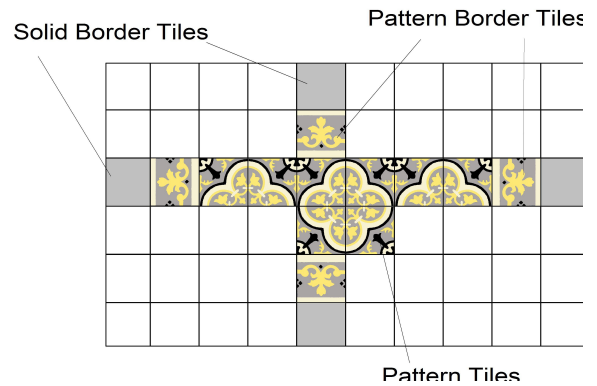
- Examine the tiles when they arrive. **Please note any damage on the delivery driver's paperwork.**
- **Do not allow the boxes to get wet.** Wet or damp boxes can stain the tiles. Store in a dry area.
- Examine each tile for damage. Set aside any damaged tiles for later use. Damaged tiles may be used on other parts of the floor where tiles may need to be trimmed.
- Cement tiles are very absorbent and can be easily be stained. **Until they are appropriately sealed, avoid walking on the raw tiles or handling with dirty hands.**
- Do not make any unnecessary pencil marks on cement tiles. Pencil marks are difficult to remove.
- Cutting the tiles – Be sure to use a wet saw with a diamond blade. Measure twice, cut once.
- Adhesive mortar – regular or modified thinset may be used. Mix as directed. We do not recommend mastic.
- For outdoor installations or in wet areas please contact Villa Lagoon Tile-  
[info@villalagoontile.com](mailto:info@villalagoontile.com).

### Surface Preparation

- All surfaces must be solid and clean.
- Floors – cement slab or subfloor covered with cementitious board (i.e.Hardie, Durock).
- Walls – covered with cementitious board (i.e.Hardie, Durock). No regular drywall (Gypsum).

## Step 1 - Tile layout

- Prior to installing, check layout plan by laying out at least one row of your tiles dry (without adhesive) in each direction of your intended tile orientation. You may need to shift the layout to balance the border tiles from the walls. If using pattern tiles, make careful note of the tile's orientation.



## Step 2 - Setting the Tile

Setting cement tile is not difficult. Preparation is a key to success. **Remember these tiles are porous and can be stained by dirt, thinset, chalk, pencil marks, and greasy hands.** We recommend the following procedure.

- **Be sure to pull tiles from different boxes.** This creates a more consistent floor look with out light or dark areas.
- Working in 2-3 square foot areas, spread the thinset mortar on the tiling surface using the 1/2" hand trowel.
- Press the tile down firmly with your hands, **DO NOT USE A HAMMER OR RUBBER Mallet.** This can break the tiles.
- Grout joints should be not larger than 1/8".
- Avoid getting the thinset on the surface of the tile. The thinset can stain the unsealed tile.
- Be sure to check for alignment, and lippage on every tile.

## Step 3 - Cleaning and Drying (Before Applying Grout Release Sealant)

- Once the tiles are set, let stand/cure 24 hours until dry. Look for any surface dirt or dried mortar carefully without scratching the surface.
- **DO NOT USE ACIDS, VINEGAR, ON CEMENT TILE.**
- A razor blade for scraping or medium sandpaper 150 grit is acceptable.
- **Allow tiles to dry out completely 12-24 hours is preferred.** If tiles are sealed when wet, it can impede evaporation of excess water and result in ghosting to appear under the sealant and/or discoloration.
- **During drying period, protect tile at all times from workmen, foot traffic, etc.**

## Step 4 - Applying Sealant as a Grout Release

We recommend the VLT NanoSealant as the grout release and a second coat after grouting as a top-coat sealant. Failure to use a grout release can result in the tiles being permanently embedded with grout residue or stained.

VLT NanoSealant is UV stable for exterior and interior use, over either tight or open surfaces.

Apply at 50°F - 85°F ambient air and substrate temperature.



