



intelligent interior product
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7 Neshaminy Interplex
Trevose, PA 19053

WBE Technical Note: Large Format Tile Guide

Why should I use large format tile?

The advantages of large format tile are the narrow grout joints that you can use to create a near seamless look on floors and walls. This also means easy maintenance – the less grout there is, the cleaner and more sanitary! It also helps increase the appearance of scale in your space – larger tile makes for larger looking rooms!

What should I consider when using large format tile?

You should always consider the substrate preparation, avoiding lippage, the mortar coverage of the tile and the curing/protection of the tile after installation.

What type of substrate preparation should I use?

The key to a successful large format tile installation is a level floor. We would recommend an 1/8" in 10' localized flatness method. In order to achieve this, you should use the proper self-leveling products. There are a number of these types of products but you should consult your WBE sales professional for your specific condition so that we can make the proper product recommendation.

You may also need to use patching compound to combat the humps or "bird baths" in the structural floor.

The above methods will create a level floor and prevent lippage.

What type of bonds should I use?

When a tile is 15" or larger on one side (characterized as large format), you should use a maximum 33% bond offset.

What type of mortar coverage should my installer achieve?

Ideally, 100% of the back should be buttered, but the minimum coverage is 80% for dry areas and 95% for wet or exterior areas. Pay particular attention to all of your corners!



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What type of setting materials should I use?

Please contact your WBE Surfaces sales professional because this may vary based on your tile type and condition. In general, we would recommend a medium bed mortar that can be used up to ¾" thickness. There are also edge leveling devices, updated trowels, and quick-set mortars that we may recommend based on your particular project needs.

How do I ensure the perfect installation?

We are here to help! Contact your WBE representative to help you with your design and technical requirements for each condition. Remember, certain conditions like sloping to drain, exterior conditions or integration of different tiles in the same field can change things. The more information you can provide us the better!