



Cement Tile Installation (For Pre-Treated Tile)

Tile Setting - Sealing and Maintenance Requirements

PLEASE READ

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Villa Lagoon Tile

Installation, Tile Setting, Sealing, and Maintenance Suggestions

Tools, Supplies and Equipment Needed

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level• Tile West Saw-Diamond Blade• Carpenter's Square• Notched 1/2" Hand Trowel• Grout Float—Rubber• Pencil• Tape Measure• Buckets for Mortar• Chalk Line | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tile Adhesive—Regular Thinset Mortar• Unsanded Grout• 6 to 8 foot Straight Edge• Containers to Wet the Tiles• Sponge• Clean Rags• Goggles for Cutting Tile• Grout Release• Sealant |
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About the Tiles

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 necessary to produce a beautiful naturally rich appearance.

Precautions

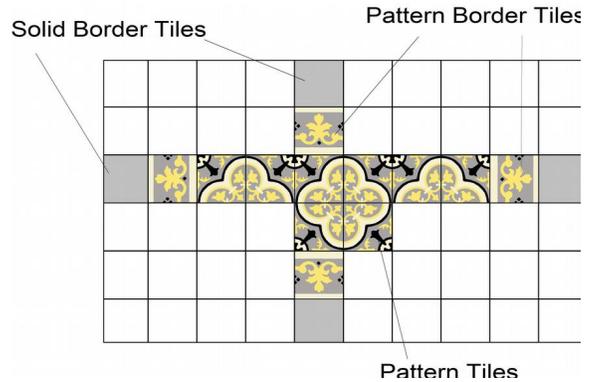
1. These cement tiles are slightly pre-treated with wax. Cement tiles are very absorbent. **These tiles can be easily stained** until they are appropriately sealed. Avoid walking on the raw tiles or handling with dirty hands.
2. Tiles must be clean and dry before each coat of sealant. Moisture in the tile can be trapped by the sealant, and cause discoloration later.
3. Always test products on a single tile before applying to the entire floor.
4. Do not make any unnecessary pencil marks on cement tiles as they may be impossible to remove later.
5. Cement tiles, as with all building materials, are subject to contraction and expansion depending on climate. If you are covering a large area install it as a “floating floor” using an uncoupling membrane or a similar product and/or use expansion joints to prevent cracks in your tile. Ensure that the products you are using provide adequate support for the tile.

Procedure Outline

1. Tile Layout
2. Tile Setting
3. Cleaning and Drying
4. Applying Sealant as Grout Release
5. Grouting
6. Application of Sealant
7. Waxing
8. Routine Maintenance

Step 1 - Tile Layout

1. Prior to installing, lay out at least one row of your tiles dry (without adhesive) in each direction of your intended tile orientation (plan) to see if any adjustments need to be made. You may need to shift the layout to balance border tiles from the walls. If using pattern tiles make careful note of the tile's orientation.
2. Snap guidelines using a chalk-line to suit your layout. A light coat of clear spray or hairspray will help preserve the chalk lines.



Step 2 - Setting the Tile

Setting our cement tile is not difficult. Preparation is a key component 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.

1. Examine all the tiles for damage. There is some color variation between tiles. It is the nature of the hand-made tiles, not a flaw in the tile.
2. Follow your layout from Step 1. Now is a good time to recheck.
3. Prepare the thinset mortar. It should be stiff enough to stand up, using a 1/2" trowel.
4. These cement tiles are very absorbent so **PRE-WETTING THE BACK SIDE OF THE TILES PRIOR TO SETTING IS REQUIRED**. Fill a bucket with water. Briefly dip the tiles in the water (3 to 5 seconds) let the excess drip away in a second bucket or vessel (a beer cooler works great). Avoid letting the tiles set in water for long periods of time.
5. Working in 2-3 square foot areas, spread the thinset on the tiling surface using the hand trowel.
6. Use a 1/2" or 3/4" notched trowel.
7. Press the tile down firmly with your hands, **DO NOT USE A HAMMER OR RUBBER MALLETT**. This can break the tiles. **Traditionally cement tiles are set abutted to one another without spacers with a very narrow grout line - 1/8 ".**
8. Avoid getting the thinset on the surface of the tile. The thinset could stain the unsealed tile.
9. Follow the chalk line guides in one direction using whole tiles. Be sure to check for squareness, alignment and lippage on every tile. One good test for levelness is to slide a coin across your tiles.
10. Begin seating tiles in the opposite direction along the guidelines using the same procedure as above.



