



## **INFORMATION & GUIDELINES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF FOLIA GLASS TILES**

### **RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION**

SOLISTONE Folia Glass tiles are not recommended for areas that may be subject to heavy impact, heavy abrasion, and areas where temperatures can exceed 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Folia Glass tiles are **ONLY** recommended for interior applications in areas that are not exposed to direct sunlight.

We always recommend dry-fitting your pattern first to think about your cuts in advance and to make sure you like the pattern. This will also help you choose which pieces go where, which is especially helpful with tiles that have a lot of variation.

**NOTE:** this document contains only guidelines for the installation process. A professional installer should always be consulted to discuss the specific parameters surrounding your project.

### **SUBSTRATES**

All substrates should be firmly fixed, flat, clean, dry and free of contaminants such as dust, oil, paint, sealers etc. to ensure proper adhesion. Painted surfaces must be scuffed or sanded for the product and adhesive to bond correctly. Wet areas need special attention and require appropriate substrates, e.g. concrete, cement boards (compressed sheet), and/or treated plywood.

### **WATERPROOF MEMBRANES**

Waterproof membranes prevent leakage of water through to the sub-floor framing and/or habitable spaces below. Particular attention must be paid to: carrying the membrane up the wall, outside shower boxes, installation of bond breakers, and sealing around penetrations. It is strongly recommended that membrane systems be used in all wet areas. Some systems may involve the use of a primer.

### **CUTTING**

Use a glasscutter (score and snap) with a new diamond wheel for best results when cutting our glass tiles. Wetting the diamond wheel with oil before cutting will produce the smoothest cuts. In some cases it may be possible to use a wet-saw with a new, continuous rim diamond blade specifically designed for cutting glass. Do not use turbo or other notched blades designed for use with porcelain or ceramic as the teeth can cause a coarse cut, resulting in a heavily chipped edge. To cut angles without a wet saw or grinder, drill a small hole at the apex of the angle prior to cutting. In most cases, this will allow the use of a score and snap cutter and avoid small cracks that can



happen at the angle. Cut edges and corners will be sharp. Always be sure to smooth the cut edges manually with a diamond hand pad or ceramic dressing stone.

## **DRILLING**

If possible, drill holes before installing tile. Drilling from both sides can ensure a cleaner finish if the hole will be visible after installation. Using a new diamond coring bit (for large holes) or spade bit (for small holes) with a diamond tip made for glass drilling will give the best results. Lubricating the bit and tile surface with a continuous spray of oil/water mix will prolong the life of bits and provide a better-finished edge.

When possible, the use of a jig will ensure precise placement of holes to be drilled. When drilling holes for anchoring bolts, plumbing or any other dissimilar material always ensure a minimum of 1/8" clearance around the item is provided to avoid cracking due to disparate expansion and contraction rates or stress transfer.

## **ADHESIVE**

**Important: No adhesives with strong acid and alkaline cement should be used when installing this product. Only neutral cement is allowed.**

Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions carefully. We do not recommend one brand of adhesive over another. Please check with your local tile supply store for alternative and comparable products.

The adhesive manufacturer's literature will explain if the adhesive product is suitable for interiors and/or exteriors, as well as walls. Most thinset mortars with a latex additive (multi purpose and polymer modified thinsets) are adequate for installing glass. A cement-based adhesive is generally suitable on masonry substrates where no movement is anticipated. Where slight movement could occur through thermal or pedestrian loads, a modified cement adhesive should be used as a minimum. A 1/4" – 1/8" notch trowel is recommended for most applications. Set the tile in place gently tapping it in with a grout float to ensure 100% adhesive coverage.

## **GROUTING**

Non-sanded grout is recommended due to the size of the joint in between each piece of glass. Grouts are ordinarily a water mix, but where some flexibility may be needed, a latex additive or similar product should be used.

## **SEALANTS**

The glass tiles do not have to be sealed but we strongly recommend sealing the grout after installation to help prevent it from absorbing stains.



## **CARE & CLEANING**

SOLISTONE Folia Glass tiles must be regularly cleaned and maintained to extend the life and beauty of the tile. The tiles can be cleaned with a neutral mild detergent, or glass cleaner. Any spills should be cleaned quickly to lessen the degree of the stain to the grout. Do not use abrasive cleaners, powders, scouring pads, steel wool or sandpaper.