

# | BESPOKE |

TILE & STONE

## Encaustic Cement Tiles - Information Page

Encaustic (pressed cement) tiles are handmade in much the same way as they have been for over a hundred years.

The colour layer is approximately 3mm thick and made from crushed marble and granites, colour pigment and cement. The back of the tile is a mix of gravel, sand and cement making up the bulk and the strength. The result is a slightly chalky appearance when new, and will wear beautifully to a smooth and silky patina. Colour variation within the tile is normal.

Encaustic tiles are available as single colour tiles or in a range of polychrome patterns and can be used together in many combinations to create classic or exciting original designs. These tiles are well suited to internal floors including the kitchen and bathroom floors and walls.

Traditionally encaustic tiles have been used around the world for interior and exterior application, think of the rich and spicy Souks of Morocco, or the delightful and refreshing Riad courtyard and pool. In our strong Australian UV light the colours may fade or soften if used outdoors.

Our range includes:

Square	200x200x16mm	Plain colours & Patterns
Hexagon	200x230x16mm	Plain colours & Patterns

### Installation

Suggested allowance for a level substrate surface is 20mm below the line of the intended floor (16mm tile and 4mm for adhesive).

Apply the adhesive mixture evenly to the floor substrate using a wide notch trowel, also apply adhesive to the back of the tile.

Position tile and carefully press into place by hand. (Don't use a hard rubber mallet to set the tile as this could cause micro-cracks in the tile, and leave scuffmarks on the face of the tile.)

### Grout

Traditional grout spacing is minimal, 1 – 2mm.

Immediately remove any excess grout haze. We recommend **Aqua mix Grout Haze Cleanup** is used in the clean rinse water to help eliminate any residual haze. Once set it is almost impossible to remove.

- Do not use coloured grout pigments as the colour may penetrate the edge of the tile leaving a stain that cannot be removed.

We suggest sanded texture grout such as CTA **Polyblend G15 in Light Grey or Mid Grey** for a natural and neutral appearance.

## Cleaning

Clean any cement residue or marks following installation using fresh water and **Aqua Mix Nanoscrub**.

- Never use strong acidic or alkaline products (*cement* remover, strong detergents) or bleach as they could irreparably damage the tiles.
- After installation, if work is still being carried out on/around the area, protect the newly installed floor with drop sheets that breathe. Lift the drop sheets overnight.

## Sealing

- . **We recommend Aqua Mix Sealers Choice Gold – Rapid Cure.** A premium, natural look, water-based, penetrating sealer formulated to provide maximum stain protection, especially in food preparation and serving areas. May also be used as a pre-grouting sealer.

Tiles should be perfectly dry and clean before sealer is applied.

During the drying stage, evaporation of floor humidity through cement tiles may leave white salt deposits (efflorescence) on the tile surface.

This bloom is normal to encaustic tiles and is thought by most to be an attractive feature. On a floor surface the soft bloom will usually “walk” away with the normal foot traffic.

If the sealing treatment is performed too early over a wet floor the result could be darker spots of moisture blocked under the sealant for some time.

## Maintenance

Regular normal maintenance using a ph. Neutral cleaner made for the purpose, for example products suitable for stone and terrazzo floors.

We recommend **Aqua Mix Concentrated Tile and Grout Cleaner** for every day cleaning, and when spring cleaning or decreasing is necessary, use **Aqua Mix Heavy Duty Tile and Grout Cleaner or Aqua Mix Nano Scrub** for troubleshooting.

Always read the product directions and carry out a test section if uncertain.

For more information about the Aqua Mix range of products go to: [www.ctaust.com.au](http://www.ctaust.com.au)

or for Technical assistance contact: **Trevor Lawrence:** 0417 881 869

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