

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES



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**CAREFULLY READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING INSTALLATION.
PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURERS' APPLICATION/INSTALLATION GUIDELINES & SPECIFICATIONS.**

INSTALLATION MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Setting Material: Cementitious or Epoxy-based Thin-set adhesive - Artaic recommends Laticrete 254 Platinum thin-set mortar
- Grout: Unsanded Cementitious, Epoxy or Urethane-based; Choose color to best match your mosaic - Artaic recommends StarQuartz urethane grout
- Silicone caulking sealant for expansion joints (If necessary - See Step 8 "Expansion Joints")

NOTE: IF THE MOSAIC IS TO BE INSTALLED ON A SURFACE THAT IS TO BE SUBMERGED IN WATER, THE FOLLOWING IS NEEDED:

- Anti-fracture, waterproofing membrane - Artaic recommends using Laticrete Hydro Ban

INSTALLATION TOOLS NEEDED:

- 1/8" x 1/8" Notched Edge Trowel
- Rubber Grout Float
- Grout Sponges
- Water Buckets
- Razor Blades

NOTE: IF THE MOSAIC IS TO BE INSTALLED ON A SURFACE THAT IS TO BE SUBMERGED IN WATER, THE FOLLOWING IS NEEDED:

- Paint brush or roller for anti-fracture, waterproofing membrane application
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INSTALLATION:

1. SKIMMING

Before beginning installation, it is important that the surface to receive the mosaic is smooth, with a uniform plane. If these conditions are not met, the installation will be difficult and may produce undesirable results.

If needed, a thin layer of setting material should be applied to the desired surface to provide a smooth and uniform base for the mosaic. After mixing the setting material in accordance with the given proportions, uniformly spread the substrate on the desired surface using the flat side of a trowel, creating a smooth and uniform surface to receive the mosaic. Allow at least 12 hours to dry.

NOTE: IF THE SURFACE TO RECEIVE MOSAIC IS EXPOSED TO A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MOISTURE, WEATHER AND/OR IS SUBMERGED IN WATER, SUCH AS WITH A POOL OR TUB APPLICATION, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT AN ANTI-FRACTURE, WATERPROOFING MEMBRANE BE APPLIED BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE MOSAIC INSTALLATION. PLEASE FOLLOW ALL OF THE MANUFACTURER'S APPLICATION GUIDELINES WHEN THIS PROTECTIVE MEMBRANE IS NECESSARY.

2. GUIDE LINES

To ensure a straight and even installation, it is recommended to draw reference guidelines on the surface of the substrate. To draw accurate guidelines, be sure to use a straightedge and level. A laser level can also be used. Construct a grid on the substrate surface where each square corresponds to nine sheets of mosaic. The length and width for each square of the grid can be acquired by measuring the length of three sheets of mosaic. While measuring the length and width of the sheets of tile for the grid, be sure to account for the spacing between the sheets, which should be the same width as the spacing between individual tiles. This can be done by simply laying three sheets of mosaic side by side on the floor with the proper space added between sheets and measuring the total width.

3. APPLYING SETTING MATERIAL

Before installing the sheets of mosaic, setting material must be applied to the substrate surface.

Mix the setting material. This will be applied in two coats. Using a smooth edge of a trowel, apply a thick coat to an area no larger than one square of the drawn grid. Apply a second layer using the notched edge of a trowel by evenly 'combing' the teeth of the trowel across the surface to create uniform ridges.

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4. INSTALLING

Sheets of mosaic can now be applied to the setting material.

The sheets of mosaic have a clear tape covering which allows the mosaic design to be seen while applying, preventing sheets from being applied upside down or in the wrong order. Apply the sheets of mosaic firmly to the setting material, being sure that the backside of each sheet is placed into the setting material, and the tape side faces out.

NOTE: IN THIS STEP, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER TO ADD THE APPROPRIATE SPACING, EQUAL TO THE SPACING BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL TILES, BETWEEN THE SHEETS SO THAT INDIVIDUAL SHEETS CANNOT BE DETECTED IN THE FINISHED PRODUCT.

5. SECURING SHEETS

A firm bond secures the mosaic in the setting material and prevents movement while drying. Using a float tool, tap lightly across the surface to adhere the mosaic securely into the setting material. This process also ensures that the final, exposed plane of the mosaic is consistent and uniform.

6. ADJUSTING THE SPACING

NOTE: THOUGH IT CAN BE A TIME CONSUMING PROCESS, THIS STEP IS HIGHLY VALUABLE IN ENSURING A PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION.

While the setting material is still wet, any necessary adjustments can be made.

Before the setting material dries, adjust any tiles that appear uneven and ensure that all gaps are of uniform width. To do this, cut through the clear tape using a sharp razor blade and align tiles as necessary using a small trowel. Allow 24 hours for the setting material to dry.

7. GROUTING

Grout can be applied to a clean, dry surface. (See Step 8 "Expansion Joints")

Before applying grout, be sure that the mosaic surface is clean and all clear tape is removed from the tiles. Tape should be peeled in a diagonal motion to prevent tiles from becoming detached from the setting material. Thorough cleaning may involve removing excess setting material from the mosaic's joints with a knife, as well as cleaning off all dust and particles.

Mix the grout, being sure to follow the manufacturer's mixing instructions carefully. Once mixed, apply immediately by using a small trowel to scoop the grout in small amounts onto the float tool. Spread from the bottom up in a diagonal direction, then squeegee in the opposite direction. Ensure that all joints are filled completely.

8. EXPANSION JOINTS

Expansion joints should be installed at all "changes in plane" of the mosaic, and where the mosaic meets an adjoining surface, such as in a corner. Fill these space(s) with a silicone caulking sealant in place of grout to create expansion joints at these locations.

9. CLEANING

NOTE: CLEANING METHODS VARY BASED UPON THE TYPE OF GROUT USED IN THE INSTALLATION. FOR EXAMPLE, A URETHANE GROUT MUST BE CLEANED EARLIER AND MORE FREQUENTLY THAN CEMENTITIOUS GROUT. PLEASE FOLLOW THE CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY THE GROUT MANUFACTURER.

Cleaning is usually the last step to complete before the grout hardens.

The mosaic should be ready to be cleaned about 30-60 minutes after grouting. Use a sponge and clean water and scrub in a circular motion, removing excess grout and smoothing all joints. Continue to wipe down the tiles until clean.