

New Terracotta Tile Collection is suitable for most interior and exterior applications, including residential and commercial floors, walls, counters, showers, bathrooms, swimming pools, spas and fountains. Because the purchase of New Terracotta Tile for your home or commercial project represents an important investment, proper installation and maintenance is critical.

## **?** TILE UNDERSTANDING

It is important to understand that the differences in colour, shape, size, texture and moisture absorption are the unique characteristics that distinguish each of these tile products.

### **Glazed Tile**

A coloured, liquid glaze is applied to the surface of a clay body.

The tile is fired in a kiln at very high temperatures of more than 1.050 °C .

The glazing process defines the colour and surface texture and produces a hard, non-porous, impermeable tile with a very low water absorption rate.

Glazed tiles are easier to clean and any liquid on its surface will drain faster.

### **Size and Length Variation**

Our tiles shrink during the production process.

You can expect some variation, especially on longer tiles.

### **Lengthwise Bowing and Surface Undulation**

Clay is an elastic material; therefore it will attempt to regain its original shape as it moves through the production process. For this reason, you can expect both an acceptable amount of lengthwise bowing and a surface undulation.

Undulation can occur anywhere on the surface and could include a slightly raised corner or edge.

### **Colour and Glaze Variation**

Shade variation is inherent in all fired ceramic products and certain tiles will show greater variation within their dye lots.

We assign all our glazes with a low, moderate, high or very high rating. See our Glaze Guide for a complete description of glaze characteristics.

Glazing on relief tiles will vary in thickness and as a result the glazing may appear darker and lighter in different areas throughout the tile.

## **▲** TILE PREPARATION

Meticulously plan your layout. The time you take for preparation and placement will greatly impact the finished result.

Pre-sort your tile by colour and size so you can distribute the range of variation throughout the installation.

Blending is recommended.

Inspect each tile for cracks or other deformities that make its use inappropriate for the application intended.

## **■** JOINT GROUTING

We advise a grout joint (our standing grouting space is 2-5 mm) which joins the tiles so that they touch one another with an irregular space left between tiles, created by the imperfection of the edges.

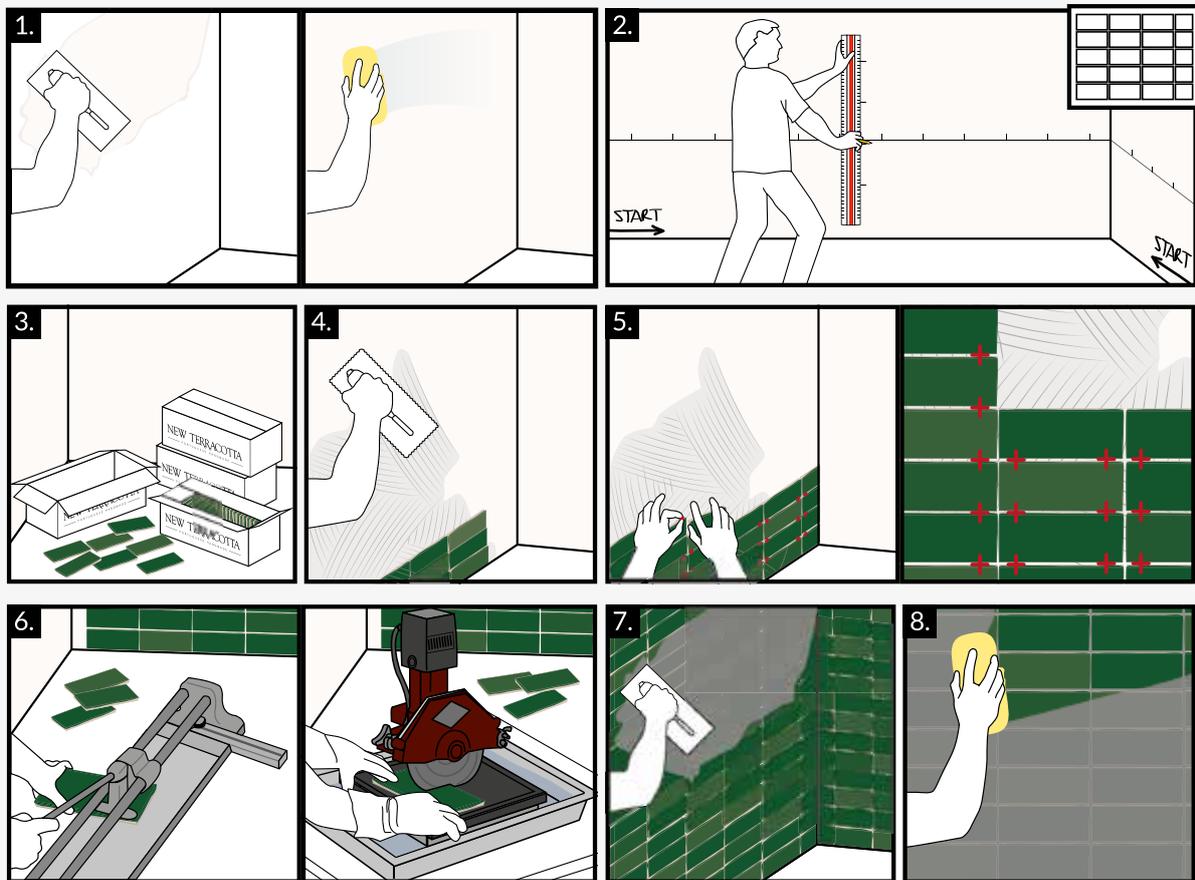
Grout joint width can be varied to adjust tile alignment with adjacent handmade tiles or other architectural elements.

Give design consideration to the grout colour as relates to the colour of tile chosen. There may be a desire to accentuate the tile with a border of contrasting grout colour. To more closely connect each tile with each other, use a grout colour in a hue that approximates the colours found in the tile.

**TILE INSTALLATION**

Install per industry standards for terracotta glazed tiles.

Proper substrate preparation and the right choice of adhesives and grouts for the type of tile and specific project conditions are critical for achieving a long-lasting installation. It is therefore very important to hire a qualified tile installer and to use products that meet the latest international standards.



- 1. Prepare the surface.** Substrate must be clean, leveled and adequately set.
- 2. Determine the layout and mark the surface.** For aesthetic and technical optimization, define starting points and cuttings.
- 3. Distribute the tiles.** Pre-sort your tile by colour and size so you can distribute the range of variation throughout the installation.
- 4. Apply the proper tile adhesive.** Use a large-toothed trowel to spread the adhesive.
- 5. Install the tiles.** Lay down tiles by lining them up and pressing them firmly into the adhesive. Installation is easier if you use X-shaped tile spacers.
- 6. Cut the tiles.** If some tiles need to be trimmed, you can use either a snap tile cutter or a wet tile saw.
- 7. Grout the joints.** Allow the adhesive to cure for about 24 hours and then fill in the joints with the selected grout, using a rubber grout float.
- 8. Clean the tiles after grouting.** The excess grout must be cleaned immediately with a wet sponge, rinsing often.

**TILE MAINTENANCE**

New Terracotta Tile is a relatively maintenance-free product that requires little continuing care beyond regular cleaning. Continued beauty and performance of our tiles is assured by following these recommendations:

- › For everyday cleaning, simply use a pH-balanced natural cleaner diluted in warm water.
- › To clean stubborn spots or grout joints use a stiff natural bristle brush.
- › Always avoid the use of abrasive cleaning pads or products containing bleach, ammonia and paint thinner.
- › Never scrub with rough materials, such as hard brushes or wire wool, which may scratch the surface.
- › In cooking areas, around a stove on counters and backsplashes, cooking oil splatters should be cleaned as soon as possible as oil may darken some tiles.