

Guide of **Installation and Care**

NORDIKA

F L O O R S

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Version 1.1

1. Surface Preparation

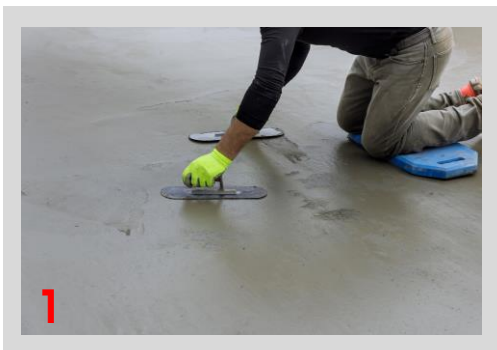
The surface should be clean, dry and leveled. Use a leveling compound, such as a cement-based self-leveler, to correct any irregularities (pic.1) . Apply the compound according to the manufacturer's instructions, usually spreading it with a trowel and letting it dry for at least 24 hours before proceeding.

2. Mortar Choice

For porcelain tile, choose a mortar like Large-and-Heavy-Tile Mortar with Polymer, which is specially formulated for porcelain tile. This type of mortar has superior adhesion and can accommodate the expansion and contraction of the porcelain tile. For ceramic on the wall, use a mortar like Wall Tile Mortar.

3. Mortar Preparation

Follow the instructions on the mortar package to prepare it. Generally, this involves adding water to the mortar at a ratio specified by the manufacturer and mixing until it has a consistency similar to peanut butter. Let the mortar rest for 10 minutes to allow for proper hydration. There is a maximum time that the mortar can remain prepared before it begins to lose its properties, which is specified on the package or in the manufacturer's website. Also, there is a maximum time that the mortar can remain on the surface without losing its properties. This time is generally no more than 5 minutes. When you put a finger in the mortar that is on the surface, it should come out dirty with the product. If your finger only deforms the mortar, it is already too dry and will not adhere properly. (pic.2).



4. Mortar Application (Back Butter Method)

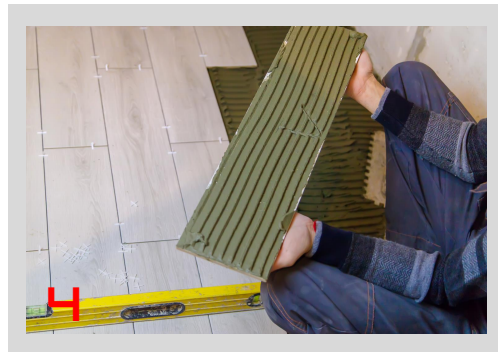
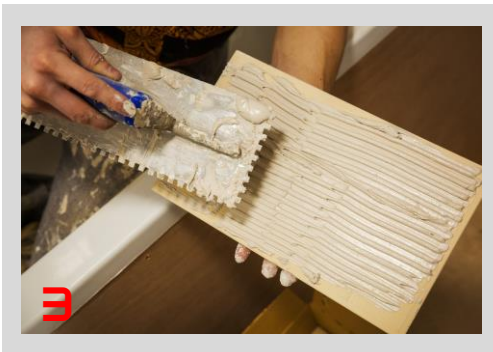
Apply a layer of mortar to the surface with a notched trowel with 0.4-inch teeth. Apply the mortar in small areas at a time (about 10.8 square feet) to prevent it from starting to dry before placing the porcelain tile. Also apply mortar to the back of the porcelain tile, using the smooth edge of the trowel to ensure uniform coverage (pic.3 and 4). The mortar cords should all be in the same direction, without curves or changes in direction. This is known as the "back butter method" and is especially important for larger pieces to ensure proper adhesion. Make sure there are no air bubbles or parts without mortar between the piece and the surface. Applying mortar only to the corners of the piece is not the correct way to apply. The final thickness of the mortar should be as recommended by each manufacturer.

5. Porcelain Tile Installation

Place the porcelain tile in the mortar, pressing firmly and moving it laterally to ensure that the mortar spreads completely between the piece and the surface. Use a bubble level or a laser to ensure that the porcelain tile is aligned and level. Adjust the position of the porcelain tile as needed before the mortar begins to dry.

