

SLIMMER TILE LAYING ON
FLOORS AND WALLS



3000X1000

TOUCH
THE
DIFFERENCE

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1. HYGIENE AND SAFETY MEASURES

When rectified tiles are handled, all necessary safety precautions should be taken. For this purpose, use:



Protective gloves



Safety goggles



Mask



Vacuum cleaner

2. PRIOR CONSIDERATIONS

1. Environmental conditions:

- Application temperature of the cement-based adhesive: +5°C to +35°C.
- Cement-based adhesive should not be used when there is a risk of frost or ice or during very hot weather.
- Cement-based adhesive should not be used on rainy days either.

2. When floors are tiled, a series of joints should be envisaged:

- Joints planned by the project engineer or architect:
 - *Structural joints*, detailed in the building plans. They absorb movements by the building. These joints should be left in place and never covered over with tiles.
 - *Perimeter joints*. They isolate the paved floor from other surfaces such as the meeting point between two walls or the wall and the floor, a change of plane, or meeting points with other types of material.
These joints should have a minimum width of 10 mm / 0,39" and they should be continuous. They help to relieve any accumulated stress that might otherwise lift up the tiles.
They can be filled with a compressible material like expanded polystyrene or silicon or be concealed by a skirting.
 - *Movement, expansion or intermediate joints*. They absorb movements due to changes in the temperature of the tiles, adhesive or substrate, preventing expansion or contraction movements.
They are used for surfaces of over 50 m².
More joints will be needed for surfaces that might be subject to big changes in temperature or vibrations.

In floors subject to heavy or hard-wheeled traffic or over which heavy loads might be dragged, the layout of the joints should be planned so as to avoid them in transit areas. If this is not possible, metal-edged profiles should be used to conceal them.

The depth of these joints should pass through the tile covering, the adhesive and the mortar screed and they should have a width of no less 5 mm / 0,20". They can be covered with profiles or filled with elastic material or grouting, providing that at least one month has elapsed since the mortar screed was laid.

- Tile joints around all the tiles:

They should have a minimum width of 2 mm / 0,08". They absorb possible settlement movements and compensate for deviation tolerances in the length and width of the tiles.

3. Cutting the tiles and making holes in the tiles. (Please see Inalco web: <http://descargas.inalco.es/catalogos/tecnico/Cutting Slimmker porcelain tiles in big formats>)

Straight cut



Ruby cutting machine.

Sizes up to 100 x 100 cm / 39,37" x 39,37".



Raimondi cutting guide.

For any format.

Recommended for large formats up

150 x 300 cm / 59,05" x 118,11".

Other cuts



Angle grinder + smooth diamond disc.

For any format.

Sanding the edges



For the best finish, use a diamond sponge on the edge of the ceramic tile.

Holes



Drill + bit for porcelain tiles.

When making holes in the tiles, never use a drill in the hammer mode.

For any format.



Diamond core drill bit (for attaching to angle grinder).

For any format.

3. TILE-LAYING MATERIALS

- **Spirit level.**
- **Rule** of at least 2 meters / 78,74" long.
- **Primer and a roller.** A coat of primer improves the cement adhesive's bonding capacity, particularly on non-porous surfaces.

Manufacturer	Product
Mapei	ECO PRIM GRIP
Kerakoll	KERAGRIP ECO

- **Class C2 cement adhesive.** Adhesives of this kind contain a high percentage of polymeric resins, and their main advantage is that they are highly elastic and extremely adhesive.
- **A tile levelling set for slimline tiles.** When the cement adhesive sets, lippage or unevenness in the tiles can occur. To ensure optimum end results, particularly with big formats, a tile levelling system is obligatory (such as the Rubí or Raimondi or Tuscan levelling systems).
- **Spacers.** It is not advisable, from any technical point of view, to lay the tiles abutted, without a tile joint. The tile joint should never be less than 2 mm / 0,08" in width.
- **2 notched trowels,** one 10 mm / 0,39" - 12 mm / 0,47" trowel for the wall and another 3 mm / 0,12" one for the tiles.
- **A rubber mallet** to tap the tiles into place.
- **A continuous rim diamond tile saw** (by manufacturers like Würth) for any necessary tile cuts when tiling complicated areas like light boxes, ventilation grills etc.

4. TILE-LAYING SLIMMKER ON WALL



Picture 1

1. Treating the surface where the Slimmker tiles are to be laid.

(Picture 1)

The substrate where the Slimmker tiles are to be laid must be prepared in the same way as any other substrate used for tiles with a traditional thickness.

Remnants of other materials such as adhesive and mortar must be removed. The surface must also be free from dust, grease and damp. It must be stable, without cracks, and have been checked to make sure it is flat.



Picture 2

2. Applying the cement-based adhesive. (Pictures 2 and 3)

Use a 10 mm / 0,39" - 12 mm / 0,47" notched trowel with the correct tooth size for spreading the cement-based adhesive evenly over the surface to be tiled with Slimmker.

