

Note to Homeowner: This is not a step-by-step installation guide, but general precautions and tips on how to install and care for your tile. Though some are very confident in their DIY skills, we always encourage a professional to perform your installation to ensure the longevity of your tile. Please contact us with specific questions not addressed in this guide. Please be sure your application suits the product. Given the natural beauty of Glazed Thin Brick, there will be color and size variation. Be sure to lay out tiles and pull from different boxes to achieve the best overall blend of color. Once installed, claims regarding the color and size will not be honored.

INSTALLATION PREP

- Dry or dusty concrete or masonry surfaces must be washed and dried prior to application of membranes or mortars.
- Keep Glazed Thin Brick at a minimum of 40° F prior to, during and 48 hours after installation.
- Substrates must be free of curing compounds, sealers, soil, mortar, dirt, dust, etc. Curing compounds and sealers must be removed by bead blasting, sand-blasting, hydro-blasting, diamond-wheel grinding with a dustless vacuum attachment or equivalent methods of mechanical scarifying.
- Substrate must be made "plumb and true" within 1/4" to 10' (6 mm to 3 m) using fortified mortar bed.
- You are responsible for determining the acceptability of the product prior to installation. Given the handmade nature of our brick, there will be some color, size, and thickness variation. Be sure to lay out the brick, and pull from different boxes to achieve the best overall blend of color. Once installed, claims regarding color and size variation will not be accepted.

CUTTING

Recommended Tools:

- **Diamond blade wet tile saw (use a tile blade not a coarse brick or stone blade)**
- **Diamond bit with water (make sure water is clean and flowing in full force). Wet brick in clean water before cutting**
- Our Glazed Thin Brick Tile features glazed edge and exterior corner options. Consult with your contractor or tile installer for mitered edges.
- Make sure that faucet flange, fireplace hardware, and base boards cover any chipping on the edges of a cut-out.

WARNING: Dry cutting and grinding of brick tile can lead to silica dust exposure, known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. To reduce exposure to silica dust, only use a wet saw when cutting any tile.

SETTING & MATERIALS

Recommended Tools:

- **We recommend using modified thinset per the Tile Council of North America's (TCNA) Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Installation details for your installation substrate. Please follow all manufacturers instructions.**
- **Notch trowel, spirit level, laser level, straight edges, tape measure, chalk line, and pencils**

Below are the suggested installation tolerances:

- Maximum Position of Elements: 1/4" from true position
- Maximum Variation from Plane of wall: 1/4" in 10'
- Maximum Variation between Face Plane and Adjacent Panels: 1/16"
- Maximum Variation in Joint Thickness: 1/8" in 3'

- Maximum Variation from Level Coursing: 1/8" in 3', 1/4" in 10', 1/2" max
- Brick with crazing/crackle must have a grout release/wax sealer applied and allowed to dry before grouting.
- Apply thinset with a scraping motion using the flat side of a notched trowel. Work the mortar into good contact with the substrate. Use a trowel with notches large enough to ensure full mortar coverage to the backs of the brick. Using the notched side, trowel mortar in one direction.
- Back-butter each Brick with a thin layer of thinset. Firmly press the Brick piece into the freshly applied mortar and move it perpendicularly across the ridges to flatten and compress the mortar. This helps ensure the maximum coverage to the bricks. Periodically remove and check brick veneer pieces to verify full coverage is being achieved.
- Clean excess mortar from the surface of the bricks with a clean, wet cloth or sponge while it is still fresh. Brick must be supported until mortar has set firm, usually 12–24 hours at 70° F or 21° C.
- After installation, the contractor must take precautions to protect the finished work from damage from other trades. Protect exterior veneer installations from rain for a minimum of 7 days at 70° F or 21° C.

SPACING/GROUT

Recommended Tools:

- **Grout release (grout release should be used with colored grouts and glazes with crazing/crackle)**
- **3/8" spacers or rope, tile wedges, grout float or grout bag, sponges, buckets, clean water**
- We recommend using a 3/8" grout joint. For expansion joints refer to Tile Council of North American (TCNA) detail EJ-171 (for the current year) for industry recommendations.
- If deviating from recommended grout joint size, please have a suitable mock up made that will mimic conditions on the job site.
- Contrasting colored grouts can stain the thin brick tile and should be tested for staining before grouting.
- The surface of the thin brick may trap some grout. It may be advisable to use a grout bag and tool the grout joints.
- Please refer to the grout manufacturer's guidelines for specific details on the grout.
- We recommend a grout release to ease cleaning after installation and to help prevent staining from a contrasting colored grout.
- Thin Brick tile with crazing/crackle must have a grout release/tile sealer applied and allowed to dry before grouting.
- Try grout release in an inconspicuous spot first.
- National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA) recommends cleaning any grout haze the next day with clean water and a white nylon scrub pad or a neutral grout haze remover.

SEALING

- Test any sealers in an inconspicuous place first.

CARE

Recommended Tools:

- **Mild Soap + Water**
- Minimal maintenance is required. Test any cleaners on an inconspicuous spot before use. Immediately clean up spills or stains.