

Wall and Floor Tiles

Marble Effect Porcelain

1. Initial Preparation

Prepare a clean and accessible working environment with suitable access and sufficient working space. Inspect and double check all materials prior to commencing work to ensure no issues once building is underway.

2. Wall/Floor Preparation

Our large format porcelain floor and wall tiles require a suitable backing material/substrate for proper adhesion. Due to the tile weights, when installing on walls we recommend adhering to a suitable construction / cement board, and when installing as flooring a clean, level surface subfloor is essential; a levelling compound can be used to achieve this.

Any damp issues should be rectified before your tiles are installed, and it may be necessary to install a damp proof membrane and/or an uncoupling membrane for floor installations depending on your project – your tiler should be able to advise on this.

3. Setting Out

It is always advisable to fully set out your tiles before installation. This can be carried out using a string line and will enable you to spot any issues and make any adjustments to the setting out before you start installing your tiles; this is especially important for irregular areas where specific cuts may be required.

When laying tiles to a floor, a 5mm expansion joint should be left around the edge of the room to prevent cracking. For larger floors and walls with intermittent expansion joints in the substrate, these expansion joints should be continued through to the surface and not covered by tiles. As a general rule, expansion joints are recommended every 8 linear metres, or wherever two different screeds or substrates meet (for example, between rooms).

4. Underfloor Heating

If you are installing tiles over an underfloor heating system, always follow the instructions provided by the heating supplier. Generally, the heating should be switched on and working at normal capacity for at least three weeks before installation. The system will then need to be switched off at least 48 hours before installation and, on the day of installation, the subfloor shouldn't exceed a temperature of 18°C. It can be switched on again one week after installation, initially at a very low temperature and increasing by 1°C per day. Make sure that the floor temperature does not exceed 27°C.

Please note that this installation guide is intended as a non-specific, general advisory guide only. It is your responsibility to ensure that your installation complies with all current building regulations, planning requirements and structural guidance applicable to your specific project. If in doubt, always consult with a suitably qualified builder, architect and structural engineer in order to ensure that your intended installation is suitable for your project. Always follow the manufacturer's guidance for all adhesives, mortars, fixings and any other products used in conjunction with products sourced from Cumbrian Stone, and if in doubt seek professional advice before going ahead.

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5. Cutting

Any cutting required should be carried out using a suitable, water suppressed tile saw with a suitable porcelain blade. It is important to ensure that the correct blade is used to avoid damaging your tiles and to give the best finish.

6. Installing Your Porcelain Tiles

Using a square notched adhesive trowel, spread a suitable adhesive over a small floor area – about one square metre – to a depth of between 3-8mm in thickness. This should be sufficient to account for and even out varying height levels of tiles. Any deep lugs or keys on the back of the tiles should also be filled with adhesive before the tiles are fixed.

Using a small twisting motion, firmly bed the tile into the adhesive on the subfloor. Make sure that there are no air pockets under the tile. Fix tiles one-by-one, leaving a gap for the grout joint; tile spacers will help ensure that these joints are kept uniform, and tile levelling kits (clips and wedges) can be used to help ensure a level finish without lipping.

Use a spirit level to ensure that tiles are level. Carefully remove any adhesive that comes into contact with the tile face with a grout sponge.

Before grouting tiles, make sure that the adhesive is completely dry.

Make the grout into a slurry and apply it to 1m² areas at a time, using a squeegee.

Remove surplus grout and clean the grouted tiles using a wet grout sponge. Be careful not to spread the grout around too much.

When all of the tiles have been grouted, clean the floor or wall thoroughly again using a suitable cleaner to remove any residue.

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