

## Installation Guide for Handmade Tile

*Due to the nature of our handmade product, we always recommend working with a certified tile installer to install your tile. (if you need a recommendation for an installer, please reach out).*



Installation is acceptance of the materials, in its grade, color, finish, & suitability. This is standard in the tile industry. Any concerns should be addressed *prior* to installation.

**Installing handmade ceramic tile requires patience and an eye for detail. Because each tile is hand cut and brush-glazed, there can be significant variation in color and size across the same batch of tile. These variants should not deter from the outcome of the installation; rather, they offer an opportunity to enhance a space with carefully crafted tile.**

### ① INSPECT

Within 14 days, unpack boxes and inspect tiles for any breakage. A small amount is normal - we always pack a few extra pieces to account for this. If the breakage is beyond a few tiles or if you have any concerns about obvious problems with the tile, **DO NOT INSTALL** contact [care@mercurymosaics.com](mailto:care@mercurymosaics.com) and include pictures of the tile you received.

### ② SORT

#### Subway tile sizes

Sort tiles according to height and width. This will aid in achieving even grout spacing vertically and horizontally, based on your tile orientation. For instance, in a 3x6 stacked horizontal pattern, organize the tile according to width and then assign the same width to each column. \*Some cupping and warping is normal with handmade tile, but tile with too much bend can be pulled and used for cut pieces.

#### Subway tile color variation

Go through each tile and place in piles according to color variation. Once you have stacks of different color variations in front of you, create new stacks of tile by randomly selecting tiles off the tops of your original stacks. (We find the more randomly you stack the tile, the easier it is to create a balanced color dispersion in your installation)

#### Sheeted tile

This tile will come on mesh-mounted sheets for easier installation. Similar to our loose subway tile, you'll want to sort the sheets according to variation to get a good distribution of color. Keep sheets on cardboard pads to avoid any scratching and ease of movement.

## PRODUCTS REQUIRED

Once you're ready to begin installing your tile, here are the products required. Please note to follow package guidelines for application, clean-up, and dry time for the products being used.

- **Adhesive.** Choose an adhesive that is specifically recommended for use on the surface you will be tiling.
  - **Sealant.** Choosing the right sealer for handmade tile can be critical to the integrity of the installation. We recommend Aquamix Sealer's Choice Gold for less porous glaze finishes and Fila Natural Look Penetrating Sealer for more porous glaze finishes.
- \*SEAL TILE PRIOR TO GROUTING to prevent grout haze.*
- **Grout.** Use sanded (including epoxy) grout for all Mercury Mosaics installations. Most grout brands are compatible with MM tile, including Laticrete and Mapei.

*\*We highly recommend testing grout color on sealed tile prior to grouting installation.*

- **Wet saw.** We recommend using a wet saw to make tile cuts. This will allow for precise cuts and to prevent chipping of tile or glaze. If a cut edge is visible you can also use a tile rubbing stone to smooth the edge prior to installation.

## 3 DRY LAYOUT

Lay all tile on a floor or countertop in the exact way that it will be installed. Feel free to edit specific tiles or sheets to ensure even color distribution throughout the design. Pay attention to how the tile meets the edges of your installation. Adjust rows to avoid needing "slivers" of cut tile at the edges.

If more tile is needed to complete an installation, wait until you receive your add-on order to begin your installation. Because our tile is made in batches, there might be a slight difference in the color.

## 4 INSTALL

Prep surface - the key to a good tile installation is a good foundation. Whether you're installing the tile in a bathroom, on the floor, or as a kitchen backsplash, there are proper materials that need to be used to support the structure. Please confirm with your tile installer what substrate they plan on using and how it will support your tile.

### contact

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### DISCLAIMERS

*Installation of tile constitutes acceptance of its condition and quality. This includes its grade, color, finish and suitability. This is standard in the tile industry & with all other construction materials. Any concerns should be addressed prior to installation. Mercury Mosaics assumes no responsibility for installation quality, job site conditions, or project coordination. In no scenario can installed material be compensated, replaced or repaired by Mercury Mosaics.*

*If there is any shipping damage, please contact Mercury Mosaics within 14 days of receipt for a replacement.*