



KlayConcept

Installation & Care Guide



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What are terracotta tiles?

Terracotta products are made from natural clay sourced from our on-site quarries and fired at high temperatures. This gives them their rich colour and subtle texture, adding vitality to your space. Whether you are aiming for a classic, more rustic or contemporary look, these tiles are your versatile foundation.

When properly installed, these tiles will result in an elegant, easy to maintain surface that will stand the test of time.

Embrace the enduring charm of Terracotta tiles.



Preparation

Tile inspection

Inspect all tiles upon receipt of your order. Expect to see slight variations in colour, texture and size, which is a natural characteristic of this product.

Surface preparation

- Tiles require a solid concrete base. A newly-cast concrete base should cure for at least 4 weeks before laying the tile to avoid discolouration of tiles due to leaching of soluble salts from the base.
- The surface must be clean, dry and roughened to properly key with the adhesive. Apply a key coat if needed to create a strong bond between the adhesive and the substrate.
- If there is residue from glue, oil, paint, polish or other chemicals on the base, remove with the relevant remover according to product instructions and clean.

Tile preparation

- Soak the tiles before installation to prevent excessive staining from adhesive or grouting products.
- Use a rubber mallet for installation and tap the tiles lightly to avoid breaking.
- Mixing tiles from different boxes leads to the best results

Size and colour varies slightly from tile to tile, adding a distinct and organic appeal to your surface.

Terracotta tiles can be used for flooring and wall cladding.

It is recommended to buy an additional 5% of tiles for cuttings.

Laying

- Remember to plan your layout before installation as it will be difficult to remove once installed and you risk breaking the tile. Planning your layout will allow you to calculate grout width and cutting before you begin.
- Lay the tile in small sections to avoid adhesive drying while you work. Use a good quality tile adhesive according to packaging instructions within the recommended time.

Insight: use the following guide to effectively plan the layout of your tiles

	Length (mm)	Height (mm)	Grout width (mm)
Klompie tiles	230 305 390	35	6-16
Cape thin brick	222	76	8-16
Cape quarry tiles	150	150 305	8-16
	222	222 455	10-15
	305	305	15-25

To get the spacing of the lines of tile, add the width of the tile to the desired grout width. Repeat this process until you reach the walls, where tiles will need to be cut to fit the gap.

Insight: stretching the grout width slightly across the tiling surface in your layout may help avoid cutting the tile.

Instructions for laying the tile:

1. Mix adhesive in small batches following manufacturer instructions.
2. Following your layout, spread adhesive evenly over 1 square metre at a time and limit the thickness to 4-12mm.
3. Accurately lay the tile against your line before tapping lightly with a rubber mallet to bed them, leaving no air pockets between the tile and the surface.
4. Repeat this process.

Important things to remember:

- Ensure that your choice of adhesive is compatible with both natural clay tiles and the surface you will be installing the tiles on.
- Cut tiles facing up with a wet saw so you can see and better control the effect of the cuts on the final appearance of the tiles.
- Do not get adhesive onto the face of the tile
- Remember to use wedge spacers to maintain equal spacing between tiles for grouting.
- Allow 1 full day after tiling for the adhesive to dry before allowing foot traffic.
- Depending on the kind of adhesive you use, wetting the back of your tile can help ensure adhesive does not dry too quickly and applying a thin layer of adhesive to the back of the tile can help it adhere more securely.

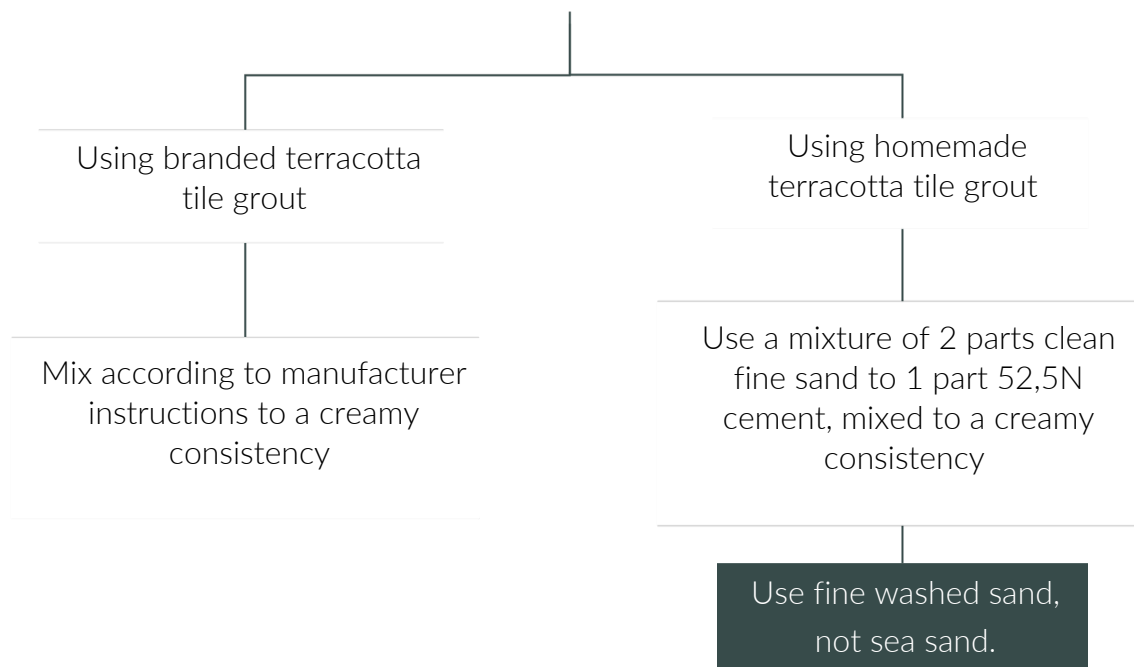
Grouting

Preparation for grouting

Grouting is done 1 day after laying the tiles, ensuring they have had enough time for the adhesive to reset. Before grouting, prepare your tiles by saturating them with water to help prevent grout residue from adhering to the tile. Wipe away excess so there is no pooling water on the surface.

