

## TIERRA INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Prior to Installation

These instructions are provided as a general guideline for the installation of the Island Stone Tierra Collection. An experienced, professional tile installer, who has read and understands these instructions, should perform the work. All tile and natural stone products vary slightly in color, shade, finish, and size. Upon delivery, inspect the entire order to verify order accuracy and confirm the product meets expectations.

Tierra is a large format, matte glazed ceramic wall tile with an aesthetic class of V2, which means there will be slight variation from piece to piece within your order. It is recommended to dry lay and blend the entire order either prior to or during installation to achieve a visually balanced tile installation.

The owner or owner's representative is responsible for determining the acceptability of the tile prior to installation as well as approving the first five square feet of installed tile before proceeding with the remainder of the installation.

**INSTALLATION CONSTITUTES ACCEPTANCE.**

**NO ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE AFTER INSTALLATION.**

### Substrate Preparation

Tierra should be installed in accordance with the specifications in the current versions of the Tile Council of North America's "TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation" and the "ANSI A108 American National Standards for the Installation of Ceramic Tile." The TCNA Handbook and ANSI A108 standards are available for purchase at [www.tcnatile.com](http://www.tcnatile.com)

When preparing the substrate (surface to which the tile will be bonded) the maximum allowable variation should not be more than 1/8" in 10 feet from the required plane when measured from the high points in the substrate. Deviations in the framing or substructure should be corrected prior to the installation of the substrate.

Do not use setting material to build up the substrate. Setting material build-up may lead to tile cracking.

To receive an installation material warranty (system warranty), when possible, the waterproofing, setting material, grout, etc. should be from the same installation material manufacturer.

### Crack Isolation/Waterproofing Membrane

Unless specified by the applicable TCNA method, a membrane is not required when installing Tierra. If Tierra will be installed over a waterproof sheet membrane or waterproof tile backerboard, follow sheet membrane/backerboard manufacturer's installation instructions. Deviations in the substrate should be corrected prior to the installation of backerboards or membranes.

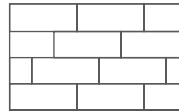
### Setting Material

Tierra should be installed with a setting material specified for use with a large format, ceramic tile.

### Installation

When installing Tierra in a running bond (brick) pattern, the maximum allowable offset is 33% of the tile's length, which is approximately 11.75".

1/3 STAGGER



Tile products installed in interior dry applications require a minimum of 80% setting material coverage and in interior wet applications require a minimum of 95% setting material coverage after the tile is pressed into the setting bed. Based on the application, select a properly sized notch trowel (usually 1/2" x 1/2" square notch or similar) to achieve specified coverage. Back buttering of the tile immediately prior to installation may also be required.

When installing, flat trowel the substrate with setting material to initiate the bond. Add additional setting material and trowel in one direction. Install tile before setting material skins over. Excessive setting material thickness may lead to tile cracking. [Click here](#) for a video on proper trowel technique.

**WARNING: DO NOT SOAK TIERRA WITH WATER PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.**

### Grout

The minimum recommended grout joint for Tierra is 1/4". Select a grout product recommended for a 1/4" joint, the intended installation location and for use with a matte glazed, ceramic tile.

**Note:** Tile is usually grouted with a color that is similar or slightly lighter than the color of the tile. If a contrasting grout color is selected it may be beneficial to install and grout a sample board to confirm the result will meet expectations.

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### Movement Joints

Movement joints are essential for the success of all tile installations and placement requirements will vary. When installing Tierra, follow the recommendations for *Movement Joints EJ171* in the current version of the "TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation".

### Cutting

Tierra should be cut with a wet saw equipped with a diamond blade designed for cutting ceramic tile.

**WARNING: DO NOT DRY CUT TILE WITH A POWER TOOL.**

### Sealing & Maintenance

Tierra does not need to be sealed. However, if a cement grout is used, sealing the grout may be beneficial. Be sure to remove excess sealer from the surface of the tile, per the sealer manufacturer's directions, to prevent sealer haze.

Tierra should be regularly cleaned with a pH neutral tile cleaner. For heavier build-up such as grease, oil, soap scum, etc. an alkaline based cleaner may be used. Acidic or heavily abrasive cleaners or products should not be used to regularly clean Tierra.

### Questions?

Call Island Stone Installation Support at **800-371-0001**.