



INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Please read carefully before beginning installation

- Cotto Andaluz is considered a specialty handmade artisan tile. We recommend hiring a licensed professional tile installer who is experienced with the installation of handmade artisan terracotta tile.
- Cotto Andaluz tile should be dry laid, blended and approved by the owner or owner's representative, prior to installation. Pay special attention to variation in color, texture, edge detail and ensure they are artfully placed to owner's satisfaction.
- We recommend a mock-up board be prepared to ensure the tiles will be appropriately organized and the grout joint size and grout color, as well as the sealant, are done to owner's specifications. This is a standard process for qualified installers, enabling the owner/ design professional to test all the tile layouts in mock-up form. It will also allow for the mock-up boards to be examined in the space and lighting in which the tiles will be used. Before beginning the mock-up boards make sure to FIRST complete the above-recommended dry set layout and blend your tiles as described in that section
- Prior to installation, OPEN AND INSPECT ALL BOXES to verify tile series, size/pattern, color and finish. Notify your tile seller immediately of any damage, defect or other issue. Variation in surface, color, shade, shape, shade and size are inherent in artistic hand-crafted tile. Refer to page 4 for details about variation for Cotto Andaluz.
- Installation constitutes acceptance. As is standard in the tile industry and with all construction materials, installation deems acceptance of materials. Do not install if there are visible issues. If you have any doubts or are unsure of what qualifies as a visual issue for the tile you are installing, please contact us before installation. Our tiles are subject to variations in color, texture, size, and finish. Misuse by contractor or end-user including negligence, physical and/or chemical abuse, and order shortages are NOT DDL's responsibility and not covered by DDL's warranty.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

- Concrete slabs (on grade) cured a minimum of 28 days, free of cracks, curing agents and any signs of laitance.
- Well cured mortar beds (ANSI A108.1B Standards-cured a minimum 7 days).
- Cement Board/backer units (CBU) to ANSI A118.9 Standards (Note: An ANSI A108A-2.1.8 membrane is required behind all CBU installations in wet areas).
- Gypsum board (dry areas only) installed to ASTM C1396 or ASTM C1396M-04 Standards.
- All substrates should be plumb and true prior to installation.

Do not install ceramic tile directly over Particle Board or Plywood!

The tile installation's substructure, location and substrate type (e.g. CBU or concrete) will influence the details of how the substrate should be prepared. Appropriate substrate preparation methods are detailed in the most up-to-date version of the Tile Council of North America's "TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation" and are organized by alphanumeric designation (e.g. W243-15). Refer to the TCNA Handbook for details. The TCNA Handbook is available for purchase at www.tcnatile.com.

ACCEPTABLE ADHESIVES

Choose an adhesive recommended for the specific area where the product is to be installed. In general, we recommend using a modified portland cement-based product for installing Cotto Andaluz tiles. Please check with the setting material manufacturer prior to installation to confirm suitability.

PROCESS

Key or apply adhesive into substrate evenly with the proper size notch trowel. Work in sections of approximately 2 square feet at a time to keep setting material from skinning over. Check periodically during installation to verify proper coverage.

- Tile Spacing – Use tile spacers to maintain consistent joint size between tiles. Tile spacing should be a minimum of 3/16 of an inch. We recommend a grouted mockup be created prior to general installation for owner to approve tile spacing.
- Cotto Andaluz tiles can be dusty when removed from packing. It is important to clean the surface of the tile that will be in contact with setting materials before applying them. Use a wet sponge to clean the dust off the surface of the tile.
- Because of variation in thickness, size and flatness inherent in Cotto Andaluz, Care should be taken during the install process to adjust thickness of setting materials and grout spacing to ensure a flat surface and the appearance of a consistent grout joint.
- We recommend using tiles with extraordinary warpage or lippage for cuts or to install them near walls and away from primary traffic lanes.
- Before grouting, allow adhesives to cure for the timeframe recommended by the manufacturer. Typically cure times will vary from 24-48 hours

MEMBRANES

There are a wide variety of anti-fracture and waterproofing membranes available for use in tile installations. Membranes will vary in type, installation method and performance. Depending on the application, installing Ceramic tile over an anti-fracture membrane may be beneficial. Consult the membrane manufacturer for specific recommendations and limitations.

CUTTING GUIDELINES

- We recommend **WET** cutting and/or score and snap method **ONLY**
- Do **NOT** dry cut using power tools
- Improper cutting techniques could expose installer to harmful dust

California Residents Only-Prop 65

- **Warning:** This product can expose you to silica dust that is known to the State of California as harmful. Airborne particles of respirable size are created when product is dry cut or ground. Please strictly adhere to the cutting guidelines. For more information, please visit www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

CUTTING CERAMIC TILE

- Use **ONLY** a WET saw with a diamond blade designed for porcelain and ceramic material
- Do **NOT** dry cut using power tools
- To prevent rough edges, tile must be cut slowly with a liberal water flow
- To minimize chipping, tile must be fully supported during cutting
- Cut edges should be smoothed with a diamond hand pad or similar tool as needed

DRILLING HOLES

- WET drill tile before installation. Drilling from both sides will minimize chipping and cracking
- Use a diamond core bit at low speed (250 to 300rpm)
- Constantly wet the tile and drill bit with water during drilling to prevent tile from cracking
- Openings should be 1/8" larger than fixture fittings to avoid stress transfer to the tile

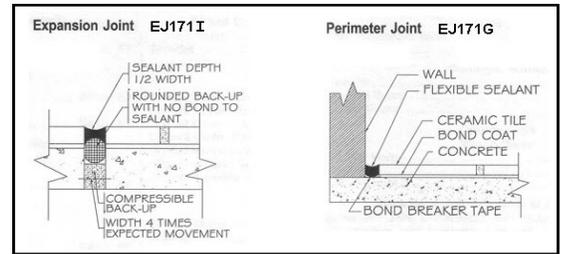
MOVEMENT JOINTS EJ-171

Movement joints are essential for the success of most tile installations. Follow recommendations on Movement Joints EJ171-15 in the current version of the "TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation." Movement joint requirements will vary based on substrata, climate and size of installation. An Architect or Design professional should be consulted when specifying the exact number and location of each movement joint.

