

MARLBOROUGH TERRACOTTA NATURAL FINISH

INSTALLATION, FINISHING AND AFTERCARE GUIDE

STORAGE & PREPARATION

01.

Store tiles correctly

After delivery, store tiles in a dry area at ambient temperature. Avoid outdoor storage, especially in damp or frosty conditions.

02.

Substrate preparation

Ensure substrate is flat, stable, and suitable. Suspended floors should ideally be over-boarded with tile backer board. Ensure underfloor heating is OFF.

03.

Clean tiles

Clean tiles using a vacuum and/or dry brush to remove dust from faces, edges, and backs.

04.

Tile orientation

Either side of the tile may be used. Mixing sides can be used to create a more rustic appearance if desired.

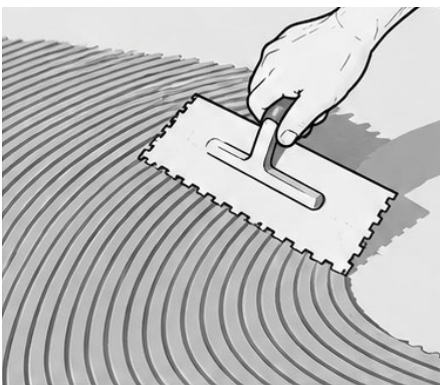


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INSTALLATION



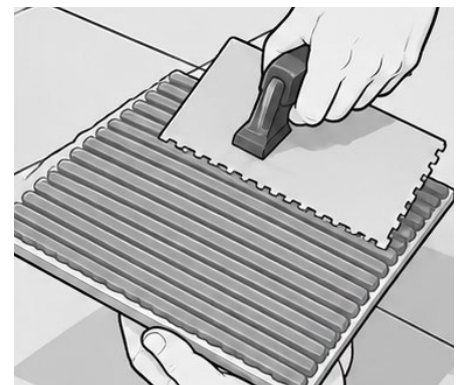
1. Adhesive

Use a standard set or semi-rapid white adhesive, of a type suitable for use with terracotta, ideally a more premium adhesive with enhanced flexibility. Apply with a notched trowel.



2. Wet tiles

Dampen the back of the tile with water before laying. This helps slow absorption of the water content in the adhesive, providing better absorption of adhesive into the tile, and gives a better bond.



3. Back-butter tiles

Apply a thin layer of adhesive, using a pointed or gauging trowel, to the back of each tile before laying into the bed, ensuring full coverage of the tile.



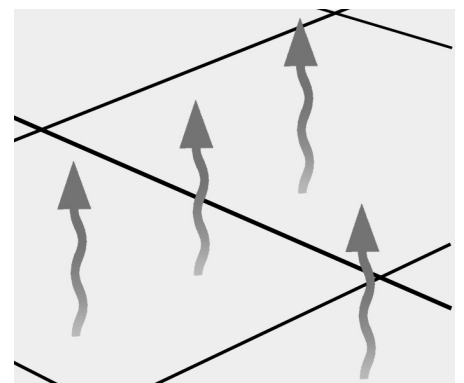
4. Lay tiles

Press tiles firmly into place using hand pressure only. Do NOT use a mallet.



5. Joint spacing

Do not use spacers or levelling clips. Space tiles by eye, approx. 5mm joints.



6. Allow adhesive to cure

Allow standard setting time before sealing.

PRE-SEALING



1. Clean before sealing

Vacuum or brush tiles to remove all dust.



2. Apply Sarsen Home Stain Block Eco

Apply the first coat, using a paint brush or foam roller. Leave the first coat to cure for 12 hours to establish a base layer of sealant.



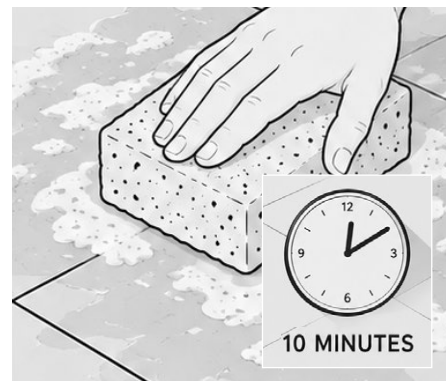
In order to seal these tiles with three coats of Stain Block Eco, about 1l of sealant will be required to seal 2.5m².



3. Apply the second coat and leave to cure for two hours

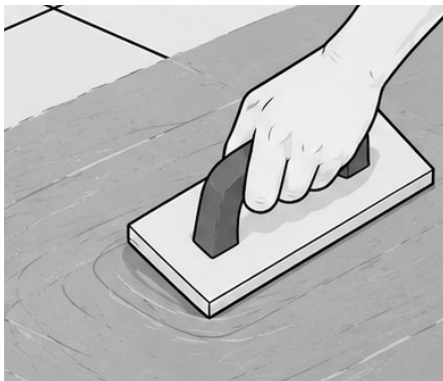


4. Apply the third coat and leave to cure for two hours.



5. Remove excess after 10 minutes.

GROUTING - Once final sealer coat has cured, for at least two hours, begin grouting.



