

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR LEATHER | PORCELAIN TILES

TOOLS NEEDED

- Self-leveling substrate: Laticrete NXT Level or preferred (floor only)
- Thinset mortar: Laticrete 253 white for floors or Laticrete Trilite for walls
- Standard tile installation tools

TIME REQUIRED

- Overall installation time is 24 hours.
- Do not walk on or touch surface for a minimum of 24 hours after installation is complete. Thinset must be 100% dry.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Substrate
2. Tile Application
3. Cleaning, Maintenance, and Protection

EXISTING FLOORS

It is possible to perform the installation on base material such as wood, ceramic, etc. These substrates must be perfectly bonded, stable, and free of dirt. We recommend avoiding acidic cleaning products. If the surface of an existing sub-floor is irregular or not flat, use of a self-leveling product compound is recommended.

SUBSTRATE AND ANTI-MOISTURE TREATMENT

1. Make sure the floor/surface is prepared with a self-leveling concrete compound and has been left to dry overnight.
2. Before laying out the tiles, make sure the substrate has been properly acclimated and is clean, dry (less than 2% residual humidity), flat, mechanically strong, and free of cracks and substances that could impair adhesion or smoothing.

APPLICATION OF THINSET ADHESIVE

1. Thinset must have adhesive bonding strength equal to Laticrete 253. (The following mechanical press strength values are recommended: less than or equal to 15-20N/mm² for residential environments or less than or equal to 30-40N/mm² for commercial environments.)
2. Apply the adhesive using the double spread coating technique whenever full-bed application is essential. First, use the flat trowel to prep the substrate. Then, use the toothed trowel, depending on the tile size and whether it is a floor or wall application.
3. Apply to the back of the tile up to 1/8" from edges (to avoid

spill-through when applying pressure) and the substrate.

4. The quantity of adhesive required will vary based on installation site and tile size.

APPLICATION OF TILES

1. Choose tiles from different boxes and mix them before fixing. This will allow the natural variations in color and shadow to be highlighted.
2. Carefully lay down each single tile, first putting down a whole edge. Do not use a rubber-head hammer to push tiles down, as this will indent and mark the leather. A gentle uniform pressure on the leather surface is enough. Avoid staining leather surface.
3. No grout is required. Tiles are to be applied butt-joint, pressing side to side against leather overhangs.

CUTTING OF SLIM PORCELAIN BACKING

1. Make sure the work surface is flat and clean.
2. Always mark tiles before cutting.
3. Cutting is recommended from porcelain side to avoid excess of dust depositing on the leather surface.
4. Use a glasscutter, manual tile-cutter, or diamond disc cutter with speed rotation greater than 1,000 rpm.
5. Use a diamond sanding sponge, available in various grits, to avoid sharp edges.
6. Lightly rub the sponge over the side of the thin stoneware to obtain a slightly rounded-off edge or continue rubbing for a beveled effect.
7. To cut tiles from the surface side (not preferred), use a grinder. Be cautious and cut slowly as this process leaves more residue that will require more clean-up on the surface. Begin by cutting through the leather and porcelain about 10 percent into the tile at both ends. Then, continue by scoring the leather only. Next, cut all the way through the middle section of the full tile. This process avoids the porcelain tile snapping or cracking.

SURFACE FINISHING, CLEANING, AND MAINTENANCE

1. During installation, clean with a lightly dampened (not wet) sponge.
2. Avoid acidic cleaning products.
3. After 24 hours, clean the leather surface with Edelman EDGE Leather Cleaner & Restorer, following the User's Instructions.
4. Allow to dry.
5. Regular maintenance is very simple. Dust with a Swiffer-like duster. For a deeper clean, a soft sponge mop, lightly



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dampened (not wet), may be used. No wax is required.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is it possible to drill holes in the tiles for wall applications?
Yes.
2. Is it possible to replace a damaged tile?
Yes. This process is the same as a marble or granite stone slab replacement.

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