Movement/Expansion Joints: Refer to TCNA -EJ171

A soft joint is required between any change in direction or 90-degree angle and any dissimilar material within the tile installation (tile to tile, tile to metal, tile to wood).

Additional movement provisions may be required based on the conditions of the project.



Pre-Grout Sealing & Efflorescence

Efflorescence is a crystalline deposit of salts that can form on the tile surface when water is present in or on materials such as terracotta. Efflorescence is a natural occurrence in some natural stone and terracotta tiles and can be removed by using an efflorescence remover prior to sealing and grouting.

Cotto Andaluz tiles must be sealed prior to grouting. Dry Treat Heavy Duty Sealer or similar products is recommended for the pre-grout sealing. Apply sealer according to manufacturer's instructions. If tile is not sealed prior to grouting, darker colored grouts may permanently stain terracotta surface.

Grouting

Select a high-quality grout that suits your tile and project needs. The color of the grout should be tested in a small area of the installation and approved by the owner or owner's representative prior to grouting all tiles.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for mixing, applying, and curing the grout. Apply grout following the material manufacturer's instructions and per recommendation. For cementitious grouts Only: Using a damp sponge, wipe diagonally across the tile to remove grout film and haze from the surface. Let dry, then use a soft bristle brush to clean the surface of any remaining grout residue. After grout has cured (according to manufacturer's instructions) it should be sealed with a penetrating sealer.

Grout Haze

Do not allow grout to fully dry on the surface! Grout haze is a very thin layer of grout which results from allowing the grout to fully dry on the surface of the tile. During installation the grout must be completely wiped from the tile surface followed by buffing with a soft cloth to remove any residual grout film. Once the grout dries overnight there is little that can be done to remove grout haze, aside from washing the tile with a commercial acid grout haze remover.

Sealing

Use a suitable penetrating sealer to protect tiles from stains, water and other potential damage. Apply the sealer according to manufacturer's instructions.

Cleaning & Maintenance

Please see Cleaning and Maintenance instructions at Driftwooddesignlab.com at Cotto Andaluz/Resources/Cleaning and Maintenance

Caution – Do not use blue tape or any other adhesive construction tape on Cotto Andaluz during product installation and prior to sealing. Tape adhesive may stain the surface of the tile.

Variation – The following variation is part of the handmade artisan character of Cotto Andaluz Tiles:

- Chips and imperfections on the tile face and edge
- Variation in thickness and flatness
- Variation in color/shade between tile pieces
- Lime pops
- Efflorescence on some tiles
- Color tone variation in different production lots

Questions? Please contact our Technical Services Department at TechnicalServices@driftwooddesignlab.

RESOURCES & INDUSTRY GROUPS

(NTCA) National Tile Contractors Association	www.tile-assn.com
(TCNA) Tile Council of North America	www.tcnatile.com
(TTMAC) Terrazzo Tile and Marble Assoc. of Canada	www.ttmac.com
(CTIOA) Ceramic Tile Institute of America, Glass Field Reports	www.ctioa.org



Driftwood Design Lab provides product information and information concerning installation procedures and maintenance practices to assist each of its customers in making selection, usage, installation and maintenance decisions. Customer's selection and usage of Driftwood Design Lab Tile products and the installation procedure and maintenance practice employed by each customer are outside the direction and control of Driftwood Design Lab and are strictly and completely the choice and responsibility of each customer and their installer. Driftwood Design Lab does not warrant any product for any specific use, nor any installation procedure or maintenance practice, and expressly disclaims all asserted claims after installation of Driftwood Design Lab Tile products.

Cotto Andaluz Warranty

Driftwood Design Labs warrants its tile products to meet or exceed industry-recommended performance standards for ceramic tiles unless they are expressly appointed a specialty or hand-made artistic tile.

If latent defects caused by improper manufacture, DDL will replace any such defective material free of charge FOB Harbor City, CA (installation not included), provided that DDL is notified within one (1) year of installation or 18 months of shipment of material, whichever occurs first. Installation of any material holding blatant defects, visual or otherwise, that were clear before installation is not covered by this warranty. However, DDL will replace any such uninstalled material following our standard Return Policy. Any misuse of ceramic products, including negligence, chemical, or physical abuse, is not covered by this warranty. DDL will not accept responsibility for the performance of its ceramic products where improper installation, faulty design, or environmental conditions exist.

Please note that DDL Cotto Andaluz ceramic is hand-made and artistic; our hand-made process incorporates surface effects/variations indicative of hand-made ceramic tile and is designed to enhance the final beauty of the project. Several variations in color, shade, surface texture, flatness, and size are natural characteristics of our products and should be expected. Such typical characteristics are not covered under this warranty as they are considered standard and part of the tiles' overall look and feel.

Most DDL ceramic tiles may be used on backsplashes and feature walls. However, not all DDL ceramic tiles are intended for submerged applications such as pool water lines, spas, or fountains. Please review current collection specific recommendations for usage on our website.
<https://www.driftwooddesignlab.com>

DDL's liability on any claim shall be limited to the purchase price paid for the product. This limited warranty is intended to supplement or supersede all other Federal, State and Consumer Goods Warranty Protection.

For basic guidelines and other valuable information, please visit <https://www.driftwooddesignlab.com> or contact DDL for technical help by emailing @ technicalservices@driftwooddesignlab.com