INFORMATION & GUIDELINES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE BALLISTIC COLLECTION

RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION

Solistone Ballistic Metal mosaics are designed for almost any commercial and residential interior application, including walls, ceilings and backsplashes.

Installation of Ballistic tiles should be done by qualified technicians, especially when electrical work is being done around the metal mosaic. Ballistic mosaics are not recommended for flooring applications, or any areas that may be subject to heavy impact, heavy abrasion, and areas where temperatures can exceed 130 degrees Fahrenheit.

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.

CURVED SURFACES

The Ballistic Collection can be installed around gently curved surfaces.

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 wet saw equipped with a blade suitable for cutting stainless steel. For certain applications cuts may not be necessary. Correct placement and arrangement of the mosaic can be used to avoid cuts altogether.

ADHESIVE

Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully. SOLI does 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 (multi purpose and polymer modified thinsets) are adequate for installing the Ballistic mosaics.

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 1/8" notched trowel is recommended for most applications. To make sure there is 100% coverage, firmly press the tiles into place. Do not use any hard objects to tap down the center or edges of the metal tiles.

GROUTING

Important: Since Ballistic tiles are very sensitive to scratching, a modifed non-sanded grout is recommended. 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 suitable for joints up to 3/4" in width and designed for external or internal conditions which ever may be the case. For optimum results, we recommend the repetitive use of a firm sponge. Carefully float in the grout to avoid abrasion. Separation of the grout from the tile and shrinkage can occur after grout has dried. A second application of non-sanded grout may be necessary.

SEALANTS

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

CARE & CLEANING

Metal tiles must be regularly cleaned and maintained to extend their life and beauty. SOLI recommends 3M Stainless Steel Cleaner and Polish. 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 stainless steel 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.

For removing light scratches, we recommend a stainless-steel polisher applied with a steel wool pad. Gently rub in a circular motion first, then wipe clean with a damp cloth.