



# ITALIAN TILES

Manual for installing, treating and maintaining  
Italian tiles





# INSTALLING AND TREATMENT GUIDE

**Type:** Italian tiles are tiles made of clay or porcelain, whether or not finished with glaze and baked in a tile oven. The production takes place (partly) manually or by machine.

**Materials:** Clay, porcelain and/or basically anything that can be baked into a tile.

**Characteristics:** Italian tiles are mostly machine made. The finish is very diverse and suitable for many purposes.

**Variants:** Spanish tiles, metro tiles, concrete look tiles, large format tiles, etc.

**Applicability:** Inside, outside, walls, floors.

**Extra attention:** Italian tiles are a collective term for many different types of wall and floor tiles. There can be many differences per species in the way they should be processed. We focus on the varieties that are sold by us.

*The step-by-step plan and advice may differ per space or area of application. Below we give our advice for the most common installation of our ceramic tiles. Also read the important tips at the bottom of the step-by-step plan and contact us if you have any questions.*

## What do you need to install Italian tiles?

- Primer
- Flexible tile adhesive
- Grout
- 2 mm tile spacers
- Tile cutter and/or angle grinder
- Joint trowel, glue tub, glue comb 4, 6, 8 or 10 mm, depending on the tile
- Azule Cement Stain Remover (cleaning agent)
- Bucket and sponge, wash-in set
- Tile leveling system (optional for large format tiles)
- Level

# STEP-BY-STEP PLAN

**Before you start tiling, make a plan of how the tiles should be placed. For example, are there patterns with borders (border tiles) and should everything be neatly centered in the room? Measure everything well in advance for a good result!**

## Priming

Is the surface on which you will be tiling absorbent or untreated? First make sure that you treat the surface with the correct primer / primer. This can usually be applied with a block brush or roller. Follow the instructions and drying time of the respective primer.

## Glue & install

Always glue the tiles on a flat surface with a flexible tile adhesive that is suitable for your tile type.

Use a glue comb 4 to 6mm and use tile crosses of 2 mm. (thicker is not nice, thinner is almost impossible to grout) Use the glue comb to coat part of the substrate with tile adhesive the size of about 10 tiles. Always start at the bottom of the surface with placing the tiles and work

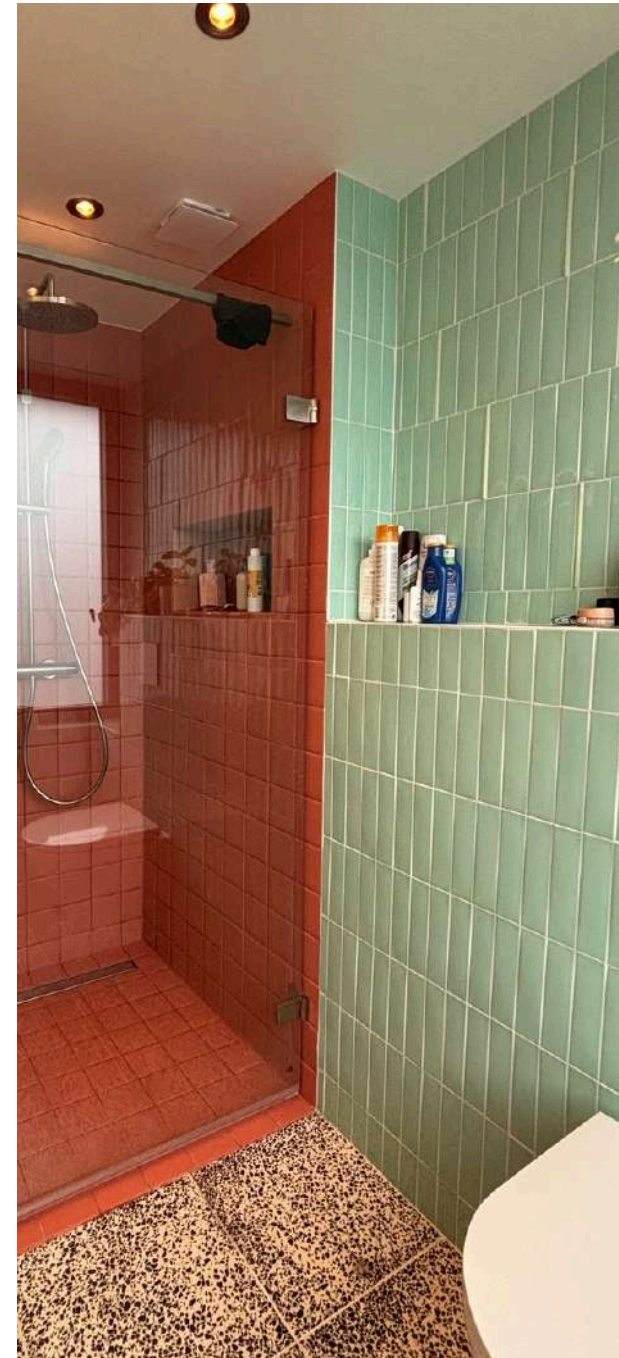
your way in horizontal strips upwards. Press the tiles lightly. Use tile crosses to get even joint widths everywhere. Also use a spirit level from time to time (or a laser) to check that the tiles are still neatly in line. You can make adjustments with the tile crosses. Remove any excess glue residue on the tiles. Let the adhesive dry for at least 24 hours before starting the next step.