6. Installation Direction

Most porcelain tiles have an arrow on the back that indicates the direction in which they should be installed (pic.5 and 6) . Make sure all pieces are oriented in the same direction for the best visual and quality result.

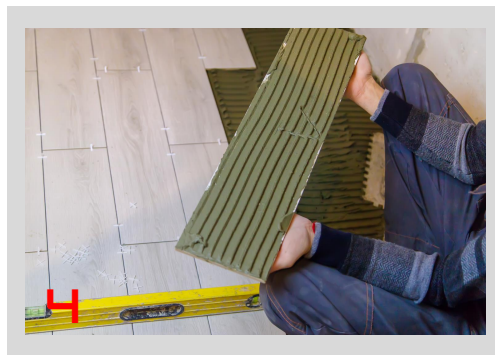
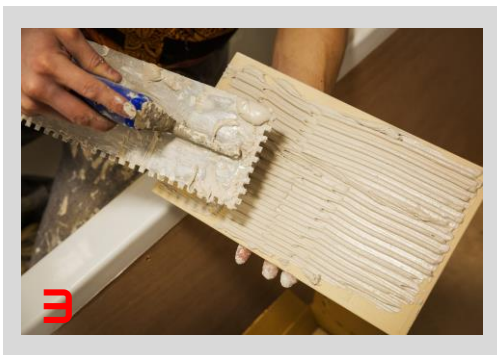


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The appearance of a proper installation

In image #7, the correct procedure involves applying the mortar to the piece. In image #8, the piece should be carefully placed and then moved laterally. When the piece is eventually removed, you will notice that the mortar has evenly spread across the entire surface, ensuring there are no empty spaces or air bubbles. This is the proper way to achieve the desired result



The appearance of a wrong installation

In images #9 and #10, we can see an incorrect installation that will cause the pieces to come loose over time and become hollow, making them susceptible to breakage.

Click [Here](#) to watch a Video on YouTube



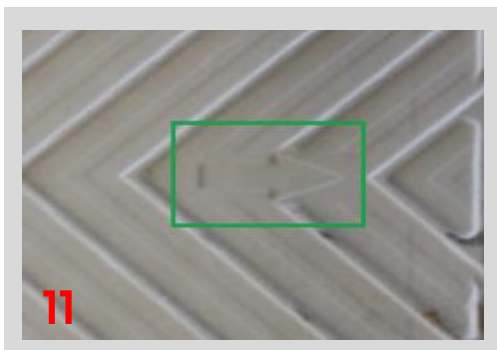
6. Installation Direction

Most porcelain tiles have an arrow on the back that indicates the direction in which they should be installed (pic. 11 and 12). When the case make sure all pieces are oriented in the same direction for the best visual and quality result.

7. Use of Spacers and Leveling Clips

Spacers ensure a uniform spacing between the porcelain tiles (pic. 13). The size of the spacer should be determined by the product's technical sheet or sometimes by the information on the product box. For a traditional look, use 3 mm (approximately 1/8 inches) spacers for floors and 1.5 mm (approximately 1/16 inches) for walls. For a more modern look, you may opt for 1 mm (approximately 1/32 inches) spacers. It is also necessary to use a Tile Leveling System with Tile Plier to ensure that the tiles are perfectly level.

The Tile Leveling System with Tile Plier helps ensure that the porcelain tile is level during installation.

