

Processing Guidelines

Skip Tile

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1. Introduction

- Skip Tile, powered by Alusid®, is a range of composite ceramic tiles, manufactured from recycled glass and ceramics. The tiles contain no resins, cement, or chemical binders.
- All Skip Tiles are 100% UV-resistant and can be applied in virtually all situations where traditional ceramic wall and floor tiles are used.
- Application: suitable for wall and floor finishes. Not intended for surfaces on which food is prepared. Suitable for both interior and exterior applications.
- Installation: placement must comply with URL 35-101 (guideline for the processing of wall and floor tiles).
- Use only adhesives and sealants suitable for tiles to ensure proper adhesion and long-term durability.

2. Transport & Storage

- The tiles are packaged to minimise breakage and must be transported carefully.
- Avoid dropping or incorrect stacking to prevent damage.
- Store the tiles in a dry, stable environment to prevent moisture absorption.
- Keep the tiles out of direct sunlight before installation.
- Acclimatisation before use: allow the tiles to reach room temperature before processing.

3. Application Conditions

- Install at moderate temperatures; avoid extreme cold or heat.
- Prevent high humidity, as this may affect adhesives and grouts.
- Ensure that the space is completely clean and prepared: remove all unnecessary objects, furniture, and materials.
- Clean the area thoroughly and provide sufficient ventilation during the work.
- Prepare the substrate.
- If the subfloor consists of a well-maintained, dry concrete floor, the tiles can be directly glued onto it.
- For a wooden subfloor (e.g., plywood), a cement-bonded construction board (such as cement board) must be placed.
- Ideally, the subfloor is completely rigid. If there is deflection or flexibility in the floor, specialist grouting materials must be used to prevent damage.

4. Application Methods

- Vertical adhesion (wall): recommended adhesive is, for example, Mapei Keraflex Maxi or an equivalent alternative.
- Horizontal adhesion (floor): use cement-based tile adhesives in combination with flexible grouting materials.
- For light tiles, the use of dark grouts is not recommended due to the risk of discolouration and staining.

5. Substrate Requirements

Skip Tile can be applied on various suitable substrates, provided these are well prepared:

- Sand and cement plasterwork, sand-lime bricks.
Products can be applied on well-prepared masonry/cement-based substrates such as fibre cement boards, concrete blocks, brick, and cement.
- Precast concrete elements.
For interior applications, wooden boards and frameworks can be used. We recommend applying only a glued system up to a maximum height of 2.74 metres. If installation at greater heights is required, please contact FRONT® to discuss prefabricated systems and your specific requirements.
- Waterproof backer board.
There are several construction boards/tile backer boards available, usually cement-bonded, glass fibre-reinforced or extruded polystyrene, water-repellent or waterproof. They are available in different thicknesses, each with a different load capacity. When correctly fixed with screws to walls, they offer a load-bearing capacity of approximately 40–50 kg/m², which is generally sufficient as a supporting substrate for all our products. Always contact the manufacturer of these boards for the correct information about load-bearing capacity.
- Plywood (only for dry areas).
At least 18 mm exterior-grade WBP plywood. 18 mm exterior-grade WBP plywood and other wood types, such as MDF, chipboard etc., can be used, but only in dry areas. Seal all faces/surfaces and edges with a primer before fixing correctly. Screw into vertical and horizontal battens at 300 mm intervals and at 150 mm intervals at all joints and edges. This is generally suitable for a load up to 30 kg/m². Note: always consult the manufacturer's guidelines and suitability for tiling.
- Painted surfaces must be sandblasted or otherwise stripped of paint before installation. If a new wall must be built or an additional layer added to an existing wall, the most suitable product for these purposes is a fibre cement board.

Unsuitable substrates:

- Plasterboard, gypsum boards, gypsum fibre boards.
Flexible or unstable substrates.

