



Zellaus Handmade Moroccan Tiles: Installation Guide for Zellige Square and Bejmat Models

This guide serves as a general reference for installing our handmade Moroccan tiles. For best results, we recommend consulting a professional installer with experience in traditional tilework.

The Beauty of Handmade Tiles

Square and Bejmat tiles are crafted by hand, resulting in charming imperfections that reflect their artisanal nature. Expect variations in thickness, colour, shape, and size, along with occasional chips, scratches, warping, or glaze irregularities. These features are not flaws but rather part of the authentic and timeless beauty of handmade tiles, adding an organic character to any space.

Mixing and Layout Tips

Due to natural color and size variations, it's essential to blend tiles from all boxes before installation. Lay them out in the desired pattern to preview the final look. This helps ensure a balanced, cohesive design and minimizes surprises during installation. Please note that batches may differ slightly, so plan your order carefully to avoid colour or size mismatches if additional tiles are needed later.

Non-Return Policy

As Square and Bejmat tiles are sold with the understanding that their unique characteristics are known and appreciated, returns are not accepted. We recommend confirming your order quantity and design before installation to avoid shortages or excess material.

Installation Techniques

Zellige tiles are traditionally installed with tight joints, requiring meticulous alignment and adjustments. Expect some lipping (uneven tile edges), as this is a natural result of their handcrafted nature. They can be installed with or without grout, depending on your aesthetic preference. If grout is used, a fine, non-sanded grout works best. Carefully wipe away excess grout to avoid covering the tile surface, ensuring it only fills the small gaps.

Sealing and Cleaning Recommendations

- **Glazed Tiles:** No sealing is required.

- **Natural Terracotta Tiles:** Sealing is recommended to protect against moisture and staining.
- **Before Installation:** Remove dust or residue with a light brushing or a damp sponge. Follow your adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning tile backs to ensure optimal adhesion. Back-buttering with adhesive using a notched trowel is recommended for secure placement.

External Corners and Mitre Cuts

For clean external corners, we recommend mitre cutting the tiles using a wet saw. Sand the sharp edges evenly and fill corner joints with grout to achieve a seamless finish.

The Impact of No Engobe Layer

Our tiles are crafted without an engobe layer (a clay mixture that provides a smooth surface under glaze). Here's what to expect:

1. **Moisture Absorption:** Without engobe, tiles may be more porous and could absorb moisture through the glaze, particularly in wet areas like kitchens or bathrooms.
2. **Surface Texture:** The glaze may take on a more rustic appearance, adding to the artisanal charm of the tiles.
3. **Durability:** Tiles without engobe may require additional care in moisture-prone environments to prevent potential staining or wear over time.

Our handmade Moroccan tiles offer an unmatched blend of tradition and artistry, perfect for those seeking a distinctive look. With proper planning and careful installation, they will bring enduring beauty to any space.