It is very important to also spread the cement-based adhesive evenly over the surface of the tile, using the 'floating and buttering method', with adhesive on the wall and on the tile).

Spread the cement adhesive over the entire underside of the tiles, using a 3 mm / 0,12", notched trowel.

The manufacturer's instructions must be followed at all times; if necessary, contact your technical service if you have any doubts.



Picture 3

4. TILE-LAYING SLIMMKER ON WALL



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6

3. Laying Slimmker tiles. (Pictures 4 and 5)

Once the cement-based adhesive has been applied, work can begin on laying the tiles, taking into account that a gap of at least 2 mm / 0,08" must be left between each tile. This space can be maintained by using spacers.

Lay the tiles so that the ridges in the combed cement adhesive of the substrate and in that of the underside of the tiles interlock.

The levellers and spacers should be positioned between the tiles, pressing down on the former with the gun supplied with the levelling set. Several different levelling systems can be found, such as Raimondi, Tile Level by Rubi, the Tuscan Levelling System or Planfix Italmond.

The number of levellers used on each side of the tiles will depend on the tile format. Thus, in the case of 100 x 100 cm / 39,37" x 39,37" tiles, 4 levellers should be used on each side.

Thanks to this kind of product, it is quicker and easier to lay tiles and all the tiles are absolutely level.

4. Bedding the tiles in place. (Picture 6)

To bed the tiles in place correctly, use a rubber trowel similar to those used for grouting tiles. This will help to prevent cracking the tile.

Leave the cement adhesive to dry as per the manufacturer's instructions.



Picture 7



Picture 8



Picture 9

5. Checking that the tiles are level. (Picture 7)

Keep checking that the tiles are correctly aligned using a spirit level.

6. Grouting the tiles. (Picture 8)

Once all the tiles have been laid, you must wait for the drying amount of time indicated by the manufacturer of the bonding material.

You must then make sure that the joints are clean before adding the grouting material.

After checking that they are clean, the grouting can be added using a suitable material in a similar colour to the tiles.

7. Cleaning the surface. (Picture 9)

It is important to leave the tiles to dry for the amount of time indicated by the manufacturer before cleaning off the remains of the grouting material. The tiles should be cleaned using a damp sponge.

5. TILE-LAYING SLIMMKER ON FLOOR



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

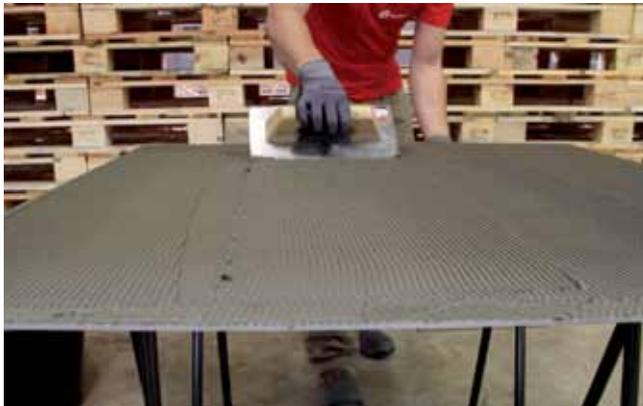
1. Treating the surface where the Slimmker tiles are to be laid.

There are many different kinds of substrates: concrete, conventional partition walls, plasterboard partition walls, existing tiled surfaces, natural stone, wood etc. In each case, special recommendations and a particular type of adhesive apply.

The substrate should be stable and flat, with no cracks. Any remains of dust, lime, cement or dirt should be removed and the substrate should not be at all damp (Picture 1).

The flatness of the substrate should be checked, using a spirit level or similar (Pictures 2 and 3). If necessary, level it with a suitable levelling product.

The substrate should be given a coat of primer using a roller, whether it is newly made or an existing one.



Picture 4



Picture 5

2. Spreading the cement adhesive. (Pictures 4 and 5)

The floating and buttering method should be used, covering both the substrate and the underside of the tiles with cement adhesive. In this way, the whole surface will be covered in bonding material.

Spread the cement adhesive over the entire underside of the tiles, using a 3mm / 0,12", notched trowel. Do not forget to apply sufficient adhesive on the corners and edges of the underside of the tiles.

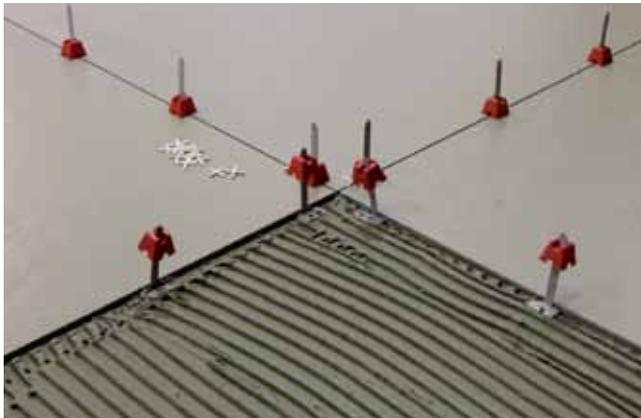
Using a 10 mm / 0,39" - 12 mm / 0,47" notched trowel, comb the floor with cement adhesive.

