

PEBBLE & STONE TILE MOSAIC INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to Installation

These instructions are provided as a general guideline for installing Island Stone Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaic Collections. However, they **DO NOT** include instructions for installation in pools, spas, or water features. For pool specific installation instructions, please refer to the [Island Stone Pool Tile Installation Guide](#).

All tile and natural stone products vary slightly in color, shade, finish, and size. Upon delivery, inspect the entire order to verify order accuracy. An experienced, professional tile installer, who has read and understands these instructions, should perform the work.

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 & Installation

Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics 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 Standard Specifications for the Installation of Ceramic Tile." The TCNA Handbook and ANSI A108 standard are available for purchase at www.tcnatile.com.

Layout

Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaic sheets have either a two-sided or four-sided interlock. When properly installed, the sheet-to-sheet transitions should not be visible. This may require dry laying the sheets to confirm the optimal sheet-to-sheet fit. Unlike traditional mosaic tile installations, the most visually pleasing pebble tile installation is achieved by leaving a minimal grout joint between the sheets. During the installation process, it is important to step back and inspect the installation from a distance as well as from multiple angles and adjust as needed to ensure sheet lines are not visible.

Crack Isolation/Waterproofing Membrane

Unless specified by the applicable TCNA method, a membrane is not required when installing Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics. However, the use of a membrane may increase the performance and longevity of the tile installation and should be considered when planning the tile assembly.

Setting Material

Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics should be installed with a setting material that is specified for use with a natural stone tile as well as the intended installation location. Some examples are:

ARDEX: X77 or better
BOSTIK: Reflex or better
CUSTOM: FlexBond or better
LATICRETE: 254 Platinum or better
LITOKOL: Hyperflex K100 or better
MAPEI: Keraflex Super or better
TEC: Full Flex or better

An epoxy adhesive would also be acceptable for installing Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics.

Tile products installed in exterior or interior wet applications require 95% setting material coverage on the back of the tile. Select a properly sized notch trowel to achieve coverage.

Grout

Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics should be grouted with a product specified for use in grout joints up to 1/2". Consider using grout from the same manufacturer as the setting material. While a Standard Cement Grout (ANSI A118.6 sanded) may be used, generally, a High Performance Cement Grout (ANSI A118.7) is a better choice. Some examples of High Performance Cement Grout are:

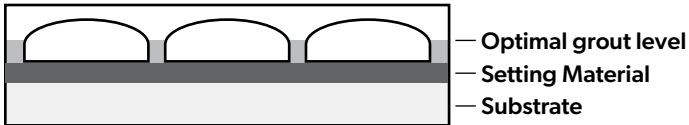
ARDEX: FL Sanded Grout
BOSTIK: Hydroment Vivid
CUSTOM: Prism SureColor Grout
LATICRETE: PermaColor or PermaColor Select Grout
LITOKOL: StyleGrout Tech
MAPEI: Ultracolor Plus FA
TEC: Power Grout

An epoxy grout may also be used with certain Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics. Consult epoxy manufacturer for limitations. If epoxy grout is used, extra care should be taken to prevent potential staining or an epoxy grout haze.

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Grout color selection will have a significant impact on the finished appearance of the installation. Tile is usually grouted with a color that is similar to 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 your expectations.

Per the illustration below, when grouting Perfect Pebble, Stacked Pebble, or Strip Pebble the finished grout height should not be much higher than the maximum width/girth of the pebbles. This will require grouting the installation and then removing a considerable amount of grout to expose the pebble. The goal is to see more pebble and less grout.



As with any tile product, particularly a matte or honed finish, grout haze is a possibility. The process for removing the grout haze will be determined by the type of grout that was used; consult the grout manufacturer for instructions.

Movement Joints

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

Cutting

Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics can be cut with a wet saw equipped with a diamond blade designed for cutting natural stone.

WARNING: DO NOT DRY CUT TILE WITH A POWER TOOL

Sealing & Maintenance

Generally, Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics should be sealed with a high-quality sealer before grouting and then again after grouting. Two light coats of sealer are usually better than one heavy coat. The type of sealer will be dictated by where the tile is being installed and the intended look (natural versus enhanced). Consult sealer manufacturer for recommendations. To prevent a sealer haze be sure to remove excess sealer from the surface of the stone per the sealer manufacturer's instructions.

Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics should be regularly cleaned with a pH-neutral stone cleaner. For heavier buildup such as grease, oil, soap scum, etc. an alkaline based cleaner may be used. Acidic or heavily abrasive cleaners should not be used to regularly clean Pebble and Stone Tile Mosaics.

Questions?

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