



## **CAPESTONE TILE INSTALLATION GUIDE**

### **STORAGE & HANDLING**

All Tiles must be handled with care to avoid damaging edges and surface of the product. All Paving is delivered to site on pallets and/or wrapped to prevent damage. On delivery, it is important that pallets are placed on level and stable ground. Once goods have been offloaded on site it is very important that the tiles are taken randomly from various pallets to ensure good colour distribution between the various batches. Products must always be handled with care to avoid breakages and chipping, prior to laying. It is recommended that the tiles are stored against a wall indoors upright out of the rain and weathering on two wooden battens as spacers between floor and tiles. Thus preventing any water or moisture been drawn into the tile prior to installation.

### **PREPARATION**

When laying the tile onto a new concrete slab allow at least 3 – 4 weeks for the slab to cure and dry before applying the tiles as slabs will contract during curing and drying process.

Ensure that all concrete surfaces to be tiled are clean and dust/dirt free.

Concrete products should never be installed onto clay/ceramic or any other type of products as there heating and cooling temperatures differ greatly.

## **TILE INSTALLATION INTO CEMENT SCREED**

### **1. Into a screed:**

This is used if a concrete slab is not cast to save costs and tile is laid and bedded into the screed – residential or light usage only

- Before tiling process wash off the back of each tile using a steel brush and water removing all loose dust etc.
- Throw a 40 – 75mm semi-dry cement screed (5 sand to 1 cement) and compact it well, ensure you take into account the levels or “fall” etc. required. You should allow a slope of 4-5 cm every 3 metres (1:50) approx. away from the house or building.
- Begin tiling in one corner, layout your tiles in order to fit sizes and thicknesses best with each other.
- All the height and size adjustments the sizes vary in thickness and size due to their individual nature of each tile.
- A cement slurry (cement/ water) should then be used under each tile
- This requires lifting each tile pouring the slurry on the screed and bedding tile using a twisting action to ensure full contact between the screed, slurry and tiles.
- Use a spirit level and a straight edge to ensure levels and falls are correct.
- Tapping gently with a rubber mallet will assist with adhesion.
- We recommend lifting a tile ever so often to check the adhesion of tile screed is done correctly.
- Clean off surplus cement on the face continuously using a sponge and water before it dries and stains the surface.[Please ensure sponges and water is changed often while cleaning]

### **2. Using Tile Adhesive:**

- Adhesive is the best way to lay the tile but can be expensive due to the unevenness of the tile.
- 1 bag of adhesive should ensure coverage of 1.5m<sup>2</sup> of tiles

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# CAPESTONE

— MANUFACTURES OF SIMULATED STONE PRODUCTS —

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- Never tile in hot conditions as this will cause the adhesive to dry too quickly creating adhesion and grouting issues going forward.
- Before the tiling process wash off the back of each tile using a steel brush and water removing all loose dust etc.
- Begin tiling in one corner lay out your tiles in order to fit sizes and thicknesses best with each other
- Do not walk on uninstalled tiles as they will break.
- Cutting of tiles may be done by using an angle grinder and diamond blade cutting disk.
- Ensure the entire area of the back of the tile is covered with the tile paste.
- As with the screed option insert using the twisting method and rubber mallet.
- Use a spirit level and a straight edge to ensure levels and falls are correct.
- Ensure when checking levels it is done from the top of the tile and not bottom.
- Tiles should not have less than 8mm grout joints between them.
- When tiling onto a concrete deck ensure to check with your contractor on correct waterproofing requirements and best method to tile onto their recommendation.
- Ensure that sufficient fall is given for water drainage to prevent pooling of water on the tiles. Which may cause efflorescence, negative transparency [Stone visible in product], dark marking on tiles, as the tile will never dry out effectively.

## **Grouting of tiles:**

- Grouting must be done 1-2 days after tiles have been installed in order to ensure the tile installation has settled and dried out correctly.
- This is easily done using a semi dry mortar mix of 2 or 3 parts building sand to 1 cement, fed into the gap and trowelled or sponged to desired effect.
- It is important to clean the tiles off with clean water whilst grouting – changing the water and sponges regularly.

## **Cleaning of tiles:**

- If the product is badly stained use acidic cleaners sparingly to remove grout and cement stains. This is however done at your risk and must be supervised by the tiling contractor or installer responsible.
- A mix of water and pool acid – 10:1 doing small areas of less than 1m<sup>2</sup> at a time with a medium to soft plastic bristle brush, rinsing off heavily with water/ soap solution to dilute so as not to damage the tiles.
- Alternatively we supply paving product cleaner that could assist with removal of stains.
- As it is a cement product it requires time after being laid to dry out to its original colour etc. Often the tile has a wet patch in the middle after being laid; this is because the tile dries from the outside in. This marking will disappear depending on how much moisture etc. has been trapped under the tile and how long this takes to move out through natural osmosis. Prevailing ground conditions play a huge part in this regard i.e. clay is the worst.

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