Insight: using pigmented grout is not recommended because it can permanently stain the tiles

Clay tiles can be grouted with a quarry tile grout or a mixture of 2 parts clean fine sand to 1 part cement. Remember to clean excess grout as you work and change the water regularly to ensure minimal grout is left on the surface of the tile.



Apply grout in small sections, ensuring that joints are filled completely. Clean the area before applying grout to the next section so that it does not dry and set on the surface of the tile.

Cleaning after grouting

Allow grout to dry for at least 3 days before cleaning. As the grout dries, a thin layer of residue will form on the tile surface. Clean off using one of the following methods:

1. Wipe away grout residue with a clean, damp cloth. Change the water regularly and verify that all grout residue has been removed from the surface.
 2. Use a grout removing solution to dissolve grout on the surface of the tiles. Be careful when applying the solution, paying attention to the following:
 - Always follow manufacturer instructions for preparation, application and clean-up provided on the products you choose to use.
 - As grout removers are often mild acids, mask off any metal objects that may be exposed to the solution. Wear rubber gloves and eye protection.
 - Saturate the tile surface with clean water, ensuring that there is no pooling water on the surface of the tile.
 - Apply grout remover with a mop or plastic watering can and agitate with a bristle broom until clean. Rinse surface with water after. Do not allow grout remover to dry onto the tile.
- If necessary, repeat the above steps until the tile surface is clean.
- Following this, apply a neutralising solution to remove any remaining acid and allow the tiles to dry completely before rinsing with water.

Following this, allow the tiles to dry completely and examine the tiles to ensure that all grout has been removed from the surface. Where Klay instructions may differ from manufacturer instructions, it is advisable to seek clarity from manufacturers on the applicability of their product to natural clay tiles. Ensure that tiles are completely clean before proceeding with sealing to avoid sealing any dirt onto the tile.

Sealing

Proper sealing from oils and fats is essential. Sealing prevents staining and maintains the original appearance and rich colour. Allow as much time as possible (at least 10 days) after grouting before sealing. Ensure that tiles are dry, free of dust, dirt and debris before applying any sealant to the tile.

Insight: to test the moisture level of the tile, tape a piece of a plastic bag slightly smaller than a tile onto the centre of the tile and leave for at least 3 hours or overnight. If there is any sign of moisture under the plastic or the covered area is darker than the surrounding area, wait until tile is completely dry to seal.

Traditional sealant (indoor method)

1. Traditionally, clay tiles are sealed with a 1:1 mixture of raw linseed oil and mineral turpentine applied with a soft wide brush. Do not use a sponge or roller as it may foam, leaving bubbles.
2. Apply the first coat evenly at a rate of 9 square meter per litre. Let dry for at least 4 hours
3. Apply second coat as a 'flood coat', keeping the entire floor 'wet' for 5 minutes before spreading at a rate of 12 square metres per litre of sealant.
4. Spread excess to areas where it can be absorbed; wipe off any remaining sealant with pure turpentine to avoid future stickiness.
5. The tile should have a slight sheen following the final application. Occasionally, tiles may require a third application: only do this if your tiles can absorb the sealant mixture and wipe excess.
6. Allow 4 hours of drying time before allowing light foot traffic and 72 hours before allowing full traffic, washing or water.
7. Following this, apply a light layer of Nova 3 with a soft, clean cloth for extra protection.

Branded sealant

When using branded sealant, carefully follow manufacturer instructions to ensure that you can get the best results for your tiles. Apply the sealant evenly across the surface of the tiles, covering any materials that may be incidentally exposed to the sealant and, where applicable, use appropriate safety materials and tools.

Note: do not seal tiles in hot sunlight as this may thin the sealants, lowering their effectiveness.

Insight: test your sealer of choice on a sample tile or small, inconspicuous area before applying to your surface to see if the results are aligned with what you want for your space.

Insight: maintain the colour and health of your tiles by recoating when tiles begin to dull or sealant begins to lift.



Important notes:

- Please be sure to read all instructions on the products used and, for safety purposes, wear appropriate protective gear and use appropriate tools when installing tiles.
- Our product is natural and inherent characteristics like varying thickness, textures and colours are part of its charm.
- Suggested products:

Purpose

Product

Adhesive

Pro Grip Superior Tile Adhesive
Tylon Adhesive for all types of tiles
Tal Goldstar 12 Tile Adhesive

Grout

Quarry Tile Grout Mixture (homemade)

Grout cleaner

TFC Grout Off and TFC Easy Clean

Sealant

Traditional

Linseed Oil & Mineral Turpentine mixture
Nova 3 Polish

Branded

TFC Easy Seal
TFC Natural Stone Sealer
Alumanation Water Shield

Cleaning

Daily cleaning with warm water and soft soap



Klay

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