

Authentic Settat Zellij Installation Tips



Only hire tile contractors who are trained and experienced with zellige terracotta material and can provide photos of recently completed jobs.

History Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VBu2n8GFQ0&t=30s>

Considerations Handmade tile is “perfectly imperfect” - meaning hairline cracks, crazing, edge chipping and glaze bubbles. They exhibit maximum shade variation from piece to piece even within the same production dates. Purchase an additional 20% of material so the contractor can cull undesirable pieces during install.

Preparation Terracotta is highly absorbent - pre-soak the tiles for 5 minutes in clean water or they will leech water from the mortar before it can cure.

Mortar Use a trowel with at least a 3/8” deep notch (square or “U”) and use a high-quality polymer modified medium-bed mortar. The thicker thinset is required when working with irregular tile thicknesses.

[Custom Building Products Versabond LFT](#)
[Mapei Keraflex Plus](#)
[Laticrete Tri Lite](#)

Grout Traditional Moroccan installs would be done by dry stacking (ungROUTED) tile so that all sides touch. Grout can be used and we recommend selecting a complimentary color to match the glaze. Acceptable grout widths are between 1/16th and 1/8th inch. We recommend using an upgraded single component pre-sealed grout.

[Custom Building Products Fusion Pro](#)
[Mapei FlexColor CQ](#)
[Laticrete Spectralock 1](#)

Wet Areas If installing zellige on an interior shower wall or kitchen backsplash you must:
Use grout (see previous topic above)
Pre-seal the tiles with a penetrating sealer that allows moisture vapor to escape during curing like:

[Custom Building Products / AquaMix](#)
[Mapei UltraCare](#)
[Laticrete / StoneTech](#)

Outdoors/ Pools Do not install zellige tiles anywhere outdoors and do not install zellige in pools. Chlorine and salt can affect the glaze over time and terracotta is not freeze/thaw rated.

Maintenance Clean the tile surface with a simple mix of soap and warm water.
If a stronger solvent is needed then use pH-neutral products.

MORE INFO:



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