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## INSTALLATION GUIDE

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Due to the handmade nature of our glass tile there will be a certain amount of variation in color, shade, tone, texture and size.

Frequently you may notice bubbles, wrinkles and folds in the glass. These are consistent with a cast glass product.

Please open and inspect each box of glass tile upon delivery. Buyer is responsible for both inspection and acceptance of the material prior to installation.

1-8-04



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# INSTALLATION

## GUIDE FOR VENETIAN GLASS

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These instructions are provided as a general guide to most installations. Please read and understand this information before proceeding.

Venetian glass is formed by fusing 3 layers of glass, the middle layer being hand-blown Murano glass

Venetian glass can easily be integrated with Cross-Colors or our Stone-Look tiles given their similar thickness. Venetian glass is offered as the perfect compliment to most stone, ceramic and metal tile.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Venetian glass is suitable for interior wall applications, in wet or dry locations. Acceptable substrates include cement backer units, concrete masonry block, and gypsum wallboard.

### **INSTALLATION**

#### **Setting Material**

Non Acceptable Setting Materials

- Organic Adhesive (mastic), due to low bond strengths and yellowing.

- Epoxy, lacks flexibility also degrades and yellows in sunlight.

#### Recommended setting materials

It is recommended that a white thin-set mortar modified with liquid latex admix designed for use with mortars only is used. This thin-set and latex mix should be compliant with ANSI 118.4 and recommended for glass tile installation by the setting material manufacturer. Do not add any water to the mix. White thin-set reflects the most light and creates the brightest color through the glass.

As Venetian Glass Series is 5/16" thick, a 1/4" notched trowel should be used. Since Venetian Glass is translucent **all trowel ridges in the thin-set must be smoothed out** using the flat edge of the trowel before setting the tile, or the mortar ridges will show through.

#### **Cutting/Drilling**

**Eye protection should always be worn when cutting, drilling or grinding glass tile.**

Due to the irregular surface and layered construction of the tile, cutting can best be achieved using a score and snap tile cutter such as Rubi, Sigma and Ishii (small diameter scoring wheels, 8-10mm, are more effective on the irregular surface of the Venetian tiles). A successful cut requires that the tile be scored twice.

First, score the tile on the front followed by a matching score line on the back. This method is necessary due to the 3 layers of glass that compose the tile. The light catching bubbles on the face of the Venetian glass tile may catch debris and dirty water if a wet saw cuts are made. Cut tile edges **must** be smoothed and dulled with a diamond hand pad, dressing stone or belt sander using silicone carbide belt.

Drilling holes through Venetian glass can be accomplished with a diamond tipped core bit using a drill with low speed (250 to 300 rpm). Continually misting the tile and drill bit during cutting is necessary. If partitions or fixtures are to be attached with anchoring bolts, drill hole 1/8" larger to avoid stress transfer to the tile. If tiles have not been installed drilling from both sides will minimize chipping and cracking

#### **Drying Time**

**Allow the thin-set mortar to dry completely 36 to 48 hours.** Glass tile requires longer curing time.

#### **GROUTING**

Standard grout either sanded or unsanded may be used. Grout joints

1/8" or less allow for the use of an unsanded grout. When integrating Venetian Glass with different types of tile, larger grout joints may require the use of sanded grout, if so we recommend the use of a soft rubber wall float to minimize the possibility of scratching the tile.

Glass tile is non absorbent. Before beginning the cleaning process, additional time should be allowed for the grout to firm up in the joint, approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

After installation it is recommended the tile be cleaned with a commonly accepted grout cleaner. There are many such products; two examples are Aqua Mix (800-366-6877) Grout Haze Clean-Up or TEC (800-832-9023) Banish Grout Haze Remover. White nylon scrub pad or cheese cloth is good for wiping off initial heavy film, finish with a clean grout sponge or slightly damp terry cloth towel, preferably white as dyes may transfer to the grout joint.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Venetian glass may be cleaned with any standard non abrasive floor, wall or glass cleaner.

### **ADDITIONAL TIPS**

- Work small areas of 4 to 6 SqFt that can be accomplished in 15 to 20 minutes. This will assure bonding mortar is fresh.
- Normally, flush grout joints are desired. During the initial clean up rubbing the grout joints more aggressively will provide a finished grout joint that is slightly lower than the surface of the tile. This will allow more random light to enter the tile and add to its brightness.
- Care should be given to grout selection as its color will have some affect on the appearance of the Venetian glass tile which is translucent.