Pre-wet tiles by dipping them for 3 to 5 seconds in water prior to setting.

Step 3 - Cleaning and Drying (Before First Coat of Sealant)

1. Once the tiles are set, let stand/cure 12-15 hours until dry. Look for any surface dirt or dried mortar and remove with a razor blade carefully without scratching the surface. **DO NOT USE ANY ACIDS, VINEGAR, OR BLEACH ON CEMENT TILE.** A razor blade for scraping or Medium sandpaper with water is acceptable. Very fine sandpaper may polish instead of remove. It is acceptable to use drugstore Hydrogen Peroxide to remove some stains on cement tile.
2. **Allow tiles to dry out completely.** If tiles are sealed and/or waxed when wet, it can impede evaporation and result in ghosting under the sealant.
3. During drying protect tile at all times from workmen, foot traffic, etc. Ramboard® is a breathable product on a roll made for this purpose.
4. For best results, you can test that your tiles are thoroughly dry by using painter's tape to cover a small area of tile with plastic wrap, and allowing it to sit overnight. If the underside of the plastic has any moisture on it in the morning, the tiles are still not dry enough. **This test is highly recommended in humid environments, and in installations with radiant heating.** Powering "on" a sub-floor heating system (even for a brief test) while the tile is still damp can permanently damage your installation.

Step 4 - Applying Sealant as a Grout Release

The use of a grout release is recommended. Failure to use a grout release can result in the tiles being permanently embedded with grout. If using a non-recommended grout release be sure to test the grout release on scrap tile or in a remote corner before applying to the entire floor.

1. Let the tiles dry completely (at least 24 after being set) before applying the grout release.
2. Apply the first coat of permanent sealant as a grout release as directed to the tile prior to grouting. **Let dry 24 hours.**

IMPORTANT: some tiles are more porous than others, try the first coat of sealant (grout release) at full strength on a spare tile. If it tends to make too many bubbles which may leave pimpled marks around them, dilute your first coat with 25% water. Subsequent coats can then be full strength.

Tile Use	Recommended Grout Release/Sealant (Pre-Treated Tiles Only)
Residential / Commercial	Dry-Treat STAIN-PROOF Original™ as directed on the package http://www.drytreat.com/Products/Protection/STAIN-PROOF-Original



Step 5 - Grouting the Tile

IMPORTANT: Do not use dark tinted grout unless it matches the color of your tile. This 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).

Before grouting make sure the grout release-sealant is completely dry and cured a minimum of 24 hours.

Generally cement tiles are set abutted to one another with a small grout line. The only exception is for outdoor use or designs where some clients may prefer a wider grout line for better waterproofing.

1. If the grout line is 1/8" or less **unsanded** grout is recommended. With larger grout space use sanded grout.
2. If closely spaced, mix the grout to a slurry consistency... slightly runny; not thick.
3. Apply the grout to areas of 3-4 square feet and push the grout around the area using a grout float or squeegee. Repeat in 30 minutes, if using very thin grout.
4. Clean up excess off the face of the tile using a soft sponge and water. Avoid pulling the grout from the grout line by wiping at an angle to all grout lines.
5. Let dry/cure for minimum of 24 hours.

Step 6 - Sealing the Tiles

After tiles and grout are dry apply a second coat of **Dry-Treat STAIN-PROOF Original™**.

Step 7 - Waxing the Tiles

For protection from spills and dirt and to produce a nice sheen on your floor apply paste wax and buff. We recommend MinWax Brand Paste Finishing Wax-Neutral Color. It is inexpensive and available in the paint departments of Lowe's and Home Depot. It comes in a yellow can. Apply 2 light coats, buffing between coats.

Ongoing Maintenance of Cement Tiles

1. Never use acid cleaners for cement tiles. **Use only pH neutral mild soap or dish soap.** See our website (www.VillaLagoonTile.com) for suggestions.
2. Occasionally re-apply wax to high traffic areas if needed.
3. Swiffer® or similar cleaning tools are a good choice for tile floors. See our website for links to special 3M® cloths that are more efficient than grocery store types.
4. Many stains can be removed with inexpensive drug store Hydrogen Peroxide. Saturate a clean cloth or white paper towel and let it sit on the stain. It does not harm the tile and is similar to teeth bleaching. See our website for more stain removal tips.

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