



MACHUCA BALDOZAS, INC

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Machuca Tile Installation Guidelines

These instructions are provided as a helpful guide to installing your cement tiles. Machuca Baldozas, Inc will not be held responsible for improper installation of your cement tiles, nor for specific jobsite conditions. It is the responsibility of the client to ensure proper installation and maintenance. Please consult a professional contractor who is familiar with installing cement tiles. Prior to starting the installation, be sure to familiarize yourself and/or the installer with these guidelines.

- 1) Throughout the installation process, please handle the tiles gently, being careful not to damage the finished surface or the corners of the tile.
- 2) Store the boxes / cement tiles in a dry area. Moisture or dampness can cause the tiles to get discolored, stained, or permanently damaged.
- 3) Your cement tiles may have residue on the surface. This will be removed during the cleaning process after installation and/or after the implementation of an ongoing maintenance routine.
- 4) Wipe the back of the tile with a damp sponge prior to placing thin set adhesive. This is to remove dust residue and provide better adhesion.
- 5) Install the tiles over a flat, level, and cured concrete topping or surface / stable subfloor / wall surface.

- 6) Use a high-quality thin set adhesive. Cement tiles are not intended for installation methods that use large quantities of water. If you prefer to use a cement mixture, be sure to use **Dry-Pack Cement only**. Do not use Wet-pack cement installation method. Dry-pack cement mixtures are normally 1-part cement, 2.5 parts sieved sand, and enough water to produce a mortar. Take note of the water to cement proportion (i.e. not too much water).
- 7) Apply adhesive to the full back of each tile (100% coverage) using a large notch trowel. Make sure all tiles are level with a level bar. **Do not beat with a mallet or rubber hammer** to set the tiles as this may cause hairline cracks after installation. Level your tiles using hand pressure or use a level-bar. Remove excess adhesive from the surface with a damp cloth or sponge while it is still fresh. If needed, tiles should be cut using a sharp diamond blade in conjunction with water to avoid chipping of edges.
- 8) Allow two (2) to three (3) days after tiles are laid before grouting of joints.
- 9) Recommended grout joint width is a tight joint of 2mm or less. Use tile spacers (ideally 1mm) to make grout joints evenly spaced. Joints should be full and free of all voids and pits. Grout should be applied in small areas at a time and immediately cleaned. Apply grout using a rubber float, applied at a 45 degree angle to the face of the tiles. Do not spread the grout on the entire tile to minimize wastage and to ensure that staining will not happen. Remove excess grout immediately once it has been applied and drying has started. Typical cement tile grout is white or grey unpigmented grout.

Note: **we do not recommend the use of dark or colored grout**. Dark grout or colored grout can easily stain the light colors on the tile and will be very difficult to remove after installation.
- 10) After installation, you may wash the floor with a neutral detergent and water. Remove any extra residue or mortar. Do not allow water or other liquids to spot or pond on the surface of the tiles (i.e., do not leave spillages, wet buckets, cups, footmarks, etc. on the surface).
- 11) Maintain and keep the area clean after the laying of tiles. **Grease, oil, sawdust, and paint may stain the tiles and may be very difficult to remove**. If there is construction

nearby, please remember to **cover the tiles properly with a clean plastic sheet**. Please do not use cardboard to cover as damp cardboard may stain the installed tiles. Please also do not allow heavy machinery or other construction equipment to pass or lay on top of the tiles while the tiles are uncovered or while the adhesive is still curing. Please do not stick tape onto the face of the tile, as the residue might be difficult to remove.

- 12) For easier maintenance after installation, we recommend applying additional coats of colorless wax or polishing the tiles with an abaca brush head floor polisher.
- 13) For regular maintenance, clean with a neutral detergent. Heavy foot traffic may require additional maintenance. A natural patina will occur and appear as the floor is maintained. Water spotting will be eliminated through an ongoing maintenance routine. Please contact us for Maintenance Guidelines.