

HERITAGE & UNITINTA TILE FIXING & POLISHING INSTRUCTIONS

The appearance and life of your floor depends not only on the excellent quality of our tiles, but also on the quality of fixing and polishing. We suggest that you do this through a contractor recommended by us. In case you already have your own contractor, we give below information which, if followed properly, will ensure a smooth, attractive floor.

- 1. Tiles should be fixed within a week of arrival on site. In case this is not possible, tiles should be stored in a covered area, or covered with plastic or tarpaulin. These are cement rich tiles and therefore some crazing is inevitable. When tiles are left in the sun for extended periods the crazing will accentuate.
- 2. Slight variation in shade of tiles from batch to batch may exist, due to variation in cements and pigments. In case your tiles have a colour stripe marking on the edge, tiles of the same colour stripe should be laid at the centre and tiles of other colour stripe should be laid on the periphery of the floor.
- 3. The base on which the tiles are to be fixed should be level.
- 4. Always buy the grouting mixture only from us along with the tiles. Use grouting mix within 30 days of dispatch. Close bags /containers tightly between use.
- 5. Laying should normally start from the centre of the room going outward to the periphery. Dry laying out tiles in the desired pattern before fixing in mortar is advisable to avoid errors.
- 6. Fix tiles on an average 2cm to 3.5cm bed mortar with ratio not leaner that 7:1 (sand: cement) with a neat cement slurry on top. For better results we recommend a slurry of white cement for white cement based i.e. light colour tiles.
- 7. The next morning after laying, and not later, the joints are to be filled with a slurry of the grouting mixture. Joints should be properly cleaned with a blade before filling the same. Ensure that each part of the joint is filled with the colour which matches that part of the tile, and press it into the joint.
- 8. Ensure water is sprinkled on the tiles for at least 3 days to enable cement to set.
- 9. A difference in thickness of 3 mm between tiles is normal and well within ISI parameters. The mason must adjust bed mortar to ensure that there is negligible variation in the level of laid tiles. Hasty and uneven laying will result in heavy cutting at the polishing stage and consequent damage to the design, corners, edges etc.
- 10. The tiles should be polished with an Italian polishing machine a week after laying. The first coat of polishing is the most important one. It is the cutting / levelling coat and should be done using No 1. magnesite polishing stone (Suri Polex 1m). Do not use No. 0 stone.
- 11. After 1st coat of polishing tiny pinholes will occur, this should be thoroughly grouted using our grout-mix to match the colour on the tiles. Grouting is to be left for 2 days and cured with water before the tiles are subjected to the second coat of polishing using No 2. magnesite polishing stone (Suri Polex 2m), followed by Nos. 3, 4, 5 and EX i.e. very fine stone (Suri Polex Synthetic stones). Ensure floor is washed with water between each polishing.
- 12. Protect the floor from staining, damage, etc as a result of other agencies working on site. Wet wood shaving, oil and varnish stains cannot be removed. Use Plaster of Paris or plastic covering if there is a time gap between fixing and polishing. To avoid scratches, all furniture, ladders etc should be lifted, or dragged on a thick cloth.
- 13. After polishing is complete and the floor is dry, cover it with thick plastic or other protection so that other civil works do not ruin the floor by staining. It is extremely likely that stains will occur if carpenters and painters are allowed to work on an unprotected floor. These stains cannot be easily removed.
- 14. You may require the same tile in future. Preferably keep extra tiles, and definitely keep a sample for re-ordering.

Please contact us if you need any assistance