

## Guide to Working with New Cement Tiles:

If you choose to lay the tiles yourself please note the following directions are intended for professional tradesmen. Please consult a professional in all cases.

For detailed instructions for cleaning and sealing (different areas can require different sealants) our tiles please refer to Eco Protec. Sealants by EcoProtec (UK specialists) can be bought through Maitland & Poate with your order. For detailed instructions of Ecoprotec cleaning and sealing products please refer to <https://ecoprotec.co.uk>

**NOTE:** Care is required when working with new encaustic tiles since they are micro porous meaning they can absorb water or stains. Avoid getting the tiles dirty while laying.

**NOTE:** Products are available for pre sealing tiles which means the tile can be sealed and protected before your tiler lays them and can avoid staining and damage.

- When cutting the tiles use a diamond cutter or angle grinder or other tools suitable for encaustic cement tiles.
  - Some of the tiles can weigh up to 2kg each and are available in different thickness's
- 1 . Make sure the area where the tiles are to be laid is void of dust and moisture.
  - 2 . Apply your adhesive to the floor with a notched trowel
  - 3 . Having applied your adhesive to the floor with a notched trowel lay tiles with spacers – we recommend 1-2mm spacers for a thin grout line so as not to interrupt the pattern on the tile
  - 4 . Once the adhesive has FULLY dried (refer to adhesive instructions) then the tile should be sealed with the first coat due to the porous nature of the tile they must be left to thoroughly dry so that all the moisture can

evaporate (before sealing). This is very important since sealing the tile prematurely could potentially leave stains and trap moisture in the tile.

NOTE: You can use rapid/turbo adhesives which dry much quicker and shorten the dry time if you are confident using these products.

- 5 . The first coat of sealant is important so that when grouting the tile the dye from the grout does not seep in and stain the tile. We would recommend applying two coats at this stage. We recommend Eco Protec Natural Stone Sealer, which we sell at Maitland & Poate.

NOTE: If cleaning products are required: Please talk to UK company Eco Protec, who are experts in this area.

- 6 . Grouting – While grouting the tiles always make sure that excess grout is cleaned off so as not to damage the tile in anyway. Continue to change the water so that dirty water is not used, this is to ensure clean tiles. (never use chemical cleaners). Natural grout is recommended to avoid staining from the dye. BAL offer a good range suitable to use with cement tiles.
- 7 . Once grout has dried, now seal with two more coats of sealant
- 8 . Extra polished or satin finishes can finally be applied depending on the desired finish. (Eco Protec offer a variety of different products with different finishes). When using the tiles in a bathroom add another layer of sealant (tiles should be cleaned again before laying this final coat of sealant). If using behind a cooker we recommend using FTP Glaze Protector to protect against oil and fat stains.

NOTE: If after laying the tile and before sealing you need to clean the tile at all you can give them a light sand using a fine sandpaper to remove any extra marks. Then with a very lightly dampened cloth wipe them clean. You don't want to make the tile too wet since you need it FULLY dry before sealing so that you do not trap moisture in the tile. For more serious stains during laying please consult Ecoprotec.

For any technical info do not hesitate to get in touch @  
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