

INSTALLING AND CUTTING RIBBON GLASS TILES

Substrate Preparation



Since any crack in a glass tile is very visible, the use of a crack isolation membrane (ANSI A118.12-2005) over the entire surface is strongly recommended. Many substrates may continue to cure and shrink over a period of months, and a crack isolation membrane prevents shrinkage or movement of the substrate to mirror through the tile. If a crack isolation membrane is not used, neither the distributor nor the manufacturer will accept any responsibility should any cracking occur.

Cutting



Glass tile should be cut on a wet saw using a diamond blade designed for cutting glass. A blade for cutting glass is thin, has smaller diamonds than a tile blade, has a continuous rim and generally runs at a slower speed. Glass tile is cut with the glazed side up, the rotation of the saw blade should enter the glass from the glazed side. Ensure adequate water or coolant is provided. Whenever possible cut edges should be placed in corners where they can be covered or hidden. Keep in mind that in many cases it may be easier and less expensive to mark your cuts and take the tile to a professional glass shop for cutting or drilling.

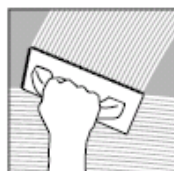
Notes – A blade designed for cutting ceramic tiles is coarse and will chip the glass. Straight cuts generally do not result in additional stress to the glass tile, but notched cuts may add stress and cause cracking of the glass at the inside corner. A standard ceramic tile cutter is not recommended.

Blades for cutting glass tiles are made to fit most tile saws and are available from many tile distributors. A lapidary blade will also cut glass tiles cleanly. Interstyle has developed an inex-

Install only over well-cured, stable substrates.

Allow for an expansion joint whenever substrates change.

Installation



Use a white thin-set mortar (2-component, flexible, rapid cure, acrylic thin-set mortar system, such as Grani/Rapid by Mapei) formulated for interior and exterior wall installations. Spread the adhesive with a notched trowel following the manufacturer's recommendations (in many cases a 3/16" V-notch trowel works well).



Use the flat side of the trowel to smooth the ridges without removing thin-set. **Use only the thin-set manufacturer's minimum recommended thickness of thin-set. Do not over-build the adhesive, as it will shrink and add stress or crack the glass.** Spread only as much adhesive as will be covered with the tile within 15 minutes.



Sheet mounted mosaics can be applied directly to the thin-set. 4" and larger tiles should be "back buttered" with the flat edge of the trowel to provide a void-free installation and good contact with the mortar bed. Firmly press the glass against the surface to prevent voids in the adhesive from showing through the glass.

Install control joints where the tile abuts restraining surfaces and around the perimeter of the tile work.

Allow the adhesive to cure according to the manufacturer's instructions (at least 24 hours). Grout with an unsanded grout to prevent scratching of the surface. Grout joints should be filled to approximately 2/3 of the thickness of the tile to allow light to reflect on the internal surfaces of the tile.

pensive 4" and 7" electroplated diamond blade for use with a wet saw. Contact your dealer to purchase these blades.

Cutting Curves – A ring or band saw designed for cutting glass makes cutting curves easy.

Drilling



Drilling a hole requires the use of a drill bit or coring drill that is designed for glass – if the drill and glass tile cannot be securely clamped in place, drill a small pilot hole through the glass to act as a guide. Always use a proper glass drill bit, keep the drill bit and hole lubricated with turpentine or water and drill at very slow speed. Start drilling from the back of the tile, then complete the hole by drilling from the face of the tile. Attempting to drill all the way through

the tile from one side will cause the glass to chip off on the exit side of the hole. **Important – Drill a hole 1/8" (3mm) larger than any anchors you plan to use. This will prevent stress transfer from the fixture to the glass tile. Ensure anchors are well secured to the structure (not only to the substrate) and do not allow fixtures to rest directly on the glass.**

Cleaning



For routine cleaning, use any non-abrasive cleaning compound recommended for either glass or tile (such as ammonia and water, etc.). Follow rinsing instructions carefully.

A penetrating sealer may be used to facilitate clean up of cooking oils on frosted and textured glass.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR GLASS TILE IN EXTREMELY HOT CLIMATES OR HEATED ENVIRONMENTS

All glass tile products are suitable for interior and exterior surfaces. They can be used in both residential and commercial applications.

Glass tile is suitable for exterior applications where temperatures may reach 50 C during the day and where there may also be a rapid cooling of temperature at night. In addition glass tile may be used in heated areas such as steam-rooms, saunas and hot pools, where it retains the strength and durability of a ceramic tile and the delicate translucency of glass. In exterior applications, glass tile also has the added benefit of being resistant to chemical attack, water absorption, and discoloration.

The production of glass tile involves the fusing of glass to colored glazes at temperatures above 900 degrees Celsius followed by a rapid cooling of the individual pieces to room temperature. Even at these extreme firing and cooling temperatures in the stage of production, the glass tile pieces do not show any occurrences of cracking or stressing in any manner. Glass tile has been used extensively in exterior applications subject to effects of high heat and sunlight.

Correct installation and the use of proper installation materials are essential to avoid stress on the glass. A cement-based thin set mortar must be used in exterior applications with a latex / acrylic additive. This mixture will allow enough flexibility to expand and contract with the glass tile in high to low temperatures. Expansion joints are also a critical consideration in long spans and areas subject to extremes in temperature.

INSTALLATION OF GLASSTYLE IN SWIMMING POOLS SUITABILITY AND PROCEDURE

SUITABILITY AND DURABILITY

Glass tile is well suited for use in swimming pools. It is completely non-absorbent, and is not affected by exposure to water or extremes of weather. The decoration on the face of the tile is fused to the surface in a ceramic glazing process, and is not affected by water or chemicals that would normally be used in swimming pools. Any color or pattern in the glass tile will not fade nor discolor. The surface decoration of the glass tile, and the surface of most glazed tiles, can be scratched by hard objects. This type of damage is unlikely to occur during normal pool use, but care should be taken when construction equipment and tools are used in the vicinity of the pool.

INSTALLATION

Glass tile can be installed onto most prepared concrete pool surfaces. If the pool surface is acceptable for the installation of ceramic tiles, then it is suitable for the installation of glass tile.

Glass tile should be installed using a good quality, factory-premixed, latex-modified mortar that is formulated for the installation of wall tiles. It is recommended that the thin set mortar be white in color, since this tends to assure a more uniform overall appearance. Neither mastic nor organic adhesives should be used in areas that are exposed to high levels of moisture for an extended period of time.