

METAL, QUARTZ STONE & GLASS MOSAIC INSTALLATION GUIDE

The following 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

Please fully read the instructions and inspect each item carefully prior to installation. Metal mosaics are made from brushed 304# stainless steel caps fixed to ceramic tile base pieces and are installed like ceramic tiles. Engineered or quartz stone is normally used in bench tops and is composed of quartz and natural minerals bound with resin and pigments. Quartz stone 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 before installation. Due to the handmade nature of our product a certain amount of variation in colour, shade, tone and size can be expected. The installer and end user is responsible for determining if the product is acceptable. Use of the product constitutes full acceptance.

Suitability

Metal mosaic products are not suitable for areas subject to water immersion or areas in constant contact with water i.e. swimming pools, shower bases etc. Metal tiles are generally not recommended for use in showers due to the harsh nature of soaps and abrasive cleaners. They are intended for wall use only and may be installed in any area not subject to high abrasion, mechanical or thermal shock. Quartz stone should not be used outdoors or in areas exposed to direct sunlight.

Substrate

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

Adhesives and Grouts

Adhesive product data sheets should be read carefully prior to adhesive use. Ensure the manufacturer's guidelines followed. The mosaic manufacturer recommends using a white, flexible, thin-set adhesive suitable for adhering ceramic tile, glass and quartz stone. The substrate material and any waterproofing membrane should be considered when choosing a suitable an adhesive. If in doubt consult your adhesive manufacturer. White adhesive is important to use with the white glass in the product. Adhesive should be applied first to the surface to be tiled strictly within the adhesive manufacturer's installation specifications using a notched trowel (typically a 5mm V notch trowel). The back of the mosaic sheet must be clean prior to installation. Apply only apply enough adhesive that can be covered within 10 – 15 minutes or while the adhesive remains wet and tacky. The surface should be gently tapped to ensure 100% full bedded adhesive contact and to avoid notch marks in the back of the tile. Avoid getting adhesive on the surface. Clean any excess adhesive carefully 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 piece. Grout that matches or coordinates will provide an overall smoother appearance such as light grey with stainless steel. Use non- sanded, chemical cure or superfine grout with flexible (polymer modified) grout booster additive in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations. Avoid gritty grout to reduce scratching the surface during installation. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines. Grout should be cleaned off the surface carefully to minimise surface scratching with a wet soft sponge. Keep the sponge clean, ensuring all grout is removed from the sponge. Do not let grout dry on the surface of the mosaic. Brushed stainless steel is used in this product which has all the normal surface characteristics of stainless steel.

Expansion and Control Joints

Existing joints in the substrate should be carried through the tile work. Expansion joints should be installed every 3.5 metres, 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, glass, stone and ceramic tiles. Quartz stone and glass tile can be cut with a wet diamond tile saw equipped with a continuous rim blade. Metal components can be cut with a stainless steel cutting blade. Smooth any rough edges with a file or sanding stone. Quartz stone is made up of quartz, quartz powder (silica) and resin and may be injurious to your health if inhaled. Use only a wet saw to avoid inhalation of fine silica dust. Always cut stone in a well-ventilated area away from the installation area. Use a suitable respiratory particle filter dust mask when cutting.

Cleaning and Maintenance

Avoid harsh alkaline or acidic chemical or abrasive cleaners which may scratch or damage the surface. Maintain metal, quartz stone and glass tile mosaics by cleaning with water and wiping dry with a soft cloth. The metal components will display normal stainless steel characteristics. Excessive surface scratches may be made less noticeable using a fine scourer or polishing crème working carefully in the surface brushing direction. Test a small, inconspicuous area of metal first taking care not to damage the grout.