Once the tiles have been laid, the final thickness of the adhesive should be about 6 mm / 0,24".

5. TILE-LAYING SLIMMKER ON FLOOR



Picture 6



Picture 7



Picture 8

3. Laying the tiles, using levellers and spacers.

(Pictures 6 and 7)

Lay the tiles so that the ridges in the combed cement adhesive of the substrate and in that of the underside of the tiles interlock.

The levellers and spacers should be positioned between the tiles, pressing down on the former with the gun supplied with the levelling set. Several different levelling systems can be found, such as Raimondi, Tile Level by Rubí, the Tuscan Levelling System or Planfix Italmond.

The number of levellers used on each side of the tiles will depend on the tile format. Thus, in the case of 100 x 100 cm / 39,37" x 39,37" tiles, 4 levellers should be used on each side.

Thanks to this kind of product, it is quicker and easier to lay tiles and all the tiles are absolutely level.

4. Tapping the tiles lightly in place with a rubber mallet.

(Picture 8)

To remove any air bubbles in the cement adhesive, move the tile horizontally and then tap it into place with a rubber mallet.

Leave the cement adhesive to dry as per the manufacturer's instructions. Do not tread on the tiles while the cement adhesive is drying.

Once it has set, remove the levellers with the aid of a gun.



Picture 9

5. Grouting with suitable grouting material for slimline Slimmker tiles. (Picture 9)

The gap (> 2 mm / 0,08”) between the tiles should be free of dirt. Once grouted, remove any surplus grouting and leave the grouting material to set as per the drying time specified by the manufacturer.

It is important to comply with drying times, removing any surplus material within the stipulated time limits.

Important:

When grouting polished porcelain tiles, do not use grouts coloured with “lamp black”, since the pulverized coal used to formulate them will penetrate the surface pores of polished porcelain tiles, making it very hard to remove.

6. Cleaning (see cleaning advices).

6. CLEANING

Removing cement remains

When the tiles have been laid and grouted, the surface will be covered in an opaque cement film that masks its real appearance. The surface must be thoroughly cleaned to remove any surplus grouting material or dirt from the tile-laying process. A slightly acidic detergent should be used (such as **Fila Deterdek**) which does not give off any toxic vapours, damage the tile joints or tiles, or have a harmful effect on users. Follow these steps in all cases:

1. Before proceeding to clean the surface, wait until the tile grout is fully set. The manufacturer will specify the required setting time.
2. Mop the surface with plenty of clean water.
3. Dilute 1 part of cleaning agent in 5 or 10 parts of water, depending on the amount of dirt. Spread the solution over the floor and leave it to act for a few seconds.
4. Rub it with a non-metallic soft brush or scouring pad.
5. Rinse the surface several times with lots of clean water so as to remove any waste material or dirt.
6. If the dirt (cement) remains are very dry or there are a lot of them, repeat the above procedure as many times as necessary.

Always carry out a prior cleaning test on an unlaid tile before cleaning the tiled surface.

Protection porcelain tile flooring during building work

After laying and grouting the tiles, it is crucial to protect the tiled surface by covering it with sheets of cardboard to prevent direct contact with the remains of building materials, tools, work machines etc.

Do not drag furniture, electrical appliances or any other heavy object directly across the floor, as it could get scratched.

Everyday cleaning

To remove environmental dust, use a dry dust mop. It is not advisable to use wax-based products or self-shining wax.

To care for the flooring properly, use a thorough neutral detergent like **FilaCleaner**.

In the course of time, after continuous use of the tiled surface, it can be given a thorough clean if necessary by following the cleaning process used when it was first laid.

Care and maintenance

In rooms with direct access from outside, some system should be used to collect dirt on the soles of shoes (doormats or similar), so that the tiles conserve their visual appeal for longer.

Removing stains

Remove any stains just after they occur. Do not allow them to dry.

Before applying any kind of stain remover to polished porcelain tiles, carry out a test on a small, unnoticeable area of the floor to make sure that it does not affect the shine or colour.

Type of stain	Step 1	Step 2
Cement, lime scale, scratches by metal objects, oxides	Wash with water as soon as possible and rub the area gently with a cloth.	Deterdek
Remains of epoxy grouting	Wash with water as soon as possible and rub the area gently with a cloth.	Fila CR10
Fat, grease, food, rubber, ink, felt tip pen etc	Wash with water as soon as possible and rub the area gently with a cloth.	Fila PS/87
Graffiti	Wash with water as soon as possible and rub the area gently with a cloth.	Fila Nopaint Star
Coffe, tea, juice, soft drinks	Wash with water as soon as possible and rub the area gently with a cloth.	Fila SR/95
Candle wax, tree resin, remains of adhesive tape	Wash with water as soon as possible and rub the area gently with a cloth.	Filasolv



The manufacturer cannot be held liable for any claim when the tile laying and cleaning instructions have not been fully observed.



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