

ENCAUSTIC TILES INSTALLATION

This guide serves as a reference for installing Schots encaustic cement tiles. Hiring a professional tiler is highly advised for best results.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. COLOURS & SIZES** - Schots encaustic cement tiles are created from natural elements and entirely handcrafted. Consequently, there might be slight variations in the colours, patterns and sizes of the tiles. These characteristics bring a unique, organic charm to our tiles. We suggest installing tiles randomly from different boxes to truly showcase the natural variation in colour.
- 2. EFFLORESCENCE** - Schots encaustic cement tiles rarely have issues with efflorescence, due to our use of a special additive that minimises it. However, efflorescence is an inherent issue for all cement-based products, it's a harmless, naturally occurring phenomenon that can't be fully controlled. If white marks appear on your tiles, it's likely efflorescence, which should gradually fade away.
- 3. STORAGE BEFORE INSTALLATION** - Ensure your tiles are protected while awaiting installation. Keep all Schots encaustic cement tiles in their original packaging until it's time to lay them. Do not expose the tiles to elements such as sunlight, rain, or humidity before installation, as this could lead to discolouration or marking.
- 4. TILE SURFACE PROTECTION** - Our encaustic cement tiles are sealed in our factory to protect them during transport and storage. However, this sealer is not strong enough to protect the tiles from staining during installation. Handle them with clean hands and avoid writing or marking on the tiles, as this could leave difficult-to-remove stains.
- 5. CHECK BEFORE INSTALLATION** - We recommend checking the tiles carefully before installation. We will not accept responsibility for any issues once the tiles have been cut or installed.
- 6. CAUTION WHEN USING SEALERS** - Follow the instructions provided by the sealer manufacturer. We recommend using high-quality, reputable penetrating sealers. Test the sealer on a single tile before applying to the entire floor to ensure the desired results. For best results

EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS

Below are the basic equipment and tools you may require during installation:

A. EQUIPMENT

- 1. MIXER:** Material mixer for the bottom layer (mixer or hand drill)
- 2. TOOLS FOR DIVIDING GAP AND CHECKING FLATNESS:** Ensure the largest floor area has a high degree of flatness and uniformity
- 3. TILE CUTTER:** Used for cutting tiles without damaging the edges

ENCAUSTIC TILES INSTALLATION

B. TOOLS

- Level
- Hand trowel
- Grout float rubber
- Rubber mallet
- Carpenter's square
- Containers for wetting the tiles
- Buckets for mortar
- Sponge
- Sandpaper
- Clean cloths
- 3~5 m aluminium straight edge
- Measuring tape
- Pencil

INSTALLATION PROCESS

Installing encaustic tiles **requires meticulous attention to prevent damage.**

Here's the step-by-step process:

Step 1: Preparing the substrate and tiles for flooring

- Ensure the substrate is flat and clean
- Soak tiles in water for roughly 20 seconds
- Apply adhesive or mortar to both the substrate and the back of the tiles for best adhesion.

Step 2: Installing the tiles on the substrate

- Begin by installing the first tiles at three different corners of the room. Use cords to determine the tiled surface.
- Install each tile by hand with care to avoid damage. Lay a row of tiles as per the selected design to check for any needed adjustments before securing.
- For 200x200mm tiles, maintain a gap of 2-3mm between tiles. For other sizes, adjust the gap as necessary or as specified by your designer.
- After placing the tile, use a rubber mallet or your hands to level the surface. Do not use a regular hammer or similar tools.
- Clean any dirt or excess adhesive immediately to prevent staining.

Step 3: Cleaning the floor surface and applying the first coat of penetrating sealer

- Once the mortar dries and the tiles are secure, clean the surface. If dried mortar remains, carefully remove it with a knife or sandpaper (#320 or #400) with water.
- **Do NOT use acid or bleach for cleaning.** Wait until the surface is completely dry before applying the first coat of a protective penetrating sealer. Allow this to dry thoroughly (approximately 12-24 hours).

ENCAUSTIC TILES INSTALLATION

Step 4: Grouting the tiles

- Apply grout thinly between the tiles. Grout can be white or light colours. Most common grout is white powder. If using a colour grout, choose the colour similar to the tile colour. **DO NOT use black or dark-colour grout** because they can cause staining on the tile surface and unable to be removed. Clean any excess grout immediately with water. Use a neutral soap if necessary.
- After installing and applying grout for the tiles, they must be cleaned immediately with water. **DO NOT use any cleaning liquids containing acids.** For necessary hygiene, you can use a neutral soap.

Step 5: Applying the second coat of penetrating sealer

- Once the grouted floor is completely dry, apply a second coat of the protective penetrating sealer.

Step 6: Protecting the floor after installation

- For new builds, ensure to protect the tiled floor from damage by other contractors during the finishing stages.
- Regularly apply a protective penetrating sealer, typically every 6-12 months depending on the type of sealer and floor traffic.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

- **DO NOT use black or dark-color grout** because they can cause stain on the tile surface and unable to be removed.
- Clean the excess grout on the tile surface
- **DO NOT use any cleaning liquids containing acids.** For necessary hygiene, you can use a neutral soap.

Thank you for choosing Schots encaustic cement tiles. We hope you will enjoy your beautiful new floor.

Contact Information

☎ 03 9482 6400

✉ customerservice@schots.com.au

🌐 schots.com.au