Moisture, temperature, and structural requirements:

- The substrate must be stable and level to prevent movement.
- No deflection in the subfloor to prevent cracking of the joints.
- Leave a joint of 6 mm (¼ inch) between tiles and fixed objects (walls, cabinets) to absorb movement.
- For heights above 2,74 meters, contact FRONT® for installation systems.

6. Tools & Equipment

- Notched trowel (for applying tile adhesive).
- Tile cutter with guide rail or wet tile saw (for precise cutting).
- Grout float and sponge (for finishing).
- Personal protective equipment: safety goggles, gloves, and dust mask (for protection against cutting dust).

7. Application

Trial fitting

1. Before applying the adhesive, dry-fit the tiles to guarantee an even placement.
2. Use chalk lines to determine the centre of the surface to be tiled and to guide the placement of the tiles.
3. Lay out the tiles to check for colour variations and obtain a natural mix by combining tiles from multiple boxes.
4. Check that edge and corner tiles can be cut neatly and evenly before starting the permanent installation.
5. Controleer of rand- en hoektegels op een nette en evenwichtige manier uitgesneden kunnen worden voordat u definitief begint met verlijmen.

Applying adhesive

1. Ensure the surface is clean, dry, and level before applying adhesive.
2. Use a notched trowel at a 45° angle to apply an even layer of tile mortar or adhesive, slightly larger than the surface of one tile.
3. Press the notched side of the trowel into the mortar to form even ridges and ensure good distribution.
4. If extra adhesion is required, apply a thin layer of adhesive on the back of the tile (back buttering) before placing it.
5. Work in small sections to prevent the adhesive from drying before the tiles are placed.
6. Begin tiling from the centre or reference line, pressing each tile firmly into the adhesive with a slight twisting motion for optimal bonding.
7. Use spacers to maintain equal joint widths and proper alignment.

Laying and fixing Skip Tiles

1. Begin laying tiles from the centre or reference line to maintain symmetry.
2. Press each tile firmly into the adhesive and twist slightly to ensure full bonding.
3. Use spacers to maintain a consistent joint width. For Skip Tiles, we recommend a joint width of at least 5 mm.
4. Check flatness regularly with a spirit level, and, if necessary, correct using a rubber mallet.
5. Ensure no air bubbles remain beneath the tiles; this is especially important for floor tiles to prevent instability.
6. Work systematically from the inside out, with continuous checks for alignment.

Preparing and cutting corner tiles

1. Determine which tiles need cutting and measure precisely for a proper fit.
2. Use a tile cutter with a guide rail or a wet tile saw for straight cuts and precise dimensions. For Skip Tiles, the use of a wet tile saw is recommended.
3. Use tile nippers to shape the tile for irregular cut-outs (e.g., around pipes or fixtures).
4. Always wear safety goggles and gloves when cutting tiles to protect against flying dust or splinters.
5. Test the fit after cutting before applying adhesive.

Drying for 24 hours

1. After placement, allow the tiles to dry for at least 24 hours so the adhesive can fully cure before grouting.
2. Do not walk on the tiled surface during this drying time to prevent shifting or unevenness.

Grouting

1. Ensure the adhesive is fully cured before starting to grout.
2. Clean the joints and remove dust, adhesive residues, or dirt.
3. Ensure all tools are clean and free from hardened grout.
4. Choose a grout colour that matches the tile. Do not use dark grout colour with light tiles to prevent discolouration.
5. Use a rubber grout float and apply the grout diagonally, pressing firmly into the joints.
6. Work in small sections to prevent the grout from drying too quickly.
7. As soon as the grout begins to stiffen, wipe off excess grout with a damp sponge, without washing out the joints.
8. Regularly change the rinse water to avoid haze formation on the tiles.
9. Allow the grout to cure according to the manufacturer's instructions before applying a sealer.
10. All joints along edges must be finished with a high-quality silicone sealant, not grout, to allow for expansion and contraction due to temperature changes.

