

## URBAN CONCRETE TILES Installation and Maintenance Guide

### About Urban Concrete Tiles:

Urban Concrete Tiles are innovative designs to bring urban and modern look to interior and architecture. The finishes, shapes and 3D textures of the 3D concrete tiles brings richness and character to any walls. Urban Concrete Tiles have natural variation and random shading in every piece and box; these are characteristics of concrete tiles. The varying shades, color, pattern and slight size differences enhance and further promote the natural look and feel of the concrete tiles installed to any area.

Urban Concrete tiles can be installed on walls, mostly interior and can be installed on exterior walls without issues of extreme freeze thaw climates. Please note appropriate installation methods, including care and maintenance for each of the application use is needed for optimal results during and after installation.

### Installation Guidelines:

#### A. Before Installation:

- Concrete tile should be handled with care prior to and during installation.
- Avoid stacking the tiles and dropping them. Some of the 3D concrete tiles with intricate details have edges or corners that are sensitive and prone to fracture or breakage if impacted. Please handle them with care during handling and installation.
- Tiles are suitable for wet and high temperature areas but must be consulted and reviewed by structural engineer prior to installation. Consultation and Installation by licensed stone mason is recommended.
- 3D tiles are not meant to be grouted but maybe allowed in certain installation application. Please consult with architect, engineer and installer for best option.

#### B. Installation:

##### 1. Laying/Mounting the tiles to the surface:

- Please make sure the walls/substrate surface is leveled and able to support the weight load of the concrete tiles.
- Tiles must be installed using appropriate setting materials over properly prepared substrate. Use a name-brand thin-set and products recommend include: Laticrete 254R Platinum rapid, Liquid Nails extreme heavy duty and/or Loctite PL Premium Polyurethane depending on the substrate the tiles will be installed on. In certain application, mechanical fix installation using anchoring method may be recommended.
- After beginning tile installation, remove a piece of tile to inspect the coverage of adhesive you are getting on the back. Ideally, it should be covering 90% to 100% of the surface.
- All installation should include movement joints for stress fracture as well as for any thermal expansion.

##### 2. Installation:

Although Urban Concrete tiles are factory pre-sealed with waterproofing inhibitor, we recommend resealing them once installed for further protection as well as for outdoor installations, resealing with waterproofing sealer is a must. However please make sure to test a small area to make sure the water proofer you are using are compatible and does not cause a chemical reaction in the tiles including staining. In case the tiles are grouted, to protect the tiles from chemical reaction to grout, resealing them prior to grouting the tiles using BELLATRIX is recommended. Please note: grouting can cause the concrete tiles to change color shades and add further variations due to reaction between the grout and the concrete tiles. Although the variations and patina effects are natural part and beauty of using concrete tiles, the original colors can be sustained by this additional sealing process prior to grouting.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT USE DETERGENT OR ACID BASED PRODUCTS TO CLEAN! JUST USE WATER OR MILD, NON--ACIDIC AND NON-ABRASIVE CLEANER DURING AND AFTER INSTALLATION.

## Maintaining Concrete Tiles

For basic cleaning, just use water during and after installation. The maintenance requirements for concrete tiles will vary depending on the application and whether the tiles are used on an exterior or interior surface. For example, concrete tiles used as an interior wall cladding will require very little maintenance, while tiles used on exterior surface exposed to the elements will require regular cleaning and resealing to keep them looking their best. Sealing the tiles annually are recommended or more frequently depending on the application area and as needed.

Concrete is strong and durable material however like any material can scratch if subject to heavy, sharp objects. The scratching and minor discolorations can be minimized by proper care and maintenance including sealing the tiles. However, some of these imperfections and natural patina characteristics that occur with concrete tiles are what makes them unique and special for their ever-evolving, natural charm.

Also, frequency of resealing will depend on application area and use. Concrete tiles will continue to patina and makes them unique and beautiful, so resealing them once desired patina is achieved will help the tiles to lock the color as well as protect them from staining, and water damage.

For any further questions or inquiries about Urban Concrete tiles, please contact us at: [info@eleganzatiles.com](mailto:info@eleganzatiles.com) or call 714.224.1700

## FAQ

1. Where can we install the 3D Concrete tiles?

3D APPLICATION AREAS:

WALLS

INDOOR

OUTDOOR

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

2. How come concrete tile pieces are not exactly identical in size, color, finish, thickness and shape?

Urban Concrete tiles are going to be pretty similar in color, finish, shape and thickness from piece to piece, please note the concrete tiles are made in the original and old fashioned way so there will be variations. The variations are not imperfections or defects but are what makes them unique and give richness and character to these concrete tiles.

3. During installation, can I make pencil marks or markings on the tile?

No, you cannot make pencil or mark the tiles using any markers, pen or pencils etc, as they can bleed into the tiles and may be impossible to remove. Please use masking tape for any markings needed during installation of the concrete tiles.

4. Are Concrete tiles available in any other colors besides the standard concrete grey?

Yes, Concrete tiles can be produced in numerous color options and are available as Special Order. The color concrete tiles can be ordered using our standard color board or by specifying using pantone color codes. Special Orders can take 4-7 weeks for delivery and will have minimum order qty. Please contact your Sales Rep for further details.

5. How can I prevent or minimize efflorescence?

Proper sealing with a penetrating sealer will create barrier below the surface that will allow water vapor transmission while help prevent salts from reaching the surface. Extra precaution including careful designing of sprinkler, drains and irrigation systems become especially important when tiling close to mortar beds, planters, or any areas close to water source transporting these salts. There are efflorescence cleaners that can easily remove powdery efflorescence and in

some cases crystalline efflorescence as well. Do not use any acid- based products and make sure to carefully follow manufacturer's treatment directions and test a small area prior to treating the entire area.

#### 6. How often should I seal the concrete tiles?

Sealers are recommended to protect the tiles from staining and preserving their original color and appearance. Generally for light traffic including for residential areas, sealing them once every 1-2 years is recommended while heavy and commercial traffic may require sealing them every year. Some people want the continuing patina effect and may seal once the desired patina is achieved. Please note the concrete tiles are porous and for any areas that are more prone to staining like kitchen or driveways, we recommend sealing them right away.

#### 7. How strong are the concrete tiles?

The concrete tiles once installed properly over a properly prepared substrate, the tiles will withstand 7000-8000 PSI. For 3D Concrete tiles, the tiles are artistic with sculptural elements that has intricate cuts and details with sharp and thin -edges and maybe susceptible to chipping and breakage if impacted with force. Please make sure to protect them from any impact or force as you would an artwork.

#### 8. Will concrete tiles crack?

Concrete tiles rarely crack after they are properly installed. However, like any floor, tiles can crack or fracture if impacted with extreme weight or force as well as any impact from sharp objects. And like any other tiles or floors, the tile/s can be replaced.

#### 9. Do concrete tile scratch?

Yes, concrete tiles can scratch if subject to sharp objects dragging on or across the surface of the tiles. Sealing can help minimize scratching however general precaution is recommended. Urban Concrete tiles are made with cement and extremely durable however, some of the 3D concrete tiles are like artwork and we recommend proper care to prevent them from damage.