

DATA SHEET AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION	Cement handmade floor and wall tile, composed by cement, stone dust and pigments.	
DIMENSIONS*	Size Square 7.87 in. x 7.87 in. Thick 0.65 in.	Hexagonal 7.87 in. x 9 in. 0.65 in.
WEIGHT *	2.86 lb.	
PACKING UNIT	12 square pieces 10 hexagonal pieces	
BOX DIMENSIONS	High: 8 in. Width: 8 in. Length: 9.25 in.	

*Weight and dimensions may vary because it's a handmade product.

Musaiko tiles are made of cement and mineral pigments, so they can have small differences in colors and variations in tones. We recommend that before being installed, tiles of different boxes are mixed to balance the differences in color and hue.

Tiles can have a white residue on the surface called cement efflorescence, which are mineral salts of the same cement. These minerals can be removed during the cleaning and polishing process after installation. Sealing the tiles generally inhibits the efflorescence coming back.

GENERAL INSTALLATION AND CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS

Musaiko offers these installations, cleaning and sealing recommendations for cement tiles as general suggestions to installers. As installation conditions vary, the installer (and not Musaiko) is responsible for ensuring that their tiles are installed correctly.

I. Equipment and materials necessary for installation:

- Mortar (use white mortar for light colored tiles and gray mortar for dark colored tiles).
Do not use adhesive for ceramic slabs.
- 1/16" (1.6 mm) floor dividers
- 1/2" (13 mm) toothed trowel
- Sponge
- 5-gallon water bucket
- Wet slab saw with diamond disk
- Grout without sand (not epoxy)
- Rubber grout spatula
- Cement floor penetrating sealer
- Brush or roller
- Floor polisher 17" (43 cm) in diameter.
- Polishing brush (sand screen # 220 / black pad - optional) green and white pads.

II. Preparation of floors and walls

- a. Before installing the tile, make sure it is done on a flat, level, stable cement base.
- b. To prevent cracks caused by the movement of the substrate or the earth itself, be sure to include a small perimeter for expansion and contraction of the mosaics where necessary. Consult your architect or engineer.

- c. For installation on walls they can be installed on drywall, cement blocks or cement panels (for wet areas). The surface must be flat, smooth and dry. Any paint residue or unevenness should be patched or leveled. Be sure to use a Thinsset (thin layer mortar) behind the cement panel to fill the gaps or unevenness.

III. Tile installation

- a. Decide the location of the tiles and place them in position to ensure the correct order before installing them. Start at the center of the pattern and then place the border mosaics. Finally place the exterior mosaics and cut them to adjust using a wet saw with a diamond blade.
- b. Using a sponge, completely wet the back of the mosaic to make it easier for the mortar to adhere to the tile.
- c. Apply the mortar mixture to the floor surface evenly, using the 13 mm notched trowel. Then, apply the mortar to the back of the mosaic, covering it completely. Always place the mortar in the same direction, otherwise air bubbles can get caught causing the tiles to rise.
- d. Do not use any rubber mallet, instead, with your hands press on the tile to place it in the correct position and level so that the tile is level with the first tile already installed. Make sure the tiles are perfectly level throughout the installation, since the tiles cannot be matched with the polisher, as is the case with marble or granite.
- e. Leave a 1.6 mm (1/16 ") gap for the grout between each tile and continue installing until all the tiles are in place. Use the 1.6 mm (1/16") spacers.
- f. Do not allow any mortar residue to remain on the tile. Be sure to remove it immediately with the wet sponge. This will make the final cleaning of the tile easier.
- g. Let the mortar dry completely for about 2 to 4 days before applying the grout.

IV. Grout application

- a. DO NOT USE DARK GROUT because it has carbon pigment; this type of pigment is very invasive and can stain the clear parts of the tile. It is better to use a grout without sand in light colors such as white, light gray or bone color. It is not recommended to use Epoxy grout / melt because it will cause irreversible damage to the mosaics. To avoid staining the mosaic with the melted, you should always clean it immediately with the damp sponge.
- b. Apply the grout with the help of the rubber spatula. Do not allow the grout to dry on the surface of the tile for a long period of time. The boards must be completely full.
- c. We emphasize once again not to leave grout residue on the surface of the tile.
- d. Spray the grout with water two or three times a day to slow down the hydration process and minimize cracking or shrinking.

V. Cleaning the tiles with a polishing machine

- a. After the grout has dried (about 48 hours later), use the polishing machine 17 "at 170 RPM using either the black pad or the green pad on the polisher brush to clean the cement floor completely. This will depend of how dirty the floor is. Generally, the green pad is sufficient to achieve this cleaning. Moisten the floor with enough water to make sure that the polisher is always working on the wet surface, otherwise you will scratch the floor. Damp will also help remove dirt. These instructions assume that you know how to use the floor polisher.
- b. Finish polishing the floor completely, then drain excess water and dry the floor with a completely clean mop (preferably a new one). By cleaning the floor with the polisher, you will have the impression that the floor is losing its color. Do not worry, this is normal. What is happening at the moment is that the polisher is removing a small surface layer of the mosaic, but it does not cause any problems. Be sure to clean the floor completely, wash it with enough water, and dry it well so that no residue of color remains on it.

SEALING THE TILES

- a. For the sealing of the floor, the surface of the floor must be completely clean and free of grease, oil, earth, wax or any other element outside the floor, including grout material left carelessly on the surface of the tile. It is very important that you allow the grout to dry at least 48 hours before applying the sealant.
- b. 2-3 hours after the floor has been sealed, return with the cement polisher and using the white pad on the polisher brush, start polishing the floor to give the mosaics the desired brightness. Repeat this step as many times as you wish.
- c. Use water and neutral soap to clean your cement floor.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLEANING AND MAINTAINING YOUR TILES

For daily cleaning you can use a neutral soap of adequate pH (such as a liquid dishwashing soap) and warm water. Avoid the use of acids or bleach on the tiles as they can react with the cement and damage the surface. Also avoid cleaners with detergents because they can leave a residue that is difficult to rinse and will collect dirt over time.

Avoid spilling acids on the tiles, and if accidents occur, it is advisable to clean the floor quickly. The longer the spill remains on the tile, the more likely it is to leave a lasting mark.

Depending on the sealant and use, the mosaics will need to be re-sealed every couple of years.

CAUTION: Never use acid or abrasive based cleaners or chemicals such as chlorine, vinegar or the like to clean your floors. If, after a good period of use, the floor needs to be sealed again, you will only need to apply one coat of the final coat sealant (if any) following the instructions given. The areas where the traffic of people is greater, will require the application of this sealer more frequently.

HOW TO REMOVE GROUT SPOTS

If some grout managed to sneak into your tiles, then we share with you the best method to remove grout stains from cement tiles:

1. Dampen the grout stained tiles with warm water.
2. Using sandpaper for dry and wet grade 400 surfaces, gently carve the area while reapplying warm water.
3. Repeat as many times as necessary and clean the tile when finished.
4. Then proceed with the cleaning and sealing process.

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