

Processing Guidelines

Mimmik Tile

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1. Introduction

This document provides general guidelines for the installation of Mimmik Tile for interior flooring applications.

Mimmik Tiles are intended to be bonded directly to a solid, rigid subfloor — for example, a concrete slab or cementitious screed — with a thin-set mortar bed. They are not suitable for unbonded, loose-lay, or flexible-floor installations.

The suitability and compatibility of the complete installation system — substrate, mortar, and any membranes — must always be verified and tested with the system provider before installation.

Alternative installation methods may be required depending on project conditions, substrate systems, or design requirements. Any alternative method — such as a raised access floor system — must likewise be verified and tested with the system provider before installation.

These guidelines are intended to assist qualified installers and should be used in conjunction with applicable industry standards, local building regulations, and manufacturer instructions.

This guide does not supersede the professional judgement of contractors, consultants, or design professionals responsible for the installation.

2. Product Information

Mimmik Tiles are bioconcrete-based architectural tiles. The material behaves similarly to natural stone; therefore, appropriate sealing and maintenance procedures should be followed to ensure long-term performance and appearance.

The latest product datasheet can be downloaded from the FRONT Materials website: www.front-materials.com/downloads

3. Design Considerations

Control joints

Control joints and provisions for drainage, moisture management, and crack isolation must be incorporated into the design of the support and substrate systems prior to the installation of Mimmik Tiles.

Expansion joints should be provided in accordance with local building codes and recognised industry standards. Failure to include proper movement joints may result in cracking, delamination, or other damage.

The manufacturer is not responsible for product damage resulting from improper installation methods or substrate preparation.

A minimum joint width of 3 mm is recommended to allow for grouting.

4. Substrate Requirements

Structural support systems must be capable of supporting the dead load of the installation and meet local structural requirements.

- Reinforced concrete slab
- Steel decking + concrete systems
- Other systems that provide rigidity to the structure

Waterproofing or uncoupling membranes must be installed according to the membrane manufacturer's instructions.

Substrates must be:

- structurally sound
- clean and free of contaminants
- dimensionally stable
- properly cured

Contaminants such as oil, curing compounds, sealers, dust, mortar residue, and soil must be removed prior to installation.

Dry or dusty concrete or masonry substrates should be lightly washed and allowed to dry before application of mortar or membranes.

Substrate surfaces need to be flat and must not exceed a deviation of 6 mm over 3 metres.

5. Storage and Handling

Store tiles in a dry, protected environment until installation.

Maintain a minimum temperature of 4°C prior to, during, and for at least 48 hours after installation.

Tiles should be installed using material from multiple pallets simultaneously to distribute natural colour and texture variations across the installation. Claims regarding colour or size variation will not be accepted after installation.

6. Health and Safety

Aggregates in Mimmik Tiles may contain crystalline silica.

Dust generated during cutting, drilling, or grinding may cause respiratory irritation; use of appropriate respiratory personal protective equipment is required.

When mechanically altering the product:

- Use wet cutting methods whenever possible
- Or a dry saw with proper dust extraction equipment
- Wear appropriate respiratory protection

Recommended respiratory protection includes:

- FFP2 mask (EN 149 European standard)
- Avoid prolonged or repeated inhalation of dust.

7. Tile Preparation

Before installation, ensure tiles are free of dust and debris and that no standing water is present on the tile surface.

Pre-sealing is required to prevent staining from joint mortar during installation. Apply the pre-treatment to loose tiles before laying them. After application, allow the tiles to dry for a minimum of 8 hours, or as directed by the pre-treatment manufacturer.

Make sure tiles are pre-sealed on all sides (top, bottom and the edges).

8. Cutting and Drilling

Cutting

Use a wet saw fitted with a continuous-rim diamond blade for clean cuts; dry saws are also suitable.

Angle grinders may be used when equipped with an appropriate blade and dust extraction.

All cuts should be made perpendicular to the tile base. Mitre and angled cuts can be made with either a wet or dry saw.

Drilling

Use carbide or diamond-tipped drill bits designed for tile or stone. Wet drilling is recommended to minimise chipping and dust. For larger openings, work up progressively in drill bit diameter and use a diamond hole saw designed for wet use.

