

# ISLAND STONE & TILE

## Glass Tile Installation Instructions

### Prior to Installation

These instructions are provided as a general guideline for the installation of Island Stone Cascade, Glass Essentials, Impressions, Lava Glass, Palms, Penny Rounds, Nuance, Spindrift, Waveline, which will be referred to generically as “Glass Tile” in this document. These instructions **DO NOT** cover installation in pools, spas, or water features. For pool specific instructions, please refer to the [Island Stone Pool Tile Installation Guide](#).

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.

Island Stone Glass Tile is a back painted product, which may have significant variation from piece to piece. For unmounted Glass Tile, dry laying and blending the entire order either prior to or during installation is important in achieving a visually balanced tile installation. Spindrift sheets have a 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. 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.

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

Island Stone Glass Tile 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). **STOP!** Do not install Glass Tile over single float mortar bed walls, mortar bed walls

reinforced with metal lath less than 2.5 lbs per square yard, or any wood products.

When preparing the substrate (surface to which the tile will be bonded) the maximum allowable variation should not be more than 1/4” in 10 feet from the required plane when measured from the high points in 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 membrane, setting material, grout, etc. should be from the same installation material manufacturer.

### Crack Isolation/Waterproofing Membrane

When installing Glass Tile an ANSI A118.2 crack isolation membrane is required over the substrate.

Some examples are:

ARDEX 8+9  
BOSTIK GoldPlus  
CUSTOM RedGard  
LATICRETE Hydro Ban  
MAPEI Mapelastix CI  
TEC HydraFlex

### Setting Material

Glass Tile should be installed with one of the high performing setting materials listed below.

ARDEX: X77  
BOSTIK: Glass-Mate  
CUSTOM: MegaLite  
LATICRETE: 254 Platinum  
LITOKOL: Litoelastic EVO  
MAPEI: Adesilex P10 mixed w/ Keraply  
TEC: Super Flex

For Glass Tile that will be grouted with grey or black grout, it may be prudent to install the tile with grey setting material.

**STOP!** Do not use setting material to build up the substrate. This may lead to tile cracking.

### Installation

- Tile products installed in interior wet applications and exterior applications require 95% setting material coverage after the tile is pressed into the setting bed. Select a properly sized notch trowel to achieve coverage. Generally, a 1/4”x1/4” square notch (or similar) should be sufficient.



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- When installing, flat trowel the substrate with setting material to initiate the bond. Add additional setting material and trowel full notches in one direction, then flatten the troweled setting material with the flat edge of the trowel or similar tool to achieve a smooth setting bed.
- To initiate the bond of the setting material to the Glass Tile (unmounted only), flat trowel the back of the tile with setting material immediately prior to installation. The bond of the setting material to the tile and the performance of the installation is significantly reduced if this step is skipped and may lead to setting material bond loss.
- The minimum grout joint for Glass Tile is 1/16". Glass Tile should never be installed without a grout joint (touching)

### Grout

Glass Tile may be grouted with cement grout, high-performance cement grout, urethane, epoxy, or premixed grout. Gloss finish (except Spindrift) should be grouted with non-sanded grout. Use care to avoid scratching if sanded grout is going to be used.

Grout color selection, particularly with glass tile, 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.

As with any tile product, particularly a matte 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

Glass tile expands and contracts more than other tile products, therefore, movement joints are essential for the success of glass tile installations. Follow the recommendations for **Movement Joints EJ171** in the current version of the "TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass and Stone Tile Installa-

tion."

### Cutting

Glass Tile can be cut with a wet saw equipped with a quality diamond blade designed for cutting glass tile or score-and-snap glass cutting tools.

Some examples of quality blades for cutting glass tile are:

Alpha Professional Tools – Vetro

Husqvarna – Superlok Glass+

MK Diamond – MK 215GL or MK215 GL-XL

Montolit – CPV

Rodia – Glass Tile Blade

When using a wet saw, the keys to successfully cutting glass tile are cutting slowly, providing ample water flow, and regularly dressing the blade with a dressing stone.

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

### Sealing & Maintenance

Glass Tile 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 glass tile, per the sealer manufacturer's directions, to prevent a sealer haze.

Glass Tile should be regularly cleaned with a pH-neutral tile cleaner and a sponge, microfiber towel, nylon scrub brush, or non-scratching nylon scrub pad (white/blue). For heavier buildup such as grease, oil, soap scum, etc. an alkaline-based cleaner may be used.

Do not use acidic or heavily abrasive cleaners or products to clean Glass Tile.

### Questions?

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

