

## APPLICATIONS

- Interiors
- Medium Duty Floors (matte only)\*
- Fireplace surrounds/cooktop areas
- Showers (+ steam)
- Exteriors (+ freeze-thaw areas)
- Pools (see Submerged Applications on page 2)

\* Please refer to our DCOF (Dynamic Coefficient of Friction) statement at <https://sonomatilemakers.com/resources/#dcof>

This is not a step-by-step installation guide, but general precautions and tips on how to install and care for your tile. Select installers for our products with great consideration and care as proper installation is critical. Installation constitutes acceptance.

## BEFORE INSTALLATION

**IMPORTANT: Make sure the installer understands the blending requirements given the variation in color and shade of Ro. All tiles must be unpacked, inspected and BLENDED prior to installation.**

- Ro is handcrafted tile with unique glazes that pool and break over the edge of the tile. Variation in shade, color and texture are inherent characteristics of these tiles.
- As such, it is very important to blend the tiles from ALL boxes once they arrive and place them in the installation area to ensure the layout is acceptable before installing. Do not install without blending and reviewing the tiles prior to installation.

## INSTALLATION

- Install Ro per industry standards and always refer to the most current Tile Council of North America (TCNA) "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation"
- Movement joints are essential for the success of tile installations. Follow recommendations on movement joints EJ 171 in the most current TCNA "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation"
- For cutting, use a high quality diamond blade made for porcelain that is new or well maintained such as: Alpha Porcellana. This will help minimize glaze chipping during cuts.
- When cutting Fusion mesh sheets note that the glue adhering the mesh is water soluble and the pieces may fall off when exposed to water. You can alleviate this by using a waterproof masking tape over the face of the tile before performing cuts.
- When drilling Ro we recommend using a high quality smooth rim, diamond matrix, water fed, fractional core bit, made for drilling porcelain in conjunction with a water swivel. This set up provides a continuous flow of water to lubricate and cool the smooth diamond core bit to reduce over-heating and chipping. Using a drill guide will help keep the drill centered.

## SEALING

- Sealing is recommended when using dark or contrasting grouts. Sealing may not prevent staining. Always test a small area first if a dark grout is desired.
- Grout joints should be sealed after installation and periodically as needed.
- Sealing is also recommended for matte backsplashes to help prevent staining from food splashes while cooking. Unsealed tile may stain. Resealing the area should be repeated every 6 months to maintain best appearance.

## GROUTING

- **Any dark or contrasting grouts could stain matte glazes. Sealing may not prevent staining.** If a dark or contrasting grout is desired, sealer and grout must be tested on tile prior to installation. Sealers such as Aquamix Gold or similar may help prevent staining, but must be tested prior to using a grout color and always follow sealer manufacturer's instructions.

## SHOWERS

- We recommend the use of pre-formed waterproof shower systems (such as Schluter Kerdi-Shower-Kit, Laticrete Hydro Ban or similar products), or one of the TCNA methods that require a gap and flexible sealant between the mortar bed and shower wall substrate.

## NOTE ON STEAM SHOWERS

- Because of their unique moisture environment, steam showers require specific installation methods. Follow TCNA guidelines for steam shower installation and always refer to the most current version of the TCNA "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation."

## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

- For everyday cleaning use a mild dishwashing soap with water or a ph neutral cleaner made for tile
- Avoid harsh chemicals (such as phosphoric acid, vinegar, lemon juice etc.)
- Use a non-abrasive cloth/sponge for cleaning
- For any cleaning products, always test a small inconspicuous area first to make sure it doesn't affect the tile's glaze
- Clean up any spills or stains immediately not allowing them to dry
- Grout lines can be cleaned with warm water and soft bristle cleaning brush
- Vacuum floor tiles regularly to remove dirt and other gritty particles
- Periodic resealing every 6 months based on usage and application is highly recommended

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## SUBMERGED APPLICATIONS



**Note:** Ro field sizes are suitable for submerged applications where the surface is flat and thin set can be applied evenly. Fusion is not recommended in submerged applications. Sonoma Tilemakers does **NOT** recommend the use of Ro for submerged water applications where the curve of a radius prevents thin set from being applied evenly. When installing around a curved radius larger tiles, such as 3x12 or Amphora, may fail due to shrinkage of excessively built up modified thin-set mortar. Only experienced, professional tile installers familiar with porcelain tile products and installation procedures should perform the work. If guidelines are not followed your installation may fail.

- Sonoma Tilemakers recommends following tile industry installation standard P602 swimming pool tile found in Tile Council Of North America's (TCNA) Handbook For Ceramic Tile Installation (current year).
- Pools or water features should be protected from direct sunlight, excessive heat, wind, precipitation and freezing during substrate preparation, installation and curing. Follow guidelines set forth in TCNA P-602.
- All surfaces to receive tile shall be sound, smooth, flat, clean and free of dust, oil, grease, paint, tar, wax, curing agents, primers, sealers, adhesive residue, release agents or any other deleterious substances or debris which may prevent or reduce adhesion to the substrate.
- The following cure times are industry specified minimums. However, several materials manufacturers provide products that will reduce these requirements. Contact your setting materials manufacturer for information.
  - Shotcrete cure time: 28 days
  - Mortar bed cure time: 7 days
  - Post Grout (before filling pool with water): 21 days

- Waterproofing/Anti-fracture Membranes: Waterproofing and Anti-fracture provisions are critical to the success of tile installation in pools. The acceptable systems available are continuously revised as new technologies become available. Contact the department of your preferred materials manufacturer for current products and application procedures in submerged applications.
- Minimum 95% bond coverage is required when installing tile in submerged environments.
- Movement/Expansion Joints: Refer to TCNA – EJ171
  - A soft joint between tile installation and coping is CRITICAL to the success of tile installation in pools.
  - A soft joint is required between any change of material within the tile installation (tile-tile, tile-metal, tile-coping).
  - Additional movement provisions may be required based on the conditions of the project.
- After final grout, allow installation to cure 21 days prior to filling the pool (unless materials manufacturer approve otherwise).
- Protect the installation during the cure time.
- Test water chemistry at fill source (tap or hose bib), and once the tank is full to verify water is balanced. Properly balance the water as defined in ANSI/APSP-5 or National Plasterer's Council's startup procedure.
- Proper water chemistry is essential for maintaining Ro's finish in a submerged environment, if the water becomes too acidic it may affect the tiles finish.

### IMPORTANT!

We recommend wet cutting or the "score and snap" method during the installation process. Do not dry cut using power tools during the installation process. Improper installation techniques could expose installer to harmful dust.