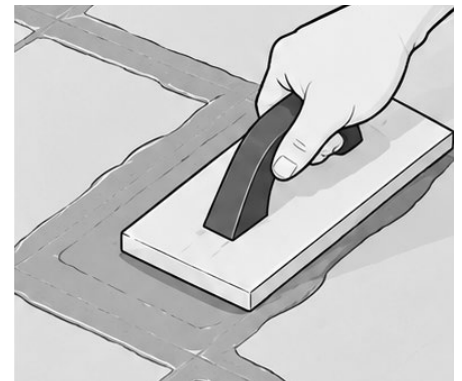
1. Slurry grout application

Use a wetter grout mix than standard and apply with a grout float to fill the joints, and smear across the entire tile surface to fill pores. This is important to maintain a rustic appearance. Please note that this method of grouting uses roughly 25% more grout than standard, non-porous tiles. **Work in small areas of approx. 2m² at a time before washing the excess away.**



2. Clean grout promptly

Do not leave grout longer than 15 minutes before cleaning back with clean water and a sponge- as the tile, being very porous, will absorb the liquid from the grout much more quickly than other materials. Several cleaning passes may be required to remove haze. Take care to not strip too much grout from the surface- the surface grout may look dramatic when wet but should look less extreme after it has dried back.



3. Address grout sink-back

Due to being mixed up thinner for slurry grouting, sometimes the grout sinks into the tile whilst drying. Additional grout may be needed to fill in any areas where the grout has sunk back too prominently. Repeat the cleaning in step 2 afterwards.



4. Final clean

Once dry, vacuum and lightly brush remaining residue.



SEALING

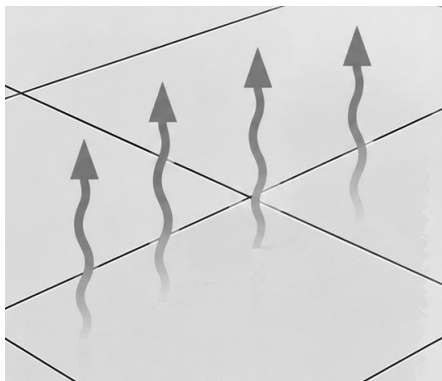


1. Apply Stone Shield

Apply the first coat, using with a paintbrush, cloth or foam roller. Allow 1 hour to cure.

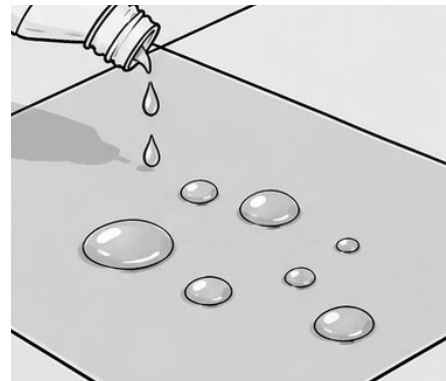
Apply at least 3 coats, allowing 1 hour between coats.

In order to seal these tiles with three coats of Stone Shield, about 1l of sealant will be required to seal 3.3m².



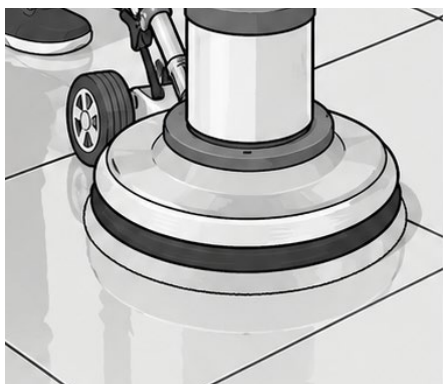
2. Final cure

Do not walk on surface until dry. Keep dry for 3 days.



3. Water test

Drip water onto tile surface- if water beads and does not absorb, the tile is sealed. If water still absorbs, the tiles require more sealing with Stone Shield.



4. Optional buffing

Buff surface to enhance patina and finish. A polishing machine with a soft, white nylock buffin pad is best, but this can also be achieved with a soft cloth. This helps the Stone Shield to build up a patina, and helps to push the Stone Shield into any remaining pores.



AFTERCARE



1. Routine cleaning

Use Clean & Sheen with a mop and warm water. This product contains an element of liquid wax in the cleaner, and helps to fill in any pores that appear.



2. Deep cleaning

Over time, dirt and loose sealant will build up in the surface of the tile. Use our Deep Clean product, diluted as per instructions on the bottle and on the technical information sheet for this product. Agitation may be required, with a white emulsifying pad.



3. Resealing cycle

After deep cleaning, reapply sealer as per steps above.

Apply a coat of Stain Block Eco.

Apply three new coats of Stone Shield.

