



## Installation - Porcelain Tile

### Installation Procedures.

- **Backing Material (Substrate):** The surface to be tiled must be clean, dry, flat and structurally sound (does not flex when weight is applied), secure, and free from any type of contamination that can act as a bond breaker or bond inhibitor. If there is any substance present that could inhibit the bond of the mortars used, it must be completely removed. Suitable substrates include, but are not limited to, exterior grade plywood, cement backer board, concrete, mortar beds, cement plaster, and existing ceramic tile/stone. Refer to industry information for a complete list of approved substrates. When using the double plywood or plywood/cement backer-board scheme, check to ensure that the proper types and thickness of plywood are used.
- **Mortar:** Depending on the application and conditions present, the use of a liquid-latex fortified sanded cement mortar, Polymer modified sanded cement, medium bed, or epoxy mortar is recommended for the installation of porcelain tile. It can also be installed in mortar bed (i.e., thick bed) applications. Consult the installation materials manufacturer for additional information and installation instructions. Ensure that adequate coverage of mortar is present under the tiles to provide proper bedding coverage and problem-free performance.
- **Grouting:** A polymer-modified, liquid-latex fortified or epoxy grout should be used with porcelain tiles. While grout-staining problems are extremely rare when using PIXL products, a small test patch is recommended when using a dark grout over a light-colored tile, or vice versa. The test patch will also verify cleanability of the grout with heavily textured tile surfaces.

**Polished Tiles:** For polished tiles, the use of a penetrating type sealer is required prior to grouting. Grouts should be tested to determine if the grout or grout pigment will contaminate the surface of the tile and may require more than one coating of sealer before proceeding to the entire installation.

### CUTTING PIXL PORCELAIN TILE

Wet saws are generally used when cutting tile. PIXL uses continuous rim diamond tip blades designed to cut porcelain tile and glass. These blades have a softer rim that exposes a fresh diamond cutting edge when used on hard dense porcelain; also the diamonds are smaller and closer together providing a smoother cut and less chipping. Best results have been when minimum but firm pressure is applied while pushing the tiles through.

Example:

- Felker TM-5 or the new Narrow-width TM-7
- MK-415 Super High Rim or the narrow MK-225 "Hot Dog"
- Rubi CPC 250 10"

If tiles crack or break during the cutting process, several factors could be the cause:

- Blade is old or worn out, bent or warped
- If the cutting head bearings are worn or loose, vibration can occur resulting in breakage.
- In some cases, dressing the blade with a dressing stone may prove helpful.

Information from MK Saws and Blades (ph: 800-845-3729) [www.mkdiamond.com](http://www.mkdiamond.com) website

Or

Felker Saws and Blades (800-365-4003) [www.felkersaws.com](http://www.felkersaws.com) describes proper blade selection and common blade problems

**Cleaning Procedures.** Please consult our “How to Care for Porcelain Tile” video for proper cleaning procedures

For more Specific installation instruction please refer to the TCNA Handbook.

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