



## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

**Please read carefully before beginning installation**

- **We recommend the hiring of a licensed professional tile installer who is experienced with the installation of handmade tile.**
- **Antique Zellige tile should be dry laid, blended, and approved by the owner or owner's representative, prior to installation. No claims for characteristics of handmade Antique Zellige will be accepted after installation. Installation constitutes acceptance.**
- **Prior to installation OPEN AND INSPECT ALL BOXES to verify tile series, size/pattern, color and finish. Notify your tile seller immediately of any damage, defect or other issue. Variation in surface, color, shade, shape, and size is inherent in artistic hand-crafted tile. Refer to page 3 for details about the variation for Antique Zellige.**
- **Installation constitutes acceptance.**

## SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

- Concrete slabs (on grade) cured a minimum of 28 days, free of cracks, curing agents and any signs of laitance.
- Well cured mortar beds (ANSI A108.1B Standards-cured a minimum 7 days).
- Cement Board/backer units (CBU) to ANSI A118.9 Standards (Note: An ANSI A108A-2.1.8 membrane is required behind all CBU installations in wet areas).
- Gypsum board (dry areas only) installed to ASTM C1396 or ASTM C1396M-04 Standards.
- All substrates should be plumb and true prior to installation. ANSI A108A-2.5.3.1

**Do not install ceramic tile directly over Particle Board or Plywood!**

The tile installation's substructure, location and substrate type (e.g. CBU or concrete) will influence the details of how the substrate should be prepared. Appropriate substrate preparation methods are detailed in the most up-to-date version of the Tile Council of North America's "TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation" and are organized by alphanumeric designation (e.g. W243-15). Refer to the TCNA Handbook for details. The TCNA Handbook is available for purchase at [www.tcnatile.com](http://www.tcnatile.com).

## ACCEPTABLE ADHESIVES

We recommend using ANSI A118.4 modified setting mortar; setting with mastic is acceptable but not recommended unless approved by the setting material manufacturer.

Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendation for ceramic tile installations and usage requirements.

**Wet areas** (such as shower walls). Any ANSI A118.3 setting material. Verify with the setting material manufacturer for usage and acceptability.

## PROCESS

Key or apply adhesive evenly to the substrate with a notch trowel. Work in sections of approximately 2 square feet at a time to keep setting material from skinning over. Check periodically during installation to verify proper coverage. Clean the back of the tile prior to installation.

Before grouting, allow adhesives to cure for the timeframe recommended by the manufacturer of the setting material.

## MEMBRANES

There is a wide variety of anti-fracture, crack isolation, and waterproofing membranes available for use in tile installations. Membranes will vary in type, installation method and performance. Depending on the application, installing Ceramic tile over an anti-fracture membrane may be beneficial. Consult the membrane manufacturer for specific recommendations and limitations.

### CUTTING GUIDELINES

- We recommend **WET** cutting and/or score and snap method **ONLY**
- Do **NOT** dry cut using power tools
- Improper cutting techniques could expose installer to harmful dust

#### California Residents Only-Prop 65

- **Warning:** This product can expose you to silica dust that is known to the State of California as harmful. Airborne particles of respirable size are created when product is dry cut or ground. Please strictly adhere to the cutting guidelines. For more information, please visit [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

#### CUTTING CERAMIC TILE

- Use **ONLY** a **WET** saw with a diamond blade designed for porcelain and ceramic material
- Do **NOT** dry cut using power tools
- To prevent rough edges, tile must be cut slowly with a liberal water flow
- To minimize chipping, tile must be fully supported during cutting
- Cut edges should be smoothed with a diamond hand pad or similar tool as needed

#### DRILLING HOLES

- **WET** drill tile *before* installation. Drilling from both sides will minimize chipping and cracking
- Use a diamond core bit at low speed (250 to 300rpm)
- Constantly wet the tile and drill bit with water during drilling to prevent tile from cracking
- Openings should be 1/8" larger than fixture fittings to avoid stress transfer to the tile

