

**APPROPRIATE AREAS OF USE**

- Wall use only
- Interiors only
- Wet areas - showers, steam shower
- Fireplace surrounds
- Backsplash

**SURFACE PREPARATION****Substrate Preparation**

Appropriate substrates: concrete, masonry, existing well bonded ceramic tile, proper tiling underlayment over wood or steel framed construction.

**General Substrate Requirements**

All substrates must be flat, smooth and free of all surface contaminants that could act as a bond breaker. Overly absorbent as well as non-absorbent substrates require priming prior to installation. A surface flatness of 1/4" in 10' is required for all tile and stone installations per TCNA installation guidelines. Large-Format Tiles: Any tile larger than 15" in any facial dimension requires a surface flatness of 1/8" in 10' and no more than 1/16" variation in any 24" span.

**Crack Isolation**

All existing substrates cracks as well as any area susceptible to future surface cracking requires the installation of a crack isolation membrane meeting ANSI 118.12.

**Wet Areas Guideline**

Wet Areas require the installation of a waterproofing membrane meeting ANSI 118.10 prior to installation. Steam Rooms (continuous use): require a waterproofing and vapor retarding membrane with a perm rating of .05 perms or less.

**Substrate Preparation Products**

- ARDEX AM 100™ Rapid Set Pre-Tile Smoothing and Ramping Mortar
- ARDEX SKM™ Skimcoat Patch & Finishing Underlayment
- ARDEX 8+9™ Rapid Waterproofing and Crack Isolation Compound (Shower Walls)
- ARDEX SK 175™ Waterproofing Membrane and Vapor Retarder for Tile & Stone Installations (Steam Room Applications)

**For complete information regarding substrate preparation requirements, material selection, required installation tools and application, visit [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com) and view the in-**

**dividual product technical data sheets or contact ARDEX technical service at (888) 512-7339**

**CUTTING & DRILLING**

Use a diamond wet saw blade meant for cutting ceramic. Alternately, a snap tile cutter can be used.

To create holes, use a 3/8" drill with a water swivel attachment. Drill using diamond drill bit made for ceramic, at a slow speed.

**SETTING**

Before installation, dry lay all material to inspect for quality and to determine the best blend of the material. All materials must be acclimated prior to installation, and air and surface temperature must be between 50(F) and 80(F) during installation. Be sure to clean tiles to remove any dust, dirt or packing contaminants prior to installation.

Per ANSI A108.5, apply mortar to the substrate using an appropriate notch trowel, and place tiles while material is wet and offers transfer. A minimum coverage of 80% for interior dry areas and 95% coverage for wet areas must be achieved. Once setting materials have adequately set (see product specifications for dry time), grouting can proceed. Honor all expansion and moving joints in accordance with TCNA EJ 171. In addition, all perimeter and change of plane areas must be filled with an appropriate flexible sealant (ARDEX SX™ 100% Silicone Sealant for Tile and Stone Applications).

**Recommended Mortar and Adhesives**

- ARDEX X 5™ Flexible Tile and Stone Mortar
- ARDEX X 77™ MICROTEC® Fiber Reinforced Tile and Stone Mortar
- ARDEX D 14™ Type 1 Premixed Tile Adhesive (Mastic) - dry areas only

**Recommended Grout**

- ARDEX FL™ Rapid Set, Flexible, Sanded Grout
- ARDEX WA™ High Performance, 100% Solids Epoxy Grout and Adhesive

**Caulking**

- ARDEX SX™ 100% Silicone Sealant for Tile and Stone Applications

**See complete setting material product technical information and installation instruction at [ardexamericas.com](http://ardexamericas.com).**

**SEALING**

There is no need to seal glazed ceramic tiles, however check with your grout manufacturer to see if your grout should be sealed.

**Recommended Grout Sealant**

- Fila GroutProof

**For complete information regarding sealant products from Fila, visit [filasolutions.com](http://filasolutions.com) or call 844-FILA123**

**CARE & MAINTENANCE**

For day-to-day cleaning, apply a pH neutral cleaner scrub with a brush, or soft cloth. Remove the residue with a cloth and rinse thoroughly.

**Recommended Cleaners**

- FILACLEANER

For organic stains (grease, coffee, wine, epoxy residue, adhesives, wax) use a strong alkaline cleaner.

**Recommended Organic Stain Removers**

- Fila PS87
- PS87 Gel
- PS87 Spray

For inorganic stains (grout haze, rust, paint, soap scum, hard water spots, limescale) use a buffered acid cleaner.

**Recommended Inorganic Stain Removers**

- Fila Deterdek
- Deterdek Spray

**For complete information regarding care & maintenance products from Fila, visit [filasolutions.com](http://filasolutions.com) or call 844-FILA123**

**CAUTION**

AKDO will not accept claims for any reason after the material has been cut, modified or installed.

**(guidelines continued on next page)**

You have chosen to install your own Ceramic Tile product. Neither AKDO Intertrade, Inc. ("AKDO") nor the manufacturer shall have any responsibility for damage to property or for personal injury resulting from or related to the installation process. You have determined the appropriate product and measurements for your needs. Except as otherwise set forth in writing, AKDO disclaims any and all representations and warranties regarding the suitability of the product for its intended use or the accuracy of measurements.

Please read all instructions with care before beginning installation. These instructions are considered a guide, to help prevent problems caused by errors in installation. The instructions should not be considered complete. Many details of installation are learned through experience and general construction knowledge, which we cannot provide. The installation guidelines are intended to be recommendations only, and they are not intended to serve as a step-by-step installation checklist.

Selection of an experienced installer is your sole responsibility. You should consult with a professional installer to determine the best installation procedure for your project. Installers should refer to the most current industry standards and specifications for installation. You assume all risks of loss or damage in connection with the installation and use of the Ceramic Tile product.