



William Morris Tile

*18653 Farmington Road, Ste. 226
Beaverton, Oregon 97007*

Stone and Marble Tile Installation Instructions

General

Tiles can be installed on walls in kitchens, bathrooms, any interior wall. They make excellent backsplashes and fireplace surrounds. The tile surface should be reasonably protected from scratches and should be cared for as you would care for granite countertops or the finish of your kitchen appliances such as your microwave or refrigerator. The finishes are tough and durable but they do need to be protected from scratching. A quick list of cautions during installation:

- *Do not apply any type of tape to the face of the tiles as the chemicals used for adhesive of the tape may have an effect on the glaze.*
- *Do not lay tiles face down on any hard surface. If you need to lay tiles face down, lay them on a towel.*
- *Do not place one tile on top of another with the backside of one tile touching the face of another.*
- *Do not use abrasive products on your tile. Use only unsanded grout for your tile.*
- *Do not allow grout or adhesive to dry on your tile.*

Sealer

You need to seal your tiles because they are a natural stone and are porous. You can use any quality water-based stone sealer. There are a couple of kinds of sealer – some also have an “enhancer”. The enhancer is not necessary, but won’t hurt anything if you do choose one. It will bring out (“enhance”) the light and dark colors in the stone, changing the colors of the design on your tile slightly, making it somewhat darker. If you bought a sample tile, test the sealer on a portion of that tile to be sure the effect is what you want. Leave part of the tile unsealed so that you have a surface to try another sealer, if you do not like the first one. Sealers come in glossy, semigloss, and matte. It will not hurt to give the tiles a second coat of sealer after they are installed and grouted if you like. Do read the instructions on the bottle regarding time to let sit before wiping off if necessary, using a well-ventilated space, and so forth.

Installation Adhesive

You can use any *unsanded* tile adhesive to mount your tiles. Tile adhesive, such as thinset, is available from your local hardware or home improvement store. **Do not allow the adhesive to dry on the face of the tiles.** Wipe the tile clean of all adhesive that gets on the face of the tiles immediately after adhering the tile to the wall. If adhesive does dry on the face of the tile, soak the section and rub vigorously with a microfiber cloth. Treat the finish as you would a polished granite countertop – do not attempt to scrape off the adhesive.

Grouting

You must use *unsanded* grout to prevent scratching the surface of the tiles. This is not the default and bears repeating. The sand in sanded grout is very abrasive and will have a negative effect on the gloss of your installed tiles. You can use any color grout. A rubber float is helpful when grouting the tiles with *unsanded* grout. After applying the grout, remove the excess grout

from the tile faces *immediately* with a grout sponge or cellulose sponge and water. **Do not allow the grout to dry on the face of the tiles.**

The grout will fill the small holes and indentations in stone and marble tile. It may be difficult to remove all of the grout from every small crevice and indentation in the stone. This is normal and many people like this look, unless you've gone with a strangely contrasting grout color. Wipe the surface clean of all grout residue immediately following the grouting of the tiles. This step will require several passes over a period of an hour or more. Use water only to mix dry powder grout – **do not use a grout additive**. Be sure to use a soft *rubber* float for applying the group.

Grout Color

You have several color choices available to you for grout color. A darker color than the tile will make the color stand out pop. Black, however, will show every bit of dust that passes through. If you don't see a color you like, your installer can mix for you to get something more suitable.

Light, Heat, and Weather

The tiles are intended for interior use. They probably won't hold up to outside weathering and temperatures. They will work in showers and for backsplashes, like any other stone, with the usual good sealing required for such environments. They are promised to be good to 400 degrees F. A reasonable amount of sunlight won't bother them, but in an area that receives several hours of direct sunlight, you may see some fading over time, especially reds. For example, all those pink flowers on the Talavera tile exterior tile stairs one sees in California – those were originally deep or bright red. Generally, if you are comfortable in the area where you install the tiles, the tiles will be comfortable, too, and last a good long time.

These tiles are not suitable for floors or countertops. They will not break but there will be little tiny scuff marks in the glaze, which will make it look dull. If installed in a kitchen or bathroom (even a shower), the grout will definitely need special sealing. Your installer will know about this.

Cleaning Your Tiles

You can clean these tiles with any *non-abrasive* cleaners. Even an abrasive cleanser won't hurt them, but a close inspection will show tiny scrub marks. I have used both a mixture of water and vinegar and water and diluted dish soap when they seemed greasy in my kitchen. I think I prefer the diluted vinegar solution, but both are fine.

Clean and treat your art tiles just as you would the surface of any non-stainless steel appliance, like your microwave or refrigerator surface.

Murals - Laying out your tile

On the Horizontal: It can be helpful to lay out your tiles on the floor where you will be installing your mural. This will allow you to adjust the grout width to accommodate the installation width of your tile. You will be using *unsanded* grout, which will accommodate grout spacing of about 1/8 inch, maybe a smidge more. You can use this grout spacing to your advantage if you do not want to fill in with field tile on the sides of your mural.

On the vertical: Choose the height where you want your midline to be, much as you would when hanging a picture. Next, mark the bottom edge of the area to be tiled. Measure the distance from the bottom edge of the mural or tile rows to the floor. Divide that number by the size of your field tile plus your grout spacing. If the remainder on your division is small, it will be necessary to cut very small pieces of field tile to fill in, which is difficult and looks unplanned. By adjusting the vertical height of your mural an inch or two, you avoid having small shards of tile along the bottom border. The same process works for the space between the top of the mural and the top of your tile border. Adjust as necessary.