



Installation Guide - Contours Series

GENERAL INFORMATION

Diamond Tech's Contours Series is a natural split-faced stone, each 12" x 12" mesh-backed tile creates a dimensional textured surface. Contours may be used for interior and exterior vertical applications and is suitable for both residential and commercial use. Contours is not recommended in showers. It is also not suitable for floors.

NOTE: Due to the nature of natural stone, variations of color and veining within the tile will occur and is not consider a flaw.

RECOMMENDED SUBSTRATES

Set the mosaic on a substrate that is rated to hold natural stone. This will include cement backer boards, concrete masonry units, brick/masonry, exterior grade plywood, traditional mud beds, etc. Consult a professional builder for rating requirements before starting the project. Insure the framing is structurally sound and up to code. Be sure the entire surface is level before installation. All surfaces must be sound, clean, and free of oil, waxes, frost, curing agents, form release agents and any other bond inhibiting contaminants. After the surface is completely clean, inspect the surface for any dips or bumps. Make all repairs necessary to make the surface level and smooth.

SETTING MATERIALS

Before you begin, insure that the type of setting materials used is rated to hold the specific type of stone mosaic. Be sure to use non-staining setting materials and follow the manufacturer's instructions to make it ready to be troweled onto the surface.

INSTALLATION

1. Shuffle the tiles from different boxes so variations in color are distributed throughout the installation.
2. Mix setting materials according to manufacturer's instructions.
3. Using no larger than a 1/4" x 1/4" inch "V" notched trowel (a 3/16 "V" notch is usually perfect) or one suggested for the setting materials used, trowel out enough mortar or adhesive to cover the area to set the first few sections. When troweling the mortar, be sure that it is spread evenly. Thick spots will result in mortar bleeding up through the seams. Should this occur, mortar will need to be removed from the seams. Thin spots will result in stone mosaics not sticking at all. For best adhesion, cover the back of each individual or sheet of tile with a thin layer of mortar using the trowel.
4. Carefully place the first two to four sections of tile into place. If product is mesh-backed, place the tile mesh-side down into the setting material.
5. Using a level surface such as a wooden block and a rubber mallet, tap the sections into the setting material, avoid the outside edges adjacent to the next sections.
6. Press another section into the setting material, adjacent and flush against the previous tile. Doing so will prevent the seams from showing. Tap again with your flat level surface, this time pressing down on the seams between sections (this avoids "cupping") but again, avoiding the outside abutting edges (except for the edges that are against the outside wall or threshold).
7. Repeat this process for the next few sections, periodically examining the installation. If the seams are undetectable, the job has been done well. Seams are created by gaps in section placement, uneven (height) pieces along the edge of the seam, and stone mosaic not lining up within a section. The seams will

need to be re-worked between the sections as necessary to make them undetectable. To rework seams reset pieces on the seam to blend evenly.

8. Periodically use your level to insure tile height is consistent. Repeat steps until the stone tiles are set and seamless.
9. Allow setting material to cure according to the instructions on the setting material package.

SEALING TILE

Once the stone is 100% set, clean once more with a vacuum. Apply the final coats of sealer following the manufacturer's directions.

GENERAL GROUTING INSTALLATION

Grouting is not necessary for Contours tile. If small cracks, gaps or seams exist between the split-faced tiles or sheets, fill them with grout that closely matches the color of the stone.

TILE CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

Clean stone surfaces with a neutral cleaner designated safe for natural stone. Use a clean soft cloth for best results. Don't use more than the recommended amount of any cleaning product. Too much may leave a film, causing streaks. Change rinse water frequently. Do not use products that contain lemon, vinegar or other acids on marble, travertine or limestone as these can etch the surface of the stone.

CAUTION: Not all adhesives, cleaners, grouts and sealers are not equally suitable for all types of tiles. Check with a tile specialist for specific recommendation.

NOTES: