

# RIAD TILE

## CEMENT & TERRAZZO TILE APPLICATION AND INSTALLATION

### Color & Sizes

Cement tiles are handmade with natural materials and pigments. The size, shape and color does have some variation, which is what makes cement tile so unique and beautiful. Install tiles randomly from different boxes.

### Tile Storage

Make sure all tiles are protected and properly stored leading up to installation. Leave all Cement Tiles packed until they are ready to be installed. Exposure to sun, rain, humidity or freezing temperatures before installation may cause damage.

### Tile Protection

Riad Tile cement tiles are coated with a light sealer at the factory to protect the tiles during shipping and storage. However, this sealer is not meant to protect the tiles during or after installation. Further sealer must be applied during the installation process. Install with clean hands and protect tiles well during the construction process. Writing utensil marks on the surface of the tile can be difficult to remove.

1. Upon receiving your tiles, carefully inspect your order for any flaws. Riad Tile can't be held responsible for tiles that have already been installed.
2. Install over flat, level and stable cured concrete surface or suitable stable sub-floor (such as Hardibacker, Durock or Ditra). Wall installation on drywall is acceptable. Use a high-quality medium-bed mortar to properly set the tiles, such as Laticrete 253 (white).
  - a. To prevent efflorescence spots on your new tiles (crystalline deposits that sometimes appear in masonry), make sure that the subfloors is completely cured. Moisture will evaporate through your tiles, and if the subfloor isn't properly cured prior to their placement, they will end up looking spotty!
3. Using a trowel (at least ½" notched), evenly apply the thin set mixture to the subfloor. Make sure to apply the mixture **in the same direction** to prevent the formation of air pockets. Before applying any adhesive to the tiles, wet the back of each tile with a sponge.
4. Press the tiles into place **by hand**. Using a mallet or hammer can cause cracks that will worsen over time. Make sure the tiles are as flat as possible, as uneven tiles can't be ground down properly.
  - a. **Always cover the floors** during the installation and curing process. This will prevent potential damage and staining. Keep covered until construction is complete.
5. Quickly remove any thin set from the surface of the tiles. If left too long, thin set can be incredibly difficult to remove without accidentally damaging your tiles.
6. Use 1/16" tile spacers to separate and properly space your tiles.
7. If saw cuts need to be made, only use a water-cooled tile saw.
8. After placing the tiles, allow the thin set to cure for at least 48 hours prior to sealing and grouting.
9. Cement tiles are **not pre-sealed**, so they must be sealed on site. Prior to sealing your tiles, use a pH neutral cleaner to clean them. Most natural stone cleaners are suitable.
  - a. **Do not** leave drips, spills, footprints, or any other marks on your tile before sealing has been completed.
  - b. Allow all moisture in tiles to evaporate prior to sealing, or it will be trapped under the sealant resulting in moisture patches, and/or hairline cracks will develop.

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10. SEAL - Apply the first application of sealer in thin layers until every tile is saturated. Be sure to wipe off any excess sealer before it dries. Allow the sealer to cure 12-24 hours before grouting
  - a. We recommend **Miracle 511 Porous Plus** sealer, which is available for purchase by the Gallon (covers about 200-250sqft) or Quart (covers about 40-60sqft) on our website, [www.riadtile.com](http://www.riadtile.com).
11. GROUT - We recommend using **Mapei Flexcolor CQ grout**. Other (white colored) standard, unsanded grout can be used as well. Fill the gaps between tiles with rubber grout float. **Do not** grout the entire floor at once! Your tiles stain easily and removing excess grout is incredibly difficult. Instead, grout your tiles one small area at a time, wiping away the excess grout as you go. **NOTE: Dark colored grout is not recommended as it can cause stains on the tile that are difficult to remove. However, dark colored grout can be used ONLY if using Mapei Flexcolor CQ grout.**
12. Allow the grout to cure according to the manufacturer's instructions, typically 48 hours.
13. Use a pH neutral detergent to clean the tiles, removing residual mortar and debris along the way.
14. SEAL AGAIN - Completely clean and dry the tiles, then apply a second coat of Miracle 511 Porous Plus sealer over the tiles and grout. Immediately cover tiles for remainder of construction.  
Tip: Perform a water test by placing a few drops of water on the tile. If the water beads then it is properly sealed.

Proper installation and protection of your cement tile is very important, and Riad Tile is not responsible for problems that arise due to improper installation or care. Here are additional tips for installation:

- Tile should be laid by a licensed tile installer.
- Make sure the boxes stay completely dry! Moisture can do a great of damage to unsealed tile, including staining and efflorescence (crystalline deposits on your tile)
- We do not recommend installing our tiles outdoors in locations that experience ice or frost in the winter.
- Cement tiles **absolutely cannot** withstand the weight of vehicles, so they should **never** be used in driveways.
- Wall tiles can be attached to plaster, drywall, cement block, and cement backer board. Make sure that the installation surface is flat and dry with any loose paint removed and any cracks patched.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS:

### For placing the tiles:

- Sponge
- Bucket
- 1/16" tile spacers
- High quality medium-bed thin set mortar
- Trowel with ½" semi-circular notches
- Mapei Flexcolor CQ grout
- Grout float
- Water-cooled tile saw with diamond edge blade

### For cleaning and sealing cement tiles:

- pH neutral cleaner (most natural stone cleaners are pH neutral)
- Paint roller, paint tray, sponge and water bucket
- Lint-free cotton cloth
- Miracle 511 Porous Plus Sealer. One gallon covers approximately 200-250sqft, one quart covers 40-60sqft