



A successful installation of ceramic tiles is highly affected by the installation process. Tierra y Fuego strongly recommends hiring or consulting a skilled professional tile installer, even for small projects. Tierra y Fuego is not liable for tile that has been altered from its original state due to improper handling during the installation process. Inspect the tile prior to installation as installation signifies acceptance.

## Installation Recommendations

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- Carefully choose a skilled tile installer.
- Properly lay out material and strategically mix all boxes of tiles prior to installation.
- Make sure the installer is informed of all the procedures and products; and carefully follows the manufacturer's instructions of any solutions such as sealers, grout releases, and cleaners that may be used or come in contact with the tile during the installation process.
- Seal tiles with a penetrating sealer of your choice prior to grouting. We recommend 511 Impregnator Sealer from Miracle Sealants Company, good for low to medium porous surfaces.
- Apply a grout release (like Aqua Mix's) before grouting following the manufacturer's instructions; this process will help protect its inherent textured surface, and reduce grout staining.
- One important consideration as part of the tile selection process is the color of the grout. Depending on the desired final look, there are three basic approaches to selecting the best grout color: matching, contrasting, and neutral. Grout will affect the product's final appearance.
- Grout tile with sanded grout for joints greater than 1/4 in. or non-sanded grout for joints smaller than 3/16 in. Premixed epoxy grout is NOT recommended due to its viscosity.
- After the grout has dried completely, clean tiles with Grout Haze Clean-up from Aqua Mix if needed.
- Allow the entire tiled area to dry completely. Depending on environmental climate, may take up to 24 hours to dry.
- After the installation has been completed, seal grout lines once again with a penetrating sealer.
- Note: Always test a small sample tile with the solutions that might be used during installation before applying to an entire area.

This guide is intended to provide information on frequently asked questions. Opinions vary in the ceramic tile industry about the proper installation of ceramic tiles. Since Tierra y Fuego tiles are porous we recommend sealing them with a penetrating sealer before and after grouting.