Aftercare and sealing

1. For crackle-glazed tiles: after grouting, apply an extra layer of LTP Crackle Glaze Protector for increased durability and water resistance.
2. Use a soft cloth to remove excess sealer before it dries.
3. Allow the tiles to cure for at least 48 hours before exposure to moisture or intensive use.
4. Regular maintenance and sealing are recommended to preserve the appearance and lifespan of the tiles.

8. Quality Control & Inspection

- Tiles must lie flat, be evenly placed, and firmly bonded to the substrate.
- Joints must be completely filled and properly finished with a suitable sealer.
- Do not use unsuitable adhesives for specific substrates.
- Ensure stability of the substrate to prevent movement or detachment of tiles.
- Check for good adhesion before applying grout.
- Inspect for uniform grout application and correct sealing of joints.

9. Maintenance & Cleaning

- Clean spilt liquids immediately with a diluted cleaning agent and water.
- Do not apply acidic cleaners to prevent damage to the glaze.
- Sweep and mop regularly to avoid dirt build-up.
- Correctly sealed and well-maintained tiles last longer and retain their appearance.
- Cracked tiles must be removed and replaced with new adhesive and grout.

10. Disposal & Recycling

- Dispose of waste responsibly, in accordance with local regulations.
- Broken tiles can, where possible, be recycled through local facilities or schemes.

11. Legal & Warranty Information

- The warranty covers factory defects in material and production, but does not apply to damage resulting from:
 - Incorrect installation or failure to follow the recommended processing guidelines.
 - Chemical damage from the use of non-approved cleaning agents.
 - Improper maintenance or use of non-recommended adhesives, grouts, or sealing products.
- Once the products have been installed and fixed, the warranty expires – no claims are accepted concerning appearance or performance after installation.

- FRONT® accepts no liability for:
 - Incorrect installation or use of non-approved materials.
 - Insufficient maintenance or improper cleaning, resulting in damage or wear.
 - Modifications or deviations from installation instructions without prior approval.
- Slip resistance (PTV values) is tested and verified during every production batch and is accurate at the time of installation.
- Please note that cleaning frequency, methods, usage wear, and local conditions may influence the slip resistance of a floor during use.

12. Health & Safety

- To guarantee safe handling and installation of tiles and panels, the following PPE is required:
 - Respiratory protection: wear a dust mask (FFP2/N95 or higher) or a NIOSH-approved respirator when cutting or handling tiles, particularly under dry conditions.
 - Eye protection: wear safety goggles to protect yourself against flying debris when cutting, drilling, or sanding tiles.
 - Hand protection: wear protective gloves to prevent skin irritation from adhesives, grouts, and dust.
 - Preferably, always use wet cutting techniques to minimise dust formation, or work with a dust extraction system.
- Ventilation requirements:
 - Work in well-ventilated spaces or use dust extraction and exhaust systems when cutting or processing panels indoors.
 - Prevent inhalation of fumes from adhesives and sealants by ensuring sufficient air circulation.
 - Always choose wet sawing methods to suppress airborne dust.
 - If dry cutting is necessary, wear a well-fitting respirator and limit exposure time.
- Workplace management:
 - Regularly clean workplaces with vacuum systems or dust extraction to reduce airborne dust.
 - Prevent prolonged exposure to tile dust and wash hands thoroughly after contact with materials.
 - Do not allow dust to accumulate – clean surfaces regularly.
 - Avoid direct skin contact with adhesives and grouts to prevent irritation.

13. Product Suggestions

DISCLAIMER: The performance and suitability of products may vary depending on individual circumstances, regional standards, and specific project requirements. We therefore strongly recommend seeking advice from local suppliers, recognised professionals, or relevant experts to obtain information tailored to your specific situation. Reliance solely on the information provided here is entirely at your own risk. We accept no liability for damage or problems arising from the use or purchase of the mentioned products. Always ensure that in the selection and application of products you comply with applicable local laws and regulations.

Wall	Exterior / Interior
Adhesive	Suitable tile adhesive appropriate to the substrate, such as: Mapei Keraflex Maxi
Grout	Cement-based grout, such as: Mapei Flexcolour