

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

**Please read carefully before beginning installation**

- **We recommend hiring a licensed professional tile installer who is experienced with the installation of handmade tile.**
- **Mélange tile should be dry laid, blended, and approved by the owner or owner's representative, before Installation. No claims for characteristics of handmade Mélange will be accepted after Installation. Installation Constitutes Acceptance.**
- **Before installation, OPEN AND INSPECT ALL BOXES to verify tile series, size/pattern, color, and finish. Notify your tile seller immediately of any damage, defect, or other issue. Variation in surface, color, shade, shape, and size is inherent in artistic hand-crafted tile. Refer to page 3 for details about the variation for Mélange.**
- **Installation constitutes acceptance.**

## SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

- Concrete slabs (on grade) cured at least 28 days, free of cracks, curing agents, and any signs of laitance.
- Well-cured mortar beds (ANSI A108.1B Standards-cured for a minimum of 7 days).
- Cement Board/backer units (CBU) to ANSI A118.9 Standards (Note: An ANSI A108A-2.1.8 membrane is required behind all CBU installations in wet areas).
- Gypsum board (dry areas only) installed to ASTM C1396 or ASTM C1396M-04 Standards.
- All substrates should be plumb, true, and in-plane before installation. ANSI A108A-2.5.3.1

**Do not install ceramic tile directly over Particle Board or Plywood!**

The tile installation's substructure, location, and substrate type (e.g. CBU or concrete) will influence the details of how the substrate should be prepared. Appropriate substrate preparation methods are detailed in the most up-to-date version of the Tile Council of North America's "TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation". They are organized by alphanumeric designation (e.g. W243-15). Refer to the TCNA Handbook for details. The TCNA Handbook is available for purchase at [www.tcnatile.com](http://www.tcnatile.com).

## ACCEPTABLE ADHESIVES

We recommend using ANSI A118.4 modified setting mortar; setting with mastic is unacceptable unless approved by the setting material manufacturer. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendation for tile installations and usage requirements.

**Wet areas** Any ANSI A118.15 setting material. Verify with the setting material manufacturer for usage and acceptability.

## PROCESS

Key or apply adhesive evenly to the substrate with a notched trowel. Work in sections of approximately 2 square feet at a time to keep setting material from drying or skinning over. Check periodically during installation to verify proper coverage. Wipe the back of the tile before installation.

Before grouting, allow adhesives to cure for the timeframe recommended by the setting material manufacturer.

## MEMBRANES

There are a wide variety of anti-fracture, crack isolation, and waterproofing membranes available for use in tile installations. Membranes will vary in type, installation method, and performance. Depending on the application, installing tile over an anti-fracture membrane may be beneficial. Consult the membrane manufacturer for specific recommendations and limitations.

### CUTTING GUIDELINES

- We recommend **WET** cutting and/or score and snap method **ONLY**
- Do **NOT** dry cut using power tools
- Improper cutting techniques could expose installer to harmful dust

#### California Residents Only-Prop 65

- **Warning:** This product can expose you to silica dust that is known to the State of California as harmful. Airborne particles of respirable size are created when product is dry cut or ground. Please strictly adhere to the cutting guidelines. For more information, please visit [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

#### CUTTING CERAMIC TILE

- Use **ONLY** a **WET** saw with a diamond blade designed for porcelain and ceramic material
- Do **NOT** dry cut using power tools
- To prevent rough edges, tile must be cut slowly with a liberal water flow
- To minimize chipping, tile must be fully supported during cutting
- Cut edges should be smoothed with a diamond hand pad or similar tool as needed

#### DRILLING HOLES

- **WET** drill tile *before* installation. Drilling from both sides will minimize chipping and cracking
- Use a diamond core bit at low speed (250 to 300rpm)
- Constantly wet the tile and drill bit with water during drilling to prevent tile from cracking
- Openings should be 1/8" larger than fixture fittings to avoid stress transfer to the tile

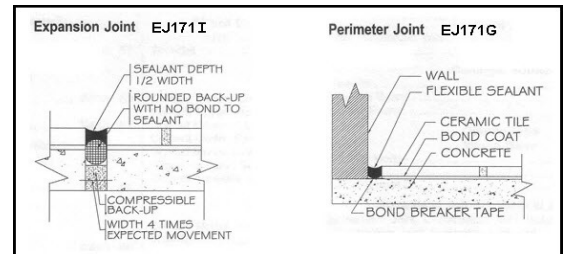
### MOVEMENT JOINTS EJ-171

Movement joints are essential for the success of most tile installations. Follow recommendations on Movement Joints EJ171-25 in the current version of the “TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation.” Movement joint requirements will vary based on substrate, climate, and installation size. An Architect or Design professional should be consulted when specifying the exact number and location of each movement joint.

