

## FINISHES

**Theia allows its customers to choose the products for the installation and finish according to the surface to be tiled and its environment. Nevertheless, here are some recommendations for this process.**

Check the weather conditions in the construction site (temperature between +5°C and 35°C).

Identify the features of the surface on which the tiles are being laid, to better adjust the technical materials and procedures used to the specific conditions of each site.

### Matte

Matte glazes are suitable for indoor use only, away from humidity and abrasive elements. Being more porous, tiles with a matte glaze are not suitable for humid or dirty environments, such as back splash areas, bathrooms, pool or sauna areas.

### Glossy

Suited for indoor and outdoor use. Glossy glazes are the most adequate for very humid or wet environments, such as showers, pool or sauna areas with constant humidity, outdoors, and even for high traffic areas.

### Craquelet

Craquelet glazes are most suited for indoor use, and can be used in moderately humid environments — they are not suited for high humidity areas such as shower areas or areas with constant water flow.

### Lustre

Our Lustre glazes result from a final layer upon the original base colour. Suited for indoor and can be used in moderately humid environments — they are not suitable for high humidity areas such as shower areas or areas with constant water flow.

### Obs:

All measures and weights indicated in the catalog are approximate. Being handmade products, there will naturally be some differences in size and weight of each piece.

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## INSTALLATION

### Recommendations for masonry walls

The recommended mass to bond the tiles to masonry walls is adhesive cement. When working with light colored tiles, we recommend the mass to be of resembling light color; when working with dark colored tiles, this mass should preferably be of an approximate dark tone. When bonding dark colored tiles, the dark adhesive cement produces dark joints between the tiles, giving emphasis to them while remaining discreet, and the imperfections of the glue in the joints themselves becomes less visible. The same results are obtained with light cement when used with light colored tiles.

The tiler must extend the glue on the wall and apply the tiles in horizontal rows, with at least 2 mm wide joints. As tiles are laid in rows, the glue will start "pulling" and getting dry in the previously laid rows. When this happens, the tiler must go back and use a wet brush or brush distemper (or another similar tool) over those previous rows, and clean the tile joints where the glue burr is raised and imperfect. Then, with a wet sponge, the tiler must pass on the same joints to smooth the mass between the tiles. Thus, the tiler will be wiping excess mass off the joints while tiling, and joints will result creased in a lower plane in relation to the tiles.

This procedure should be repeated throughout the entire process of bonding the tiles to the wall. While this method takes longer, it makes grouting unnecessary, which would be a much longer process. At the end of the application, wait 3 to 5 days, depending on weather conditions, and abundantly apply waterproof liquid onto the joints (with a brush) or to the wall (with a roller), so as to waterproof the joints. If it is desired to grout the tiles, it can be done: in this case, the installation procedure is the conventional one, or one at the tiler's discretion, followed by the grouting of joints. Only water-based putties with extra-fine grain are recommended.

### Recommendations for plasterboard walls

The mass of glue must be suitable for plasterboard and is usually presented as "ready to use" paste. The procedure is identical to the one described above for masonry walls, the difference being the method of cleaning the joints. The most convenient method is to use only a sponge for cleaning them, where excess mass coming out from the joint appears. When wetted, the sponge should be well squeezed, so as not to soak the plasterboard.

### Leveling advice

When placing some of our references, especially the Tejo tiles range, it is useful to level from 3 to 3 rows with a bubble or laser level or with marker thread: as handmade tiles, their shapes are slightly uneven, and alignment can be lost in some rows if they are not leveled as explained above.

### Maintenance

Clean with mild soap (household soap, black soap, green soap, lizard soap, etc.) and water. Never use strong acids or alkalis. A preliminary test of the cleaning product chosen is strongly recommended, made on a small portion of tiles in a less visible area in order to assess its adequacy. Persistent stains can be removed by rubbing with a abrasive sponge or solvent. Please bear in mind that this procedure may slightly damage the surface of the tile, so always test this procedure in a less visible area to avoid unnecessary damage, and use this method only if extremely necessary.