

## INSTALLATION CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

For installation care and maintenance there are not too many differences between our porcelain tiles and any other ceramic tiles with exception of the following:

### 1) Setting materials (adhesives)

They must be specifically addressed to lay porcelain tiles (very low water absorption / impervious). Majority of setting materials manufacturers like Mapei, Laticrete, etc., have a specific brand of adhesives for this purpose. Usually they are cement/sand mixtures with addition of polymers or latex that can increase the bond strength a lot of times in relation to normal glues for porous ceramics. The use of specific adhesives for porcelain tiles is important mainly for big sizes, where the use of normal glues is responsible for the breakages that often appear on tiles which is the result of poor bonding, noticed when a lot of pieces sound hollow.

### 2) Grout joints

Before using cementitious black grouts on light colours, it is advisable to apply a pre-treatment protection on tiles surface.

### 3) Maintenance

For our material as well as for any other unglazed porcelain tiles it is very important the total removal of any cement / grout residues after the installation of tiles. Any cement or grout residues (that are porous materials) left on tiles surface tend to trap dirt. Dirt after dirt creates an incrustation difficult to be removed and tiles will be the ones to be blamed for it. So, a total cleaning of cement / grout residues will be a good contribute for a nice installation and easy maintenance.

All other guidelines are the same for any other ceramic tiles and for this can be followed:

- American National Standards for Installation of Ceramic Tile (ANSI A108 / A118 / A136.1)
- WFCA – World Floor Covering Association
  - <http://www.wfca.org/ceramic/why.aspx>
- TTA – The Tile Association:
  - <http://www.tiles.org.uk/help/tileitright.pdf>
  - [http://www.britishceramictile.com/pdf/technical/cleaning\\_ceramic\\_tiles.pdf](http://www.britishceramictile.com/pdf/technical/cleaning_ceramic_tiles.pdf)
- HSE – Health and Safety Executive ( <http://www.hse.gov.uk/> )