#### Movement/Expansion Joints: Refer to TCNA -EJ171

A soft joint is required between any change in direction or 90-degree angle and any dissimilar material within the tile installation (tile to tile, tile to metal, tile to wood).

Additional movement provisions may be required based on the conditions of the project.



### Special Instructions for Mélange Collection

#### Color Blending

Before beginning installation, we strongly recommend blending sheets/pieces from all boxes in your shipment. Lay out the tile in the installation area, ensure color variation is distributed evenly, and have the client approve the layout.

#### Variation

Mélange is a combination of stone, terracotta, and glazed ceramic. Each material has its characteristics and variation in color, surface texture, and edge finish. When combined, there will be some lippage caused by surface variation. There will be color variation within each material, vary from sheet to sheet of mosaic or piece to piece of tile. For this reason, dry laying and blending are essential to the success of the finished installation.

For more information on variations to expect with Mélange, please refer to the Mélange variation tab at [driftwooddesignlab.com](http://driftwooddesignlab.com).

#### Cleaning Tile before applying setting material

The back of Mélange Stone, Terracotta, and Glazed Ceramic Tiles should be wiped with a wet sponge to remove dust or other particles before application into the setting bed.

#### Grout Color Selection

Grout is an aesthetic choice that can affect the final appearance of your Mélange installation. Selecting grout color similar to the color of the tile will minimize the appearance of imperfections, chips, and cracks in the tile. A contrasting grout color may accentuate chips, cracks, and other imperfections.

We recommend you finalize the grout color after the tile is installed and during the day when natural light is present. Further, we recommend you test your chosen grout color in a one-square-foot section of the installation or consider setting a mock-up before finalizing the grout color you use.

### Sealing

**Most Mélange tiles and mosaic must be sealed two times - before and after grouting.** The exception to this is the glazed 4"x4" tiles (Peltro, Berber, Blanco Puro, Latte)

**Before grouting** -To prevent grout from staining the terracotta or natural stone, the tiles must be sealed with a high-quality penetrating sealer before grouting.

**After Grouting** - After the tile is grouted and has been cured, joints should be sealed again with the same penetrating sealer once the grout has fully cured. In wet areas, grout must be re-sealed occasionally to maintain protection. See the sealer manufacturer's recommendations.

### Grouting

Apply grout following the material manufacturer's instructions and per recommendation. For cementitious grouts only: Using a slightly damp sponge, wipe diagonally across the tile to remove grout film and haze from the surface. Let dry, then wipe with a lint-free cloth as a final step, buffing away all residual grout from the tiles surface.

### Grout Haze

Do not allow grout to dry on the surface! Grout haze is a very thin layer of grout which results from allowing the grout to fully dry on the surface of the tile. During installation, the grout must be completely removed from the surface, then buffing with a soft cloth to remove any residual grout film. Once the grout dries, there is little that can be done to remove grout haze, aside from washing the tile with a highly diluted commercial acid grout haze removers.

### RESOURCES & INDUSTRY GROUPS

(NTCA) National Tile Contractors Association	<a href="http://www.tile-assn.com">www.tile-assn.com</a>
(TCNA) Tile Council of North America	<a href="http://www.tcnatile.com">www.tcnatile.com</a>
(TTMAC) Terrazzo Tile and Marble Assoc. of Canada	<a href="http://www.ttmac.com">www.ttmac.com</a>
(NSI) Natural Stone Institute.	<a href="http://www.naturalstoneinstitute.org">www.naturalstoneinstitute.org</a>

**Questions?** Please contact our Technical Services Department at [Driftwooddesignlab.com](http://Driftwooddesignlab.com)



**Driftwood Design Lab** provides product information and information concerning installation procedures and maintenance practices to assist each of its customers in making selection, usage, installation and maintenance decisions. Customer's selection and usage of Driftwood Design Lab Tile products and the installation procedure and maintenance practice employed by each customer are outside the direction and control of Driftwood Design Lab and are strictly and completely the choice and responsibility of each customer and their installer. Driftwood Design Lab does not warrant any product for any specific use, nor any installation procedure or maintenance practice, and expressly disclaims all asserted claims after installation of Driftwood Design Lab Tile products.