Do not use a hammer drill directly on Mimmik Tiles. Where drilling into the structural substrate is required, first drill a slightly oversized pilot hole through the tile using the methods described above.

9. Installation

Mortar Selection

Mortar selection should comply with applicable standards such as:

- EN 12004 – Class C2TE S1 or higher (recommended for EU installations).
- The adhesive must additionally be explicitly labelled by its manufacturer as also suitable for natural or agglomerated stone.

Prepare mortar according to the manufacturer's instructions. Only mix quantities that can be applied within the product's working time.

Mortar Application

- Apply mortar to the substrate using the flat side of the trowel to achieve full contact.
- Apply adhesive using a notched trowel with 6 mm notches to achieve the required bed thickness. The combined finished thickness of tile and adhesive will be 21–23 mm.
- Work in sections of approximately 0.5 – 1 m²
- Mortar must not be allowed to skin before tiles are installed.
- If skinning occurs, remove the mortar and reapply.

Tile Placement

- Tiles should be installed using a buttering-floating method, applying mortar to both the tile back and the substrate.
- Firmly press the tile into the mortar while sliding it perpendicular to the mortar ridges to collapse the ridges and achieve full coverage.
- 100% mortar coverage is required.
- A minimum joint width of 3 mm is recommended to allow for grouting.
- Remove excess mortar immediately before it hardens.

Curing

Allow mortar to cure according to manufacturer recommendations before the following:

- grouting
- removing spacers
- permitting foot traffic

Typical curing time is 12–24 hours at 21°C.

Pre-Grout Sealing is required for the best result

Prior to grouting or prior to placing the tiles, a penetrating stone sealer should be applied to the surface and edges of the Mimmik Tiles to reduce the risk of grout staining. **Make sure tiles are pre-sealed on all sides (top, bottom and the edges).**

This step is particularly recommended when using contrasting grout colours or when tiles exhibit higher surface absorbency.

Apply the sealer according to the manufacturer's instructions and allow the recommended curing time before beginning the grouting process. Also use the pre-grout sealing on the edges of the tile.

10. Grouting

As with mortar, the grout must be explicitly suitable for natural or agglomerated stone. Before grouting, ensure all joints and tile surfaces are free from excess mortar. A dry grouting mortar is recommended — it is easier to apply and simpler to clean after use.

Wet grouting mortars are also suitable but require prompt cleaning. Grout pigments with strong colour contrast may stain the tile surface even when a grout release agent is used; high-contrast grout colours are therefore not recommended.

Apply grout using standard floating techniques or a grout bag for larger joints. Work in small sections, clean surfaces frequently, and change rinse water regularly. Allow grout residues to dry fully before brushing away remaining particles.

11. Cleaning Before Final Treatment

Before applying any protective treatment, ensure the installation is fully cured. Clean tiles using lukewarm water or a pH-neutral stone cleaner. Remove all moisture after cleaning using an absorbent mop or wet vacuum, then allow the surface to dry completely.

For installation residues or light staining, use an acid-free stone cleaner following the manufacturer's instructions, then rinse thoroughly with clean water and remove remaining moisture as above.

12. Sealing, Coatings and Surface Protection

Mimmik Tiles are supplied unsealed. As standard, we recommend applying a high-quality coating after installation for the best protection against stains, moisture and dirt.

Coating (standard recommendation)

Coatings form a protective layer on top of the tile, sealing it against moisture and dirt. They are well suited to high-traffic areas and spaces near kitchens or bathrooms. Coatings require less frequent reapplication than sealants. They are more expensive to purchase but offer the best protection and lowest maintenance in the long run.

Sealant

Sealing is the minimal form of protection and is only advisable when a coating is not desirable for aesthetic or technical reasons.

Sealants penetrate the tile surface and must be suitable for limestone or cementitious materials, be breathable, and be compatible with the architectural intent (some products add sheen or deepen the colour). This treatment offers less protection than a coating and must be reapplied periodically, in accordance with the supplier's instructions.

In both cases, test the selected product on a sample tile before full application. For project-specific advice, consult the installing company.