## Applying Grout Release using the VLT NanoSealant

Directions for application:

- Surface must be clean, dry and free from contaminants such as grease, oil, or wax.
- It is important that the tile be dry. **NOTE:** Any residual moisture may cause ghosting/whitening of the sealant.
- The key for best results is applying the product in thin coats. Thick coats take longer to dry/cure and reduces abrasion and stain resistance.
- Apply the product prior to grouting using a short nap 1/4" roller applicator.
- Pour a portion of the NanoSealant into a paint roller pan.
- Dip the applicator in the mixture and let excess drip off. Load the roller, but so as **NOT** to drip excess. Keep a wet edge.
- **ATTENTION:** The key to success is putting a thin coat of the product on the tile. **DO NOT** allow the sealant to puddle on the tile. Excess sealant will not dry evenly and can inhibit curing.
- Spread a thin coat of the mixture evenly using vertical or horizontal motions without pressure. Let the applicator glide over the tiles' surface.
- **DO NOT** go back over an area until it is dry.
- Let dry/cure for **at least 12 hrs before grouting**. For maximum hardness let cure for 48 hours.

## Step 5 - Grouting the Tile

**IMPORTANT:** Do not use dark tinted grout unless it matches the color of your tile. Dark grouts can stain your tiles in light areas. Test your grout on a spare tile. On solid color tiles, use grout of a similar color. On multi-color tiles, use mid-range gray untinted grout (sidewalk color).

- Be sure the floor is completely dry before grouting. Mix the grout as directed.
- Unsanded grout is recommended for grout joints 1/8" or less.
- Black grout may create a dark residue on the tiles that may be difficult to remove. A medium to light color is recommended – Regular or modified thinset may be used. No epoxy grout.
- Working in 2-3 square foot areas, spread the grout on the tile surface; then, using the grout float, move the grout at 45 degree angles to the grout lines. This ensures a smooth even grout joint.
- Quickly clean up excess off the face of the tile using a soft sponge and clean water. Avoid pulling the grout from the grout line by wiping at an angle to all grout lines.
- Be sure to get the tile surface as clean as possible.
- Let dry/cure for minimum of 12 hours.

## Step 6 - NanoSealant as a Top-coat Sealant (after grouting)

- Repeat Step 4

## Maintenance / Cleaning Information

To increase the service life and maintain an attractive appearance, a proper maintenance and cleaning schedule is recommended for all cement tiles.

## Routine Cleaning

- **DO NOT USE:** acids of any kind (i.e. Vinegar, Muratic)
- **DO NOT USE** abrasive agents or pads. (i.e. 3M Scotch Brite pads) A soft bristle brush is recommended.
- In entrances, consider using walk-off mats or small rugs to prevent dirt and grit being ground into the face of the tile..

- Spills should be cleaned up immediately as a safety precaution, as well as to prevent staining of the floor.
- For floors, frequent or daily sweeping and wet mopping is recommended to remove all dirt and debris. The buildup of dirt and debris can cause friction between the tile surface and shoes. This can result in scratching and dirt being embedded into the face of the tile.
- When wet mopping, we recommend a pH neutral cleaning product (i.e. Dawn dish detergent). Be sure to test the cleaning product in an isolated area before applying to the entire floor. Rinse with clean water; do not flood floor, - damp mop only or commercial machine cleaning. Adding too much detergent to water could result in a thin layer of cleaner residue on the floor which can cause the floor to look hazy and / or become more slippery when wet.
- Areas that are subject to oil, grease or harsh contaminants should be degreased and scrubbed on a regular basis. Bar Keepers Friend and a soft bristle brush works well.
- Reapplication of a high quality penetrating/impregnating sealant may be required periodically as needed.
- Be sure to clean the floor thoroughly before applying the sealant. Apply as directed.

### **Stain Removing Hints**

- Accidents happen and the tiles even after sealing may get stained. Stains should be treated as soon as possible. Soda, wine, salad dressings, food spills, etc. should not be left to sit on the tile as they can eventually penetrate through the sealer and stain the tile.

#### **Organic Stains**

- Clean with Hydrogen Peroxide. Saturate a clean cloth/gause pad. Place on stain. Place 1-2 inches of dry cloth/pad and small weight. Let set 20 minutes, check, reapply if needed for a longer period of time. Bar Keepers Friend and a soft bristle brush works well too. Rinse with copious water after using Bar Keeper's Friend.

#### **Inorganic Stains**

- Create a paste using Oxi-Clean. Apply to stain. Let set 20 minutes, check, reapply if needed.

#### **Biological Stains**

- Clean off any residue. Clean with soft bristled brush and cleaning solution - pH neutral cleaning product in water or Oxi-Clean. If stain remains, follow above directions for Organic Stains. Bar Keepers Friend and a soft bristle brush works well. Rinse with copious water after using Bar Keeper's Friend.

#### **Oil-based Stains**

- Apply pH neutral dish detergent directly to the stain. Let set 20 minutes, check, reapply if needed. If stain persists, follow above directions for inorganic stains. Bar Keepers Friend and a soft bristle brush works well. Rinse with copious water after using Bar Keeper's Friend.

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