

# The Antique Floor Company

*Timeless elegance at your feet*

## Carreaux de ciments tiles - INSTALLING THE TILES

**The installation method we recommend is simple and fast.**

It is similar to the method used for installing ceramic or stone tiles.

- **Prepare a perfectly level surface** in concrete or self-leveling screed/cement 25mm below the line of the intended floor height (20mm for the thickness of the 20cm x 20cm tiles and 5mm for mortar).
- **Let the surface dry completely** before installing the cement tiles, otherwise the water which is found in the concrete will evaporate through the tiles, resulting in deposits of white limestone stains.
- **Decide on the layout of the tiles**, and put them in position to ensure the result before installing them. If you choose a traditional carpet style pattern, you must first frame the centre part, and then lay down the border tiles. Finally, lay down the outside tiles, and cut them to fit against the walls.
- To help the cement tile to stay in place, **lightly dampen** the underside when laying.
- Evenly apply the adhesive mixture to the floor subsurface, using a wide comb. Also apply adhesive to the back of the tile.
- Lay the tiles, and **press them into place with the palm of your hand**, ensuring that they are perfectly level with each other. *(If you beat the tiles too hard with a tool, such as a rubber hammer, micro-cracks will begin to appear in the tile over time)*

### **IMPORTANT:**

- Leave a small gap (2 to 3mm), between the tiles.
- Take care to align the tiles so that a regular pattern is maintained throughout the floor.
- Throughout the installation, ensure that that the tiles are perfectly level, as mosaic cement tiles cannot be polished down like marble or granite.

### **FILLING THE GAPS:**

Fill the small gaps between the tiles with liquid cement, using a spatula. **Never dye the cement joint filler.** Immediately remove any excess cement joint filler with a damp cloth or a sponge.

### **CLEANING DURING THE JOB:** *Essential for beautiful results!*

- Lay a small section, c.16 tiles and immediately clean any cement residue or stains from the tiles surface following installation with a sponge and clean water.
- Any remains of dry cement or paint, etc which do not disappear with soap and a brush, can be delicately removed with water sandpaper #600 or Scotch-Brite.
- Never use acidic products, detergents or bleach. Rub the tiles by hand, and rinse with abundant water.

### **TREATING YOUR CEMENT TILES**

**Treat your cement tiles after installation, when they are completely dry:**

- 1 - To make them waterproof and to protect them from stains. **A must.**
- 2 - To give them lustre, and to heighten the colours. **An option.**

### **LET THE TILES DRY COMPLETELY BEFORE TREATMENT:**

- After installation the tiles must be allowed to breathe. Allow all the humidity in the cement tile to evaporate.
- The evaporation of water through the cement tiles may leave a chalky, white deposit on the surface. This can be eliminated by gentle rubbing and rinsing with water.
- If waterproof treatment is applied before the tiles are completely dry, it will block the evaporation of the underlying humidity and will result dark damp patches.

### **CLEANING BEFORE TREATMENT:**

- Never use acidic products (cement-cleaner) solvents or bleach. They would irreparably damage the cement tiles.
- Clean the cement tiles by rubbing or abrasion, rather than with chemicals. Use a hard brush with water and neutral soap.
- Resistant stains, or cement residues can be removed by gentle rubbing with Scotch Brite or water sandpaper #600.
- Rinse away the residue with abundant water.

### **WATERPROOFING is INDISPENSABLE:**

- It is important to use waterproofing liquids which completely penetrate the tiles without affecting the matt appearance of the surface.
- These products are similar to those used to treat terracotta, marble or natural stone floor tiles. This sealant will be supplied.

- Apply two coats, using a brush or a sponge.
- This will perfectly protect your tiles from water, grease and other stains.
- For further information, consult [www.filachim.com](http://www.filachim.com)

**PRECAUTIONS:**

- Always test the product on a single tile before proceeding to treat the floor.
- Avoid using excessive amounts of the product, as the unabsorbed excess will dry and leave a varnished appearance.

**POLISHING after WATERPROOFING:**

This is the traditional method of sealing and protection. Wax protects and brings out the colours in the tiles, giving them a glossy texture.

Apply a coat of pure wax to fill out the tile. For routine maintenance, clean the floor once a month with the same wax added to the water used to mop.