



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Diamond Tech's Travertine-Glass tile may be used for interior and exterior wall and floor applications. The glass tiles are manufactured to satisfy industry specifications for glazed wall tile and are recommended for residential and commercial use. Glass tiles are impervious to water and stains, highly resistant to chemical attack, resistant to fading and discoloration. Variations in color, shade and size are inherent in all stone and fired glass products. The tile should not be exposed to high abrasion, or extremely heavy impact.

The following recommendations comply with the TCNA (Tile Council of North America) Handbook Guidelines.

## RECOMMENDED SUBSTRATES

Well cured mortar beds-ANSI A108.1B (cured a minimum of 7 days). Cementitious backer units (CBU)-ANSI A118.9 (Note: An ANSI A108A-2.1.8 membrane is required behind all CBU installations in wet areas. Concrete slabs (on grade) cured for 28 days minimum. Gypsum board (dry areas only)-ASTM C1396 or ASTM C1396M-04.

**Note:** Directly bonding glass tiles to wood substrates is not recommended. All surfaces to receive tile shall be left clean and free of dust, oil, grease, paint, tar, wax, curing agent, primer, sealer, adhesive residue, form release agent or any other deleterious substance and debris which may prevent or reduce adhesion.

Movement joints are very important in glass tile installations. We encourage following the recommendations on movement joints, EJ 171-07 in the TCNA Handbook for Tile Installation. Movement joint requirements will vary depending on environmental conditions, substrate and installation size. Be sure to use caulked joints on all inside corners where walls intersect, especially in showers, back-splashes and cook top areas. The recommendation is a standard installation procedure.

## SETTING MATERIALS

We recommend a premium white polymer-modified, high grade flexible mortar system (latex modified) as a setting material for Travertine-Glass tiles. When selecting the grout color, consider that the glass tiles are made of transparent glass and the color of grouting materials will be visible from the edges of each tile. This may affect the final appearance of the tile. To insure the correct grout color has been selected create a sample swatch and grout, allow to dry and evaluate before proceeding. Use only non-sanded grout with polymer or latex, and compliant with ANSI 118.6. Wipe off the heavy grout residue with a clean, white nylon scrub pad or cheese cloth. Finish with a clean grout sponge or damp terry cloth towel. Always use clean cloths, preferably white, as some fabric dyes can stain the grout joint.

## INSTALLATION

1. Shuffle the tiles from different boxes so that variations in color are distributed throughout the installation.
2. Mix setting materials according to manufacturer's instructions.
3. Apply setting materials to the substrate using the notched side of a 1/4" x 1/4" square V-notched trowel.
4. Using the flat side of the trowel, smooth out all ridges to achieve a consistent, even 3/16" thick coverage
5. Carefully place the first 2-4 sections, mesh-side down, into place.
6. After tile application, use a rubber float or equivalent tool to gently press the tile into the adhesive and flatten sheets to each other to insure complete contact. Do not push the sheets too deeply into the setting materials, as this will cause the setting materials to ooze too far up between the spaces in the tile.

7. Adjust tile sheets for correct alignment and even spacing between sheets. Do not allow setting material to dry or skin over before completing this process.

## **GENERAL GROUTING INSTALLATION**

- Apply a coat of quality penetration sealer before grouting. Grouting a porous stone product without sealing may cause the stone to wick up the grout making clean-up difficult. Please note sealers for natural stone are available through local hardware stores and tile retailers. If you use a top coat, it may change the color of the stone, please test on stone sample before using. Allow to dry according to manufactured directions.
- Choose a grout color appropriate for the installation. For a seamless look, use a complimentary color. Mix grout according to manufacturer's directions.
- Grout openings between lines and sheets.
- Clean the joints with a damp sponge taking care not to remove too much grout. A powder residue will appear. Buff this with a soft dry cloth.
  
- After grouting, protect area from foot traffic and water exposure for at least 72 hours.
- Once the stone is 100% haze-free, clean once more with a vacuum. Apply the final coat of sealer following the manufacturer's directions.

**\*PLEASE NOTE:** Not all adhesives, cleaners, grouts and sealers are not equally suitable for all types of tiles. Check with a flooring and tile specialist for specific information.

## **CUTTING AND DRILLING**

**Eye protection should always be worn when cutting or drilling glass tiles.**

We highly recommend that cuts be made with a wet saw and a NEW diamond rimmed blade designed SPECIFICALLY to cut glass (we recommend the MK-215GL). Slowly push the tile into the blade. Pushing too hard or cutting too fast may cause the glass to chip. Ceramic tile blades are NOT recommended; their cuts are too coarse and tend to chip tile surface of the glass. To finish the edge, smooth with a diamond hand pad, tile blade or dressing stone.

Drilling holes through glass tile can be accomplished with a diamond core bit using a drill with low speed (250 to 300 rpm). Continually misting the tile and drill bit during cutting is imperative to prevent glass from cracking. If partitions or fixtures are to be attached with anchoring bolts, drill hole 1/8" larger to avoid stress transfer to the tile. If tiles have not been installed, drilling from both sides will minimize chipping and cracking.

## **TILE CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

Clean stone surfaces with a neutral cleaner designated safe for natural stone. Use a clean soft cloth for best results. Don't use more than the recommended amount of any cleaning product. Too much may leave a film, causing streaks. Change rinse water frequently. Do not use products that contain lemon, vinegar or other acids on marble, travertine or limestone as these can etch the surface of the stone. Do not use scouring powders or creams; these products contain abrasives that may scratch the surface.

## **NOTES:**