

ALUMINIUM & GLASS MOSAIC INSTALLATION GUIDE

Note

This is intended as a general guide only. Some installations require different or more detailed specifications. Please consult a professional tiler, architect or the technical department of your adhesive company to ensure the guideline is applicable to the particular circumstances.

Product

Installation of Aluminium & Glass mosaic tiles should be done by qualified installers, especially when electrical work is being done around the mosaic. Special attention is required for areas where the mosaic tiles will be subject to high temperatures, such as near fireplaces, behind hot plates and heaters not equipped with heat deflectors.

Suitability

The products enclosed are not suitable for areas subject to water immersion i.e. swimming pools etc. Due to the nature of aluminium, we would not recommend it to be used near the bottom of a shower enclosure. Aluminium & Glass Mosaic tiles are not recommended for floors, or any areas that may be subject to heavy impact, heavy abrasion and areas where the surface temperatures will exceed 55 degrees Celsius.

General

Please fully read the instructions and inspect each pack carefully prior to installation. Aluminium & Glass Mosaics are installed like ceramic tiles. They can be used in a variety of domestic and commercial interior applications including kitchen splashbacks and wall cladding. Ensure product quality, colour and shading are acceptable. Aluminium and glass products can have sharp edges and care should be taken when handling. Due to the handmade nature of our product a certain amount of variation in colour, shade, tone and size is to be expected. The installer or end user is responsible for determining if the shade and mix is acceptable. Use of product constitutes full acceptance.

The performance of any adhesive depends on the dimensional stability and structural soundness of the substrate. All substrates should be clean, flat, dry and fully cured and free from any contaminants including curing compounds. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's guide on substrate preparation.

Adhesives and Grouts

Check with your tile supplier for suitable products. Check the manufacturer's literature for suitability and follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions carefully. Most thinset mortars (multi-purpose and polymer modified thinset) are adequate for installing the Aluminium Mosaic tile. A cement-based adhesive is generally suitable on masonry substrates where no movement is anticipated. Where slight movement could occur through thermal or pedestrian loads, a modified cement adhesive should be used as a minimum. Adhesive should be applied strictly within the adhesive manufacturer's installation specifications using a notched trowel (typically a 3 or 5mm V notch trowel). The back of the mosaic and substrate must be flat, clean and dry prior to installation.

The thin set adhesive should be applied first to the surface to be tiled. Only apply enough adhesive that can be covered within 10 – 15 minutes or while the adhesive remains wet and tacky. Firmly press the tiles into place, but do not use any hard objects to tap down the centre or edges of the tile. Ensure 100% full bedded adhesive contact with the back of the tile. Clean excess adhesive from the surface with a damp sponge while it is fresh.

Grout colour plays an important role in the final appearance of any mosaic. Contrasting colours will frame each glass piece. Grout that matches or coordinates will provide an overall smoother appearance such as light grey with stainless steel. Use non-sanded grout to prevent scratching during installation. Use a flexible (polymer modified) grout additive. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines. Epoxy based grouts may also be used and will prevent excessive scratching during the installation process. Although the aluminium and glass tiles do not require sealant, it is recommended that a grout sealer be used in order to protect grout joints.

Expansion and Control Joints

Existing joints in the substrate should be carried through the tile work. Expansion joints should be installed at all "changes of plane" and where the tile abuts a restraining surface.

Cutting and Drilling

Eye and hearing protection should always be worn when cutting, drilling or grinding metal and glass. Aluminium can be cut with a hand-saw and blade suitable for cutting aluminium. Cutting must be performed slowly at all times to avoid the build-up of high temperatures, which could discolour the surface. Glass tile can be cut with a wet diamond saw equipped with a continuous rim blade. Smooth any rough edges with a file or sanding stone.

Cleaning and Maintenance

Do not use harsh chemicals, acidic or abrasive cleaners, steel wool or scouring pads which may permanently scratch, discolour or damage the surface. Do not let soap, bleach or other cleaning solutions set on the surface. Aluminium and glass tiles must be regularly cleaned and maintained to maximise the ongoing appearance and performance. Most dirt and stains can be cleaned with water or a mild detergent and soft cloth or sponge. Fingerprints, streaks and watermarks may be removed using a little olive oil. When using any cleaner, avoid direct contact with grout as it may discolour.