

INSTALLATION CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

For installation care and maintenance, there are not many differences between Topcer unglazed porcelain tiles and any other ceramic tiles when using State of the Art best practices. Manufacturers instructions of setting materials (adhesives / grouts) and of cleaning products must be followed, particularly:

1) Setting materials (adhesives / glues)

They must be specifically addressed to lay porcelain tiles (with very low water absorption). Most manufacturers of setting materials, have a specific brand of adhesives for this type of tiles. Usually they are cement/sand mixtures with addition of polymers or latex that can increase the bond strength considerably when compared to normal glues for porous ceramics.

2) Grout joints

According to the performance required, grouts can be selected either as epoxy or cementitious based types.

Before using cementitious dark grouts on light tile colors, it is advisable to apply a pre-treatment protection on tiles surface. Anyway, even with surface protection, we do not recommend the use of cementitious black/charcoal grouts.

3) Maintenance

For Topcer tiles, as well as for any other unglazed porcelain tiles, it is very important the total removal of any cement / grout residues after the tiles installation. Any cement or grout residues (a film of porous materials left on tiles surface) tend to trap dirt. Therefore, a total removal of cement / grout residues is crucial for a good installation and easy maintenance.

The guidelines with State of the Art best practices in installation and maintenance of ceramic tiles must be used as a reference.

Follows below links to some guidelines as well as the references for the most important international norms:

- WFCA – World Floor Covering Association
 - <https://wfca.org/page/ceramic-flooring>
- TTA – The Tile Association
 - <http://www.tiles.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/tileitright-ammended.pdf>

ANSI A108/A118/A136 - American National Specifications for the Installation of Ceramic Tile

CEN/TR 13548 - General rules for the design and installation of ceramic tiling

ISO/TR 17870-1 - Guidelines for installation -- Part 1: Installation of ceramic wall and floor tiles