## Cut to size

Finish your surface completely and start at the end with the pieces that need to be sawn. Italian tiles are easy to cut with a tile cutter or angle grinder. Make sure you always buy some extra tiles for the cutting loss that arises. Different placing patterns are possible, each of which causes its own cutting loss. Calculate this well in advance!

## Grouting

When the glue is dry, the tiles can be grouted. Use a flexible grout. Mix it according to the proportions on the package. Then apply this with a joint spatula and ensure an even filling of the joints. Let the grout dry (about 30 minutes) and remove the excess grout that remains





on the tiles with a slightly damp sponge or cloth. Make sure you do not remove too much, the joints must remain well filled. Once the grout is completely dry, you can clean the tiles several times with Azule Cement Stain Remover and a dry cloth until no more veil is visible.

### **Spanish tiles with crackle finish:**

Craquelé or crackle finish refers to the appearance of tiny hairline cracks in a material such as pottery or tiles. In our Spanish tile series, some tiles have intentional craquelure applied to them, for a playful effect. It can also happen, with certain glaze colors and finishes, that the crackle only appears once the tile is placed.

### **Grout color:**

Will you choose a contrasting grout color for your tile? Make sure you impregnate the tiles before grouting them. This will seal the hairline cracks for dirt, water and grout.

### **Craquelé in wet area**

Are you going to install the tiles in a shower or other wet area? If so, we recommend impregnating the tiles before grouting. This will prevent water and lime from being absorbed in the crackle finish which can cause water scale.

# CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

**Italian tiles are easy to maintain and do not require any special cleaning agent. You can clean the tiles with an all-purpose cleaner or other non-greasy soap. Just make sure that the cleaning agent is not corrosive, not bleaching or not extremely acidic. This can cause the color to fade and / or damage the surface.**

## TIPS AND TRICKS

- Work in a clean and well-ventilated area.
- For large tiles it is advisable to work with at least 2 people or call in a specialized tiler.
- For handmade Spanish wall tiles and / or subway tiles, it is advisable to mix tiles from different boxes.
- Get informed which joint width and joint color are attractive. This is different for each ceramic tile variant. As a rule, we recommend a joint width of 2 mm for most tile types.
- We do not recommend crackle tiles in the wet cell because the moisture can penetrate into the glaze and damage the tiles.
- Handmade Spanish tiles may show slight color differences or nuances, this is inherent to the product and should be considered normal, and it gives the character to this tile type.
- Spanish tiles and Metro tiles are usually intended for indoor use, if they are used outdoors, always under a canopy protected from sun and rain. A heavy frost can damage these types of tiles.
- Use a tile leveling system for large tiles (60x60cm and larger). This ensures beautifully connected tiles and sleek joints.
- Always read the instructions on the various products you will need to install tiles such as glue, grout and primer.
- If you are unsure of the correct treatment or if you have any questions about the treatment schedule, please do not hesitate to contact our help desk. We are happy to advise you so that you are sure of a good end result.





- Make a good plan / sketch in advance of how you want to place the tiles and where the tiles should be cut. Place entire tiles on the lines of sight (the place of a wall that you see first in a room) and (if possible) use the cut tiles in the places that you cannot immediately see.
- Work safely! Always use the correct protective products such as gloves, safety glasses and hearing protection. When cutting or grinding tiles, pieces can come loose and cause painful injuries. Make sure you always have a first aid kit within reach.

### Questions?

Phone number: +31 (0)85-300 11 11

Email: [info@designtegels.nl](mailto:info@designtegels.nl)