



INFORMATION & GUIDELINES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MICRO ALUMINUM MOSAICS

RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION

Installation of Micro Aluminum Mosaic tiles should be done by qualified technicians, especially when electrical work is being done around the mosaic. Special attention is required for areas where the mosaic tiles will be subject to high temperatures, such as fireplace surrounds, behind cook tops and kitchen ranges not equipped with a back guard.

Micro Aluminum Mosaic tiles are not recommended for floors, or any areas that may be subject to heavy impact, heavy abrasion, and areas where temperatures can exceed 130 degrees Fahrenheit.

This material is not recommended for exterior applications, as color will fade.

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. The use of reinforced waterproof membranes is suggested.

CUTTING

Cuts can be done with a hand-saw and blade suitable for cutting aluminum. Cutting must be performed slowly at all times to avoid the buildup of high temperatures, which could discolor the surface of the tile.

ADHESIVE

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 manufacturer's literature will explain if the adhesive product is suitable for interiors



and/or exteriors, as well as walls. Most thinset mortars (multi purpose and polymer modified thinsets) are adequate for installing the Micro Aluminum Mosaic tile.

A cement-based adhesive is generally suitable on masonry substrates where no movement is anticipated. Where slight movement could occur through thermal loads, a modified

cement adhesive should be used as a minimum. A 1/8" notch trowel is recommended for most applications. To make sure there is 100% coverage you can firmly press the tiles into place, but do not use any hard objects to tap down the center or edges of the tile.

GROUTING

Important: SOLISTONE recommends non-sanded grout for most installations of the Aluminum tiles. Installation professionals may select non-sanded grouts containing a latex additive. Different types of epoxy or gel based grouts may also be used and will prevent excessive scratching caused during the installation process.

Grout should be designed for external or internal conditions which ever may be the case. Sanded grout is generally recommended for any grout joint larger than 1/8". For optimum results, we recommend the repetitive use of a firm sponge. A sanded grout, if applied harshly, can scratch the tiles; carefully float in the grout to avoid abrasion.

SEALANTS

Although Aluminum tiles do not require sealant, it is recommended that some type of sealant be used in order to protect grout joints.

CARE & CLEANING

Aluminum tiles must be regularly cleaned and maintained to extend their life and beauty. Most dirt and stains can be cleaned with a mild detergent and soft cloth or sponge. Fingerprints, streaks and watermarks can be removed with olive oil. When using cleaner, avoid direct contact with grout as it may discolor. Do not use abrasive cleaners, powders, scouring pads, steel wool or sandpaper. Do not let soap, bleach or other cleaning solutions sit on the surface.