



concrete is beautiful

ATTENTION INSTALLERS

1. These tiles are handmade and exhibit tonal variation similar to that of natural stone.
2. Colour will vary from piece to piece and bundle to bundle.
3. It is the responsibility of the installer to plan the installation layout in order to achieve an aesthetically pleasing result.
4. Tiles are not sealed
5. Read attached installation notes before beginning installation

STORE TILES ON EDGE. STACKING MAY DAMAGES TILES



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SOLUS HANDCAST CONCRETE TILE - INSTALLATION NOTES FOR FLOOR APPLICATION

Solus Handcast Concrete tile is a unique product that should be handled and installed in a similar fashion to natural stone. There are a few important recommendations that should be noted. Please read these guidelines thoroughly before installation.

GENERAL

- Concrete tile should only be stacked on edge, never stacked flat
- All tiles should be stored in a dry place. Concrete tile may effloresce or discolour if left in a moist environment for extended periods.

INSTALLATION

PRESEAL

- Concrete is more absorptive than other stone and may draw moisture from grouts and mortars.
- Preseal tile including edges. We recommend two coats of Fabrikem Fabrishield 760. In the Vancouver area, this can be purchased at Fraser Valley Brick and Block. Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice (solvent based) and Miracle 511 Porous Plus are also effective sealers.

SUBFLOOR

- Concrete is only as strong as the substrate upon which it is set. Properly cured concrete, or exterior grade plywood of at least 1 1/4" is adequate. We recommend the use of an anti-fracture membrane such as Mapei PRP 315 with Fibre Mesh. You may even want to prepare a wood floor with PRP seal to cut down on movement.

SETTING

- Tile will vary in colour from one piece to the next and should be placed with this in mind. All tiles should be ordered and shipped at one time and efforts should be made to "randomize" colouration to achieve an organic, natural look.
- We do not recommend grout joints of less than 1/4".
- If there is in-floor heating, ensure that it is set low; no more than 15 to 16 degrees and that adequate time is allowed for the floor to cool.
- Use thinset mortar and back-butter. This will ensure a good bond.
- Thinset quantity will be similar to semi-gauged slate. We recommend: Mapei Grani Rapid.
- Cut with a standard diamond wet saw.
- After cutting, immediately wipe tile dry of surface moisture and cutting residue.
- For larger tiles (24"+) it is advisable to place expansion joints at 20' spacing.

Please see page 2...

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TILE INSTALLATION NOTES - page 2

GROUTING

- We recommend the use of Mapei Ultracolor sanded grout.
- When washing grout, do not allow standing moisture to remain on tiles. Wipe tiles dry and clean grout haze.
- During and after installation tiles should be kept clean and covered to protect them from construction traffic.

SEALING AND FINISHING

We recommend the following procedure for finishing and sealing tile:

- Thoroughly clean tile of all dust and grit.
- Buff the floor using an orbital floor buffer and a "white" buffing pad.
- Vacuum dust and apply final sealer coats. We recommend at least three coats, but the more the better, especially in high-traffic areas.

EXTERIOR APPLICATIONS

- Solus tile may be used outdoors but will wear and age with time and exposure to the elements.
- To maintain a shiny and 'new' looking finish, an exterior grade, acrylic concrete sealer may be used. Please call us for details.

MAINTENANCE

- Cleaning: day-to-day cleaning can be done with a damp mop with water.
- Watermarks can be buffed out using a 'Scotch Brite' type green pad.
- For heavier cleaning, use a neutral pH detergent such as Aqua Mix Concentrated Cleaner.
- Our concrete tile will tend to become shinier as it wears. This luster can also be achieved and maintained through the use of an orbital floor buffer. We recommend a white buffing pad.
- Acidic substances such as cola, wine and oils may stain the surface if allowed to penetrate for extended periods of time. To avoid staining, spills should be wiped up as soon as possible.
- Extremely acidic substances such as lemon or vinegar must be wiped IMMEDIATELY

These are guidelines only and are not a substitute for a qualified and experienced tile-setter.

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