Summary

- Pre-treatment before grouting (grout protector) – limits grout staining during installation.
- Coating after installation – provides long-term protection against stains and is applied in spaces where there is a greater risk of staining due to heavy use.

13. Cleaning

Routine maintenance will preserve the appearance and durability of Mimmik Tiles. Regular dusting or vacuuming, damp mopping with a pH-neutral cleaner, and periodic deep cleaning with a stone-safe detergent are sufficient for most situations.

Avoid excessive water during cleaning. Unsealed Mimmik Tiles are porous — prolonged water exposure may affect the substrate. Always dry the surface thoroughly after cleaning using an absorbent mop or wet vacuum.

For stubborn stains, use a stone-safe poultice appropriate for the specific stain type.

The following must never be used on Mimmik Tiles:

- acidic cleaners (including vinegar, citrus-based products, or muriatic acid),
- abrasive powders
- or scouring pads, steel wool or wire brushes, sharp metal tools,
- or high-pressure water jets.

14. Recommended Installation Products (Examples)

The following products have been tested or validated for use with Mimmik Tiles. Equivalent products from other manufacturers with comparable specifications may also be suitable. Please note that the adhesive must be explicitly labelled by its manufacturer as suitable for natural or agglomerated stone

The mortar and joint mortar examples below are products available in most European markets that fall within the listed EN classification. The installer should always check that the specific product actually used locally meets the required standard.

Installation Step	Product Type	Example Products	Purpose
Substrate preparation	Acid-free stone cleaner	HMK R155 Basic Cleaner <i>...or equivalent</i>	Removes dust, construction residue and light contamination before installation
Stain / wax removal (if needed)	Degreasing cleaner	HMK R152 Oil and Wax Remover <i>...or equivalent</i>	Removes oils, wax residues, or installation stains
Waterproofing layer (optional)	Waterproofing membrane	Sika waterproofing systems <i>...or equivalent</i>	Prevents moisture migration from substrate
Crack isolation / uncoupling	Uncoupling membrane	Sika uncoupling membrane systems <i>...or equivalent</i>	Reduces stress transfer and cracking
Tile installation	Polymer-modified thinset mortar, suitable for natural / agglomerated stone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forbo Eurocol 705 Speciaallijm (C2TE S1) MegaMix Tegellijm flex MTL02 (C2TE S1) BAL Flex-One (C2TE S1) Mapei Keraflex Extra S1 (C2TE S1) Mapei Megafix Maxi S1 (C2TE S1) ARDEX X 701 F (C2TE S1) 	Bonding of Mimmik Tiles to substrate

Installation Step	Product Type	Example Products	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bostik Fix Universal Flex (C2TE) 	
Tile pre-treatment	Protective pre-sealer	HMK P323 Wear-Resistant Satin Finish <i>...or equivalent</i>	Protects tile surface prior to grouting and installation
Grouting	Cementitious grout, suitable for natural / agglomerated stone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forbo Eurocol 717 Eurofine WD (CG2WA) Mapei Ultracolor Plus (CG2WA) Ardex Flex FS (CG2) Weber Classic Grout (CG2WA) <i>...or equivalent</i>	Joint filling between tiles
Post-install cleaning	Acid-free stone cleaner	HMK R155 Basic Cleaner <i>...or equivalent</i>	Removal of grout haze and installation residues
Primary impregnation	Stone impregnator	HMK S232 Stain Stop <i>...or equivalent</i>	Reduces absorption and protects against staining
Final surface protection	Stone protection impregnator	HMK S234 Stain Stop <i>...or equivalent</i>	Long-term stain protection
Routine maintenance	pH-neutral stone cleaner	Faber or HMK maintenance cleaners <i>...or equivalent</i>	Regular cleaning of installed surfaces

Required Product Specifications

Product	Required Standard
Thinset mortar	EN 12004 C2TE
Grout	EN 13888 CG2
Respirator mask	EN 149 FFP2

Waterproofing membrane	EN 14891
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15. Contact Information

For technical assistance or product enquiries, contact our distribution partner:

FRONT® Materials: sales@front-materials.com

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