Installation Guide - Impact Series

GENERAL INFORMATION

Diamond Tech's Impact tile may be used for interior and exterior vertical applications. Variations in color, shade and size are inherent in all stone and fired glass products. The tile should not be exposed to high abrasion, or extremely heavy impact.

Impact containing metal is not recommended in shower stalls or surrounds. Nor is it for use in outdoor applications, high moisture areas or bathroom and kitchen floors where water puddling may occur.

The following recommendations comply with the TCNA (Tile Council of North America) Handbook Guidelines.

RECOMMENDED SUBSTRATES

Well cured mortar beds-ANSI A108.1B (cured a minimum of 7 days). Cementitious backer units (CBU)-ANSI A118.9 (Note: An ANSI A108A-2.1.8 membrane is required behind all CBU installations in wet areas. Concrete slabs (on grade) cured for 28 days minimum. Gypsum board (dry areas only)-ASTM C1396 or ASTM C1396M-04.

NOTE: Directly bonding glass tiles to wood substrates is not recommended. All surfaces to receive tile shall be left clean, and free of dust, oil, grease, paint, tar, curing agent, primer, sealer, adhesive residue, form release agent or any other deleterious substance and debris which may prevent or reduce adhesion.

Glass tile contained in this product has a high rate of expansion and contraction, which requires the installation of movement joints.

SETTING MATERIALS

We recommend any high grade flexible mortar system (latex modified) as a setting material for Impact tiles. To grout, we recommend a premium polymer-modified unsanded grout, to prevent scratching.

INSTALLATION

1. Shuffle the tiles from different boxes so that variations in color are distributed throughout the installation.
2. Mix setting materials according to manufacturer's instructions.
3. Apply setting materials to the substrate using the notched side of a 1/4" x 1/4" square V-notched trowel.
4. Using the flat side of the trowel, smooth out all ridges to achieve a consistent, even 3/16" thick coverage.
5. Carefully place the first 2-4 sections, mesh-side down, into place.
6. After tile application, use a rubber float or equivalent tool to gently press the tile into the adhesive and flatten sheets to each other to insure complete contact. Do not push the sheets too deeply into the setting materials, as this will cause the setting materials to ooze too far up between the spaces in the tile.
7. Adjust tile sheets for correct alignment and even spacing between sheets. Do not allow setting material to dry or skin over before completing this process.

GENERAL GROUTING INSTALLATION

- Apply a coat of quality penetrating sealer before grouting. Grouting a porous stone product without sealing may cause the stone to wick up the grout making clean-up difficult. Please note, sealers for natural stone are available through local hardware stores and tile retailers. Do not use a top coat, as it will change the color of the stone. Allow sealer to dry according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Choose a grout color appropriate for the installation. For a seamless look, use a complimentary color. Mix grout according to manufacturer's directions.
- Grout openings between lines and sheets so it is flush with the surface of the tile.
- Clean the joints with a damp sponge taking care not to remove too much grout.

- Clean all excess grout immediately with a damp sponge.
- After grouting, protect area from foot traffic and water exposure for at least 72 hours.
- Polish off any remaining haze with a dry cloth or towel.
- Once the stone is 100% haze-free, clean once more with a vacuum. Apply the final coats of sealer following the manufacturer's directions.

PLEASE NOTE: Not all adhesives, cleaners, grouts and sealers are not equally suitable for all types of tiles.

CUTTING AND DRILLING

Eye protection should always be worn when cutting or drilling glass tiles.

We highly recommend that cuts be made with a wet saw and a NEW diamond rimmed blade designed SPECIFICALLY to cut glass (we recommend the MK-215GL). Slowly push the tile into the blade. Pushing too hard or cutting too fast may cause the glass to chip. Ceramic tile blades are NOT recommended; their cuts are too coarse and tend to chip tile surface of the glass. To finish the edge, smooth with a diamond hand pad, tile blade or dressing stone.

Drilling holes through glass tile can be accomplished with a diamond core bit using a drill with low speed (250 to 300 rpm). Continually misting the tile and drill bit during cutting is imperative to prevent glass from cracking. If partitions or fixtures are to be attached with anchoring bolts, drill hole 1/8" larger to avoid stress transfer to the tile. If tiles have not been installed, drilling from both sides will minimize chipping and cracking.

TILE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Clean stone surfaces with a neutral cleaner designated safe for natural stone and glass tile. 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. Do not use scouring powders or creams; these products contain abrasives that may scratch the surface.

NOTES: