

**IMPORTANT**

These instructions are a general guide for installing Ceramic products. Some jobs may require different or more detailed specifications.

Laying must be done by a professional installer who is familiar with the procedures described below.

Hardly ever problems appeared in a ceramic coating are due to the ceramic product. Almost always problems are due to poor execution of the laying process.

Sometimes they are due to improper product selection, laying system, or fixing materials and grouting, or lack of movement joints.

Please read and understand these instructions before beginning any job.

**NO CLAIMS WILL BE ACCEPTED IF THE PRODUCTS ARE NOT INSTALLED FOLLOWING THESE INSTRUCTIONS.**

**INSTALLATION GUIDE**

**1. Placing an order.**

We recommend ordering 10-15% more than the calculated material to offset losses from cuts during placement, and for future repairs.

If you need material to combine with tiles acquired time ago, please indicate the date of purchase, quantity purchased, description ("descripción"), code ("código"), and control number ("control"), to try to provide the same production lot, or the most similar one.

This information is provided in the boxes and purchasing documents.

It is also necessary to know the final use of the tiles, to select the most suitable type of material:

- For interior wall coverings, both stoneware, porcelain stoneware and porous products can be used.

- For exterior wall coverings, only porcelain stoneware products can be used.

- For interior floors, both stoneware and porcelain stoneware products can be used.

- For exterior floors, only porcelain stoneware products can be used.

Please see our catalog, which indicates the most appropriate use for each of our products.

**2. Receiving the products.**

Open and check every box prior to placement, since **COST OF INSTALLATION CLAIMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN ANY CASE.**

If there is any problem due to defects in the tiles, it has to be always detected **BEFORE INSTALLATION.**

**3. Surface of installation.**

The surface of must be completely clean and dry before starting the laying of the tiles. It is also necessary that the surface is perfectly plane and stable.

The water-sensitive substrates (wood and chipboard, plaster and precast gypsum, etc.) may require a waterproofing primer.

**4. Selecting bonding materials.**

All products must be used according to the producer's instructions. It is always recommendable to ask to the manufacturer or distributor of the bonding material for the most suitable material to be used.

In any case, never use the thick-layer installation method, always install tiles following the thin-layer technique.

Besides, it is highly recommendable to use the double-bonding method to fix the tiles.

**5. Laying.**

**a) Walls**

Once the laying surface is clean and dry, and its planarity has been checked, set the movement joints.

Then prepare the fixing material, always following the manufacturer's instructions, and apply it on the laying surface (also in the back of the pieces, in the case of double-bonding). It is recommended to work in small areas, applying the adhesive and "combing" it with a serrated float, according to manufacturer's instructions.

Do not submerge the tiles in water before installation.

Place the pieces leaving the necessary joint between them, with the help of spacers, pressing and slightly moving them back and forth to ensure greater coverage on the back of the tile. Then fix them definitively in place by using a small sheet of clean rigid rubber and beating on it with a rubber hammer.

To achieve a homogeneous aesthetic effect, mix tiles from several different boxes, especially in highly shaded products.

In interiors, a minimum joint of 1.5 mm is recommended for porous tiles porous ties, and 2 mm wide for porcelain stoneware tiles.

For exteriors, use only porcelain stoneware tiles. Joints must be at least 5 mm wide.

In interior wall coverings, expansion joints should also be provided at joints and changes of plane, especially on unstable substrates (plasterboard, wood, etc.).

In large areas, set intermediate joints every 8 m. These joints must be at least 6 mm wide.

The excess of adhesive that accumulates in the spaces of the joints when laying the tiles must be cleaned before it hardens.

The excess of adhesive that accumulates in the spaces of the joints when laying the tiles must be cleaned before it hardens. It is also important to remove the spacers before the bonding material hardens. Before using the crosshead or spacer system, carry out a preliminary test with the type of material to be installed and check that during the process of breaking

the spacer, the piece is not damaged.

**a.1) Alternative Laying**

For a better aesthetic finish, we recommend an alternative laying of the tiles, alternating one to one pieces with lines in vertical position with tiles with lines in horizontal position. Clean bonding and grouting materials excess right after laying.

**a.2) Random fitting. Faces Series.**

-We advise the fitting of the pieces in a random manner without following any type of established pattern, so that in this way all the model's beauty may be appreciated.

-In order to enhance the pronounced effects of light and shading each piece offers, it is advisable to place a rooftop light vertically above the product.

-A 1.5 mm joint is recommended.

-Sealant of the material in dry areas is optional with the exception of moist areas in which this must be sealed.

-Practical and simple to clean, routine care is needed thus preventing the use of abrasive or acidic products.

**a) Floor covering**

It is necessary to check that the substrate to be tiled is stable and suitable for the laying of ceramic tiles. The surface must be completely clean of dust or any other substance that may impair the adhesion of the tiles.

The lighting of the workplace must be intense enough to easily detect any laying defects, especially liping between tiles.

The laying of our tiles as flooring requires the thin-bed laying technique and the use of bonding materials suitable for their properties (these can be checked at [www.anticcolonial.com](http://www.anticcolonial.com)). We recommend the use of adhesives for stoneware and porcelain stoneware tiles, suitable for the environment they are to be subjected to.

The installation joints shall be at least 1.5 mm in interior floors and 5 mm in exteriors.

Perimeter joints between walls and floors are always necessary for surfaces larger than 7 m². A perimeter joint width of 5 to 10 mm is recommended, which will be hidden by the adjacent covering. They must be present in corners, changes of plane and changes of material. It is recommended that they be sealed with an elastic putty and covered with a base.

Expansion joints should be at least 5 mm, normally 8 mm. It is advisable to divide the fixing surfaces into sections the areas of which do not exceed 50 -70 m² in indoor environments. They should also be installed in such a way as to interrupt linear dimensions that exceed 8 m.

**b) Selecting the adhesive**

It is essential to take into account the type of manufacturing material, technical features and where the ceramic is to be installed. According to this information, in L'Antic Colonial's virtual catalog ([www.anticcolonial.com](http://www.anticcolonial.com)) you will find Butech's recommended adhesive for each model.

**6. Selecting grouting materials (laying joints).**

All products must be used according to the producer's instructions. The kind of grouting material to use depends on the final use of the ceramic surface, and on the width of the joints.

In any case, consult with the grouting material manufacturer about the more suitable product.

We recommend using coloured grouts, specially for ceramic tiles in dark colors, because it will substantially improve the final look of the ceramic surface; but never use materials coloured with black smoke (micronized coal).

You can find Butech's recommended grouting material for each model in L'Antic Colonial's virtual catalog ([www.anticcolonial.com](http://www.anticcolonial.com))

**7. Grouting (laying joints).**

The grouting operation deserves as much care and skill as the laying of the tiles. The durability and its aesthetic quality largely depends on this operation.

Before starting, the joints must be empty and clean of bonding material, and they must have a uniform depth.

Wait at least 24 hours after laying of the tiles before filling the joints. Clean the joints with a wet sponge before the material has dried.

**8. Cutting and drilling.**

Consult the manufacturer or distributor of these accessories about the kind of tool to use in each case.

In general, it is advisable to place the pieces in the position where the cut is less visible (covered by the skirting, in the inside corners of the walls, etc.).

The manual cutter manual is useful for most cuts, but does not guarantee high accuracy, especially in the case of porcelain products. For these tiles, because of its high hardness, it is recommended to use power tools equipped with cutting diamond blade and water cooled.

Drilling for water intakes or drains should be done with electric drills, without striker, equipped with diamond-tipped drill bits, and properly cooled with water.

they should be used with caution as they usually have higher acid concentrations.

Please take special care with galvanized products (gold, silver), as they are much less resistant to acids and aggressive cleaning products.

As a general rule, the following precautions should always be taken:

- Ensure that the products used are compatible with the chemical resistance of the tiles. Avoid the use of solid detergents with abrasive particles, as well as cleaning agents containing hydrofluoric acid (HF), since this may attack the glaze and cause irreparable damage to the tile.

- Never use an acid product on recently installed tiles.

- Carefully read and observe the instructions and recommendations given by the manufacturers of cleaning products.

- Before using a cleaning agent, test its effect on the ceramic tiles and grouts.

- Protect the surfaces where there are no ceramic tiles.

- Never use scrubbers to clean shiny tiles or grouts.

- It is important to always use clean water.

To remove the protective wax in the glazed surface of the tiles, use only warm water and a damp cloth. Do not use scrubbers, blades or sharp objects that could scratch the surface.

**2. Daily maintenance.**

Our ceramic products are one of the easiest to clean materials in the market.

Maintenance operations will consist on periodic cleaning with warm water or a dilute solution of a usual detergent.

Never use scrubbers to clean shiny tiles or grouts. It is important to always use clean water.