

TOWN & COUNTRY

SURFACES

T-884 REALM

Wall Tile Installation and Maintenance Guide



Thank you for choosing T&C Surfaces.

Our wall tiles are manufactured to the highest quality standards. Proper installation and maintenance will ensure lasting beauty and performance for many years.

Please read this guide carefully before starting the installation.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Before starting:

- Inspect all boxes and tiles carefully before installation.
- Check that tone, calibre, and surface finish are consistent.
- Do not install tiles with visible defects or colour differences—contact your supplier instead.
- Slight variations in shade or gloss are natural and enhance the authenticity of ceramic materials.

Once installed, the product is considered accepted in its current condition. T&C Surfaces cannot be held responsible for issues resulting from improper installation or unsuitable materials or methods.

RECEIPT AND STORAGE

- Always verify the quantity, calibre, and shade indicated on the packaging.
- Store boxes horizontally on a flat, dry surface.
- Avoid exposure to sunlight, humidity, or frost.
- Keep tiles in their original packaging until installation.

INSTALLATION

Surface Preparation

A long-lasting installation begins with a proper substrate.

- The wall must be **dry, clean, firm, and perfectly level**.
 - The substrate must be **stable**, free from cracks or detachment, and with moisture below 3%.
 - Remove all dust, grease, paint, plaster, or residues that could impair adhesion.
 - On plasterboard or drywall, apply a **primer/sealer** compatible with the adhesive.
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Avoid installing on surfaces subject to structural movement or vibration.

Surface Preparation

Choose the adhesive according to the substrate and tile format:

- C1 or C2 cement-based adhesives (EN 12004) for most applications.
- C2 S1 or C2 S2 deformable adhesives for large or heavy tiles.
- C1/D1 or C2/D1 adhesives (with primer) for gypsum or plasterboard substrates.

- Waterproof or epoxy adhesives in wet areas such as showers or kitchens.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for mixing ratios, resting times, and application.

Step-by-Step Installation

Planning and Layout

- Define the layout and joint spacing before starting.
- Draw a perfectly level reference line (usually at the height of the second row) and use a straight batten to support the first tiles.

Applying the Adhesive

- Mix only the amount you can use within the open time.
- Spread the adhesive over small areas (max. 1 m²).
- Comb in one direction with a notched trowel to obtain a uniform layer.

Laying the Tiles

- Press each tile firmly and slide it **perpendicular to the trowel lines** to expel air.
 - Maintain regular joints (minimum 2 mm, depending on the format).
 - For large or decorative tiles, use the **double-bond method** (adhesive on wall and back of tile).
 - Check level and alignment frequently.
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Cleaning During Installation

- Remove excess adhesive from joints and surfaces before it hardens.
- Clean any adhesive on the glaze with a damp sponge.

Cutting and Drilling

- Use manual cutters or electric machines with a diamond blade.
- For holes (sockets, taps, etc.), use **diamond drill bits cooled with water**.
- Place cut pieces in less visible areas (corners, behind furniture).
- For crackle-glazed tiles, use a **water-cooled cutting machine** to achieve clean cuts and prevent micro-cracks or glaze damage.

Grouting

- Wait at least 24 hours after installation before grouting.
- Ensure joints are clean and dry.
- Use CG2 or CG2 WA grouts (water-resistant); in wet or demanding areas, epoxy RG grouts.
- Apply the grout diagonally with a **hard rubber trowel**.
- Clean with a damp, well-wrung sponge, avoiding excess water.
- Always respect the working and drying times recommended by the grout manufacturer.

Important:

- If the model is **crackle-glazed**, the surface must be **pre-sealed with a specific sealing product** before grouting.
- Use the sealant recommended by the manufacturer and follow their instructions carefully.

Tip: the colour of the grout greatly affects the final look — test different tones before applying.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Cleaning After Installation

- Remove adhesive and grout residues with clean water and a damp sponge before they set.
 - The use of **acid-based cleaners or descaling products** is not recommended on tiles sensitive to acids.
Always consult the **technical data sheet** before applying any cleaning product to ensure compatibility.
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- Do not use steel wool or abrasive pads.
- Change the cleaning water frequently.
- Porous joints may be protected with a transparent sealant.

Routine Maintenance

CEVICA wall tiles require little maintenance, but regular cleaning preserves their beauty.

- Clean with warm water and **neutral soap** or mild detergent.
- Avoid products containing bleach, ammonia, strong acids, or solvents.
- Do not use abrasive pads or hard brushes.
- For **reactive, metallic, or crackle glazes**, use only neutral soap.
- In wet areas (bathrooms, kitchens), clean frequently to prevent lime or grease buildup.

It is highly recommended to consult the product's technical data sheet before using any cleaner or treatment.

It specifies which **chemical agents may affect the tile** and lists compatible cleaning products.

Tip: regular cleaning with gentle, non-abrasive products will extend the life and shine of your tiles for years to come.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Do not strike tiles with tools during installation. Avoid placing heavy
 - objects on newly tiled walls for at least 48 hours. Keep spare tiles from
 - the same batch for future repairs. For any doubt, contact a qualified
 - installer or Town and Country Surfaces for **support**.
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