

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR TILES POLISHING**

Tile polishing is **by far the most crucial area of workmanship for the proper shining, finishing and maintenance of the floor** and customers are advised to seek the best professional help for the same.

For selecting agency it is advisable that:

1. They should have previous experience of having done some high quality cement tile or terrazzo polishing works.
2. A sample mock up of about one small room should be completely polished by the agency before entrusting entire work to the agency.

### **Work to be completed before commencement of polishing**

1. All civil and masonry work.
2. All plumbing and pipeline work.
3. Laying of bathroom floor and fixing of all wall tiles.
4. Platform slabs and wall tiles of the kitchen storeroom etc to be fixed.
5. All electrical wiring, whether concealed or open
6. Fixing of window frames and window grills and fixing of door frames.
7. Polishing or colour of windows/window frames/ grills etc and of doors/ door frames etc. Final painting of all ceilings
8. Two coats of wall paints on all the walls [ only the final coat is to be done after the final polishing]
9. Final fitting of all electrical equipment and connection of power supply.

The base on which the tiles are to be fixed should be level.

### **Grouting:**

Always buy the grouting mixture only from manufacturer along with the tiles for proper matching of shade of grout with that of the tile.

Use grouting mix within 30 days of dispatch. Close bags / containers tightly between uses.

The next morning after laying, and not later, the joints are to be filled with a slurry of the grouting mixture. Joints should be properly cleaned with a blade before filling the same. Ensure that each part of the joint is filled with the colour which matches that part of the tile, and press it into the joint.

Ensure water is sprinkled on the tiles for at least 3 days to enable cement to set.

### **Polishing**

The tiles should be polished with an Italian polishing machine (machine without undue vibration), at least a week after laying.

**The first coat of polishing is the most important one.** It is the cutting / levelling coat and should be done using No.1 polishing stones (Suri Pollex Synthetic stone or equivalent). Avoid using No. 0 stone unless the tiles are very hard. Make sure that only new sets of stone of same height are used.

Carry out enough grinding to make sure as follows:

1. The tiles should be perfectly level i.e. no lipping or cement deposits should be seen at joints
2. The exposure of the terrazzo (chips) should be even

At this stage if any cracked tiles are noticed, they should be replaced.

While polishing the tiles, in the unlikely event that the tiles do not seem to get the desired result, the customers are requested to immediately stop the polishing work and consult the vendors.

After 1st coat of polishing tiny pinholes will occur or in case of tiles with glass aggregates, some bigger holes or pitting will appear. These should be first completely cleaned and thoroughly grouted using grout-mix to match the colour on the tiles.

Grouting is to be left for a minimum of 4-6 days and cured with water before the tiles are subjected to the second coat of polishing using No.2 stone.

A second round of grouting as above may be needed too if pinholes or other pitting still shows.

The above is followed by Nos. 3, 4, 5 X i.e. very fine stone. Ensure floor is washed with water between each polishing. In case of tiles with very fine aggregates, please be careful to not over grind the tiles or the backing layer will show.

Protect the floor from staining, damage, etc as a result of other agencies working on site. Wet wood shaving, oil and varnish stains cannot be removed. Use Plaster of Paris or plastic covering if there is a time gap between fixing and polishing. To avoid scratches, all furniture, ladders etc should be lifted, or dragged on a thick cloth

Customers are requested to seek advice in case of special design tiles with regards to any special care or instructions that are required to be taken.

### **Maintenance**

1. Since mosaic tiles are cement products, special care is to be taken to prevent water, oil or any other fluid stains. Organic material like foodstuffs, wooden saw or other particles etc should be carefully avoided, and the manufacturers of the tiles can in no way be responsible for any stains, patches etc. arising of the above or similar causes.
2. After final polishing is completed, Tiles are to be cleaned with a wet duster using clean water and duster only- atleast twice daily, initially for 2-3 months. Phenyl, Acids, strong detergents, bleaches, kerosene etc. are to be strictly avoided for cleaning as they tend to adversely affect the tiles.
3. Whether the flooring is put to use or not, Tiles cleaning is to be commenced immediately after final polishing of the tiles is completed.