

## ECO-GRES Asia and Mosaic™

### Installation

For installation care and maintenance there are not too many differences between our porcelain tiles and other ceramic tiles, however following points should be observed:

#### **Setting materials (adhesives):**

They must be specifically addressed to lay porcelain tiles (very low water absorption / impervious). The majority of setting material manufacturers like Mapei, Laticrete, etc., have a specific brand of adhesives for this purpose. Usually they are cement/sand mixtures with addition of polymers or latex that can increase the bond strength a lot of times relation normal glues for porous ceramics. Follow Guidelines of the NTCA installation guide for Porcelain Tiles.

#### **Pre-Grout Treatments:**

Some unglazed tile products have rough or open pores in the surface that can trap grout particles during the grouting process. These grout particles become difficult to remove and can leave a stained appearance on the surface of the tile. For these products it is necessary to seal them with a pre-grout sealer to protect them from trapping the microscopic grout particles. This will also ease the grout clean-up process. Industry guidelines recommend that, prior to grouting, you seal porcelain with a high quality penetrating/impregnating sealer or with a temporary grout release sealer. Always test an area first to obtain best results. Glazed porcelain materials do not need to be sealed prior to grouting.

#### **Post-Grout Clean-Up:**

Grout haze is a film that has been left behind on the surface of the tile as part of the final grouting process. Usually this is buffed off the surface after the grout has achieved its initial 12 to 24 hour cure. The removal of the haze is often difficult when buffing with a clean rag or floor machine.

Cementitious grout haze can be successfully removed with "sulfamic" acid, which is a mild acid that attacks and breaks down cement smears. However, there are several products on the market called grout haze removers which are suitable. (i.e. Fila Deterdek).

Similarly, epoxy grout haze can be removed with an epoxy haze remover. These removers are formulated to safely and quickly remove cured epoxy haze from new tile installations. Their unique formulation will soften most epoxy hazes for easy removal without damaging the grout or tile, usually in one application (i.e. Fila PS 87).

#### **Final Step:**

Immediately after the porcelain tile has been properly installed and grouted, the new installation should be covered with brown paper to protect it from debris during the remaining construction process. The grout joints should be dampened daily with clear water using a clean sponge or mop during the first 7 days. This procedure facilitates the grout cure and color lock. The paper will allow for two important things: (1) to protect the newly installed tile grout and (2) to allow moisture to escape from the grout as it cures further protecting the look and utility of the floor. This is an important step in achieving color consistency. Never use plastic or non-absorbent materials to protect freshly installed tile. These types of non-absorbent products will trap moisture causing the grout to discolor during the curing period. The protective brown paper should remain until construction is complete and the floor is opened for intended (post-construction) use.