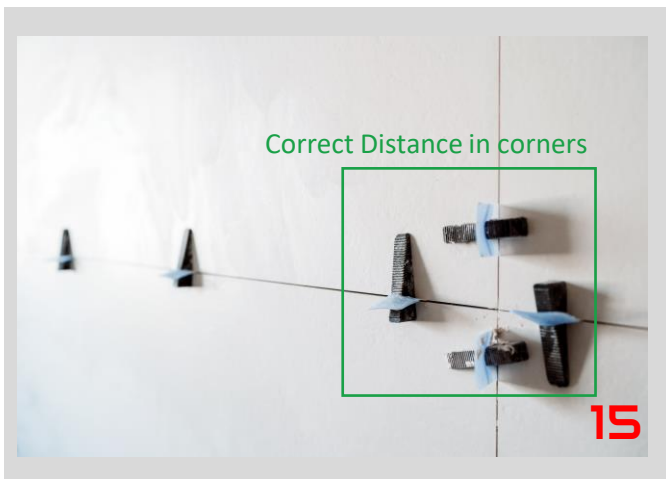
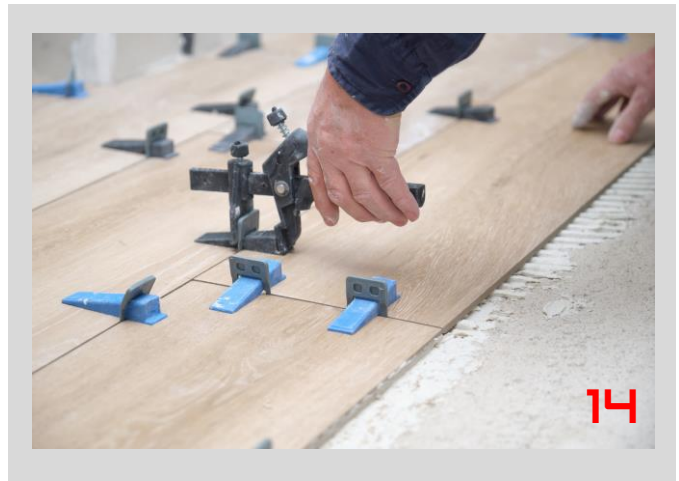
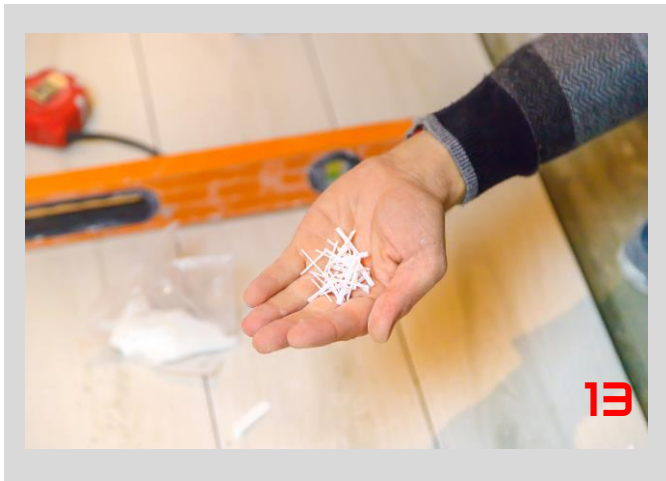


The appearance of a proper installation

In image 13, spacers. In images 14, 15, and 16, the correct use of porcelain tile levelers is demonstrated. Please note the proper distance of the tile levelers from the edges of the product in image 15.

To install porcelain tiles properly, it is recommended to use both spacers (pic. 13) and levelers (pic. 14-16). They serve different purposes during the installation process. Spacers are used to ensure consistent spacing between the tiles, creating even and proportional grout lines. They are inserted between the tiles to maintain the desired distance throughout the installation.

On the other hand, porcelain tile levelers are used to ensure a perfect alignment and level surface of the tiles. They are placed at the joints of the tiles and adjusted to ensure that all tiles are at the same level, preventing any irregularities or unevenness. Therefore, while spacers are responsible for proper spacing between the tiles, levelers help achieve a level and aesthetically pleasing final result. The combined use of these two tools is recommended for achieving the best results in porcelain tile installation.



8. Expansion Joints

Expansion joints are empty spaces that allow for the expansion and contraction of the porcelain tile due to temperature variations. Generally, they should be placed every 15 feet apart and should be at least 0.24 inches wide. Use a silicone sealant to fill the expansion joints after the installation of the porcelain tile (pic. 17) .

9. Movement Joints

Movement joints are used to separate different materials, such as the porcelain tile and the underlying surface, to prevent the movement of one from affecting the other. They should be placed where the floor meets the wall, where the floor meets another type of floor, and around any fixed object on the floor or wall. Movement joints should be at least 0.24 inches wide and should be filled with a silicone sealant (pic. 18) .

10. Cleaning and Maintenance

After installation, clean the porcelain tile with a damp cloth to remove any mortar residue. Avoid using cleaning products that contain acetone, high concentration chlorine, or other products that can chemically attack the piece. For regular maintenance, clean the porcelain tile with a damp cloth and a neutral cleaner.