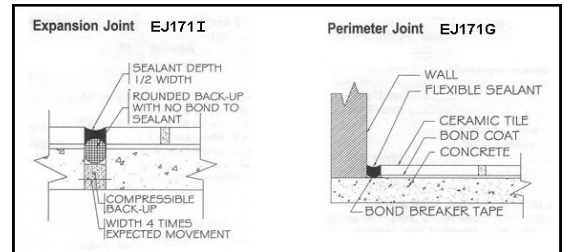
## MOVEMENT JOINTS EJ-171

Movement joints are essential for the success of most tile installations. Follow recommendations on Movement Joints EJ171-15 in the current version of the "TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation." Movement joint requirements will vary based on substrata, climate and size of installation. An Architect or Design professional should be consulted when specifying the exact number and location of each movement joint.

### Movement/Expansion Joints: Refer to TCNA -EJ171

A soft joint is required between any change in direction or 90-degree angle and any dissimilar material within the tile installation (tile to tile, tile to metal, tile to wood).

Additional movement provisions may be required based on the conditions of the project.



## Special Instructions for Antique Zellige Collection

### Color Blending

Before beginning installation, we strongly recommend blending sheets from all boxes in your shipment. Lay out the tile in the installation area, and ensure color variation is distributed evenly, and have the client approve the layout.

### Variation

Chips, pits, lime pops, cracks, and size variation are a natural part of the Antique Zellige Collection. Failure to blend Antique Zellige sheets prior to installation may result in unsatisfactory results. The tile should be dry laid before installation.

For more information on variations to expect with Antique Zellige, please refer to Antique Zellige variation tab found at [driftwooddesignlab.com](http://driftwooddesignlab.com).

### Grout Color Selection

Grout is an aesthetic choice that can affect the final appearance of your Antique Zellige installation. Select a grout color that is similar to the color of the tile; this will minimize the appearance of imperfections, chips, and cracks in the tile.

A contrasting grout color may accentuate chips, cracks, and other imperfections. We recommend you finalize the grout color after the tile is installed and during the day when natural light is present. Further, we recommend you test your chosen grout color in a one-square-foot section of the installation or consider setting a mock-up before finalizing the grout color you use.

### Sealing

**Antique Zellige must be sealed two times - before grouting and after grouting.**

**Before grouting** -To prevent grout from staining the terracotta exposed in antiquing process, the tiles must be sealed with a high-quality penetrating sealer prior to grouting. It is most important for the sealer to be applied to the exposed terracotta as opposed to the glazed surface.

**After Grouting** - After tile is grouted grout has cured, joints should be sealed again with the same high-quality penetrating sealer, after grout has fully cured. In wet areas, grout must be re-sealed occasionally to maintain protection. See the sealer manufacturer's recommendations.

**Note:** If client prefers a more antique look, the initial sealing can be skipped, allowing the grout color to stain the exposed terracotta. This will be most effective with a darker grout color. Before attempting, we recommended that a test be performed using the selected grout color for client approval. No claims will be accepted for results deemed unsatisfactory.

### Grouting

Apply grout following the material manufacturer's instructions and per recommendation. For cementitious grouts Only: Using a slightly damp sponge, wipe diagonally across the tile to remove grout film and haze from the surface. Let dry, then wipe with a lint free cloth as a final step, buffing away all residual grout from the surface of the tile.

### Grout Haze

Do not allow grout to fully dry on the surface! Grout haze is a very thin layer of grout which results from allowing the grout to fully dry on the surface of the tile. During installation the grout must be completely removed from the ~~tile~~ surface, followed by buffing with a soft cloth to remove any residual grout film. Once the grout dries overnight there is little that can be done to remove grout haze, aside from washing the tile with a highly-diluted commercial acid grout haze removers.

### RESOURCES & INDUSTRY GROUPS

(NTCA) National Tile Contractors Association

[www.tile-assn.com](http://www.tile-assn.com)

(TCNA) Tile Council of North America

[www.tcnatile.com](http://www.tcnatile.com)

(TTMAC) Terrazzo Tile and Marble Assoc. of Canada

[www.ttmac.com](http://www.ttmac.com)

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**Questions?** Please contact our Technical Services Department at [TechnicalServices@driftwooddesignlab.com](mailto:TechnicalServices@driftwooddesignlab.com)



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