MOTHER OF PEARL MOSAIC SAFETY, INSTALLATION AND AFTER-CARE GUIDE

The details are guidance only and are given to ensure the beauty of your Mother of Pearl mosaic is maintained for many years to come. The information herein is a guide and is not exhaustive.

1) Application of the Mosaics
One of the great strengths of the mosaics is that they are an extremely strong mosaic given their relative thickness. This strength is achieved through the natural material. This allows for the mosaics to be used in many areas, including Walls, Floors, Swimming Pools*, Showers, Wet-Rooms, Spa's etc. (Some colours are not suitable for Swimming Pools or external use, consult your supplier for details).

1a) Installation
When installing the mosaics we recommend you choose a recognised installer who has experience in the installation of mosaics. Mosaics are not difficult to install but they require more surface preparation than would normally be used for larger tiles.

We recommend the use of a Mosaic Adhesive in all cases. Preferably a white adhesive should be used as this ensures the colour of the mosaics is not effected by the colour of the background adhesive. Darker adhesives may adjust the tonal colour of the mosaics once installed.

The type of mosaic adhesive used will depend on the substrate onto which the mosaics are being installed. Consult your installer for the correct material type to be used. Siminetti recommend MAPEI adhesives are used with its products but other manufacturers products may be suitable.

Mesh backed sheets.
The individual tesserae are fixed onto a fibre mesh support which is placed into the tile adhesive applied to the substrate on which the mosaics are to be mounted. It is recommended that a maximum trowel notch depth of 2mm is used to ensure that the adhesive does not squeeze through the grout joints when the sheets are applied to the adhesive. Due to the minimal weight of each sheet, it is recommended that minimal pressure be applied when fixing the sheets to the adhesive to prevent possible squeezing through of the adhesive.

Paper faced sheets.
The individual tesserae are fixed onto a paper sheet. The paper sheet should NOT be fixed into the adhesive and should be facing away from the substrate on to which the mosaics are to be installed. The tesserae showing on the reverse of the sheet should be placed into the adhesive previously applied to the substrate onto which the mosaics are being installed. It is recommended that a maximum trowel notch depth of 2mm is used to ensure that the adhesive does not squeeze through the grout joints when the sheets are applied to the adhesive. Due to the minimal weight of each sheet, it is recommended that minimal pressure be applied when fixing the sheets to the adhesive to prevent possible squeezing through of the adhesive.

Once the adhesive has cured, the paper can be removed by applying water to its surface. The water should be applied sparingly and allowed a little time to soak into the paper after which the water soluble glue binding the paper to the mosaics will be diluted and the paper can be peeled away. If the paper does not peel away easily re-apply water or wait for a longer period for the water to be fully absorbed by the glue.

Caution:- If the adhesive securing the mosaics to the substrate has not fully cured, then the individual tesserae may come away from the substrate when the paper is removed.

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1b) Cutting the Mosaics
On occasion it maybe necessary to cut the mosaics to ensure a correct fitting. The mosaics can be easily cut with a diamond disc using a wet or dry process. The mosaics are not prone to splintering or shattering, however as with any mechanical process we recommend the wearing of a dust mask along with safety eye and hand wear are used at all times during the cutting process. As the mosaics are produced from a natural process, there maybe dust and a slight odour given off during any cutting process. It is recommend that any cutting is carried out in a well ventilated area.

1c) Grouting
Siminetti recommends Mapei Kerapoxy Easy Design Grout is used with its products. Mapei Kerapoxy Easy Design is an epoxy grout that offers enhanced ease of use and exceptional shine performance. Other manufacturers grouts may be suitable and should be clarified with your installer prior to application. Grouts can be applied in the recommended industry fashion. The grout will not penetrate the mosaics however care should be taken when applying the grout to not use mechanical products which may damage the surface of the mosaics. Rubber trowels and sponges are recommended tools.

1d) Removal of Installation Residue
DO NOT USE acids or similar strength materials as this may break-down the surface of the Mother of Pearl or Shell resulting in porosity or a reduction in the polished effect. If using a grout cleaning agent, test an area of the mosaics to ensure it does not damage the mosaics.

2) Aftercare & Cleaning
A soft cloth with warm water should easily clean off the mosaics. DO NOT USE acids or similar strength materials as this may break-down the bond resulting in porosity or a reduction in the polished effect. If unsure about the strength of a cleaning agent, we recommend trailing it on a small area in the first instance.

Notes
Siminetti products are produced from 100% natural products and as such samples colour may differ from actual supplied product colours due to the natural production process of Mother of Pearl and/ or Shell product. Dyed colours are not suitable for external use or areas prone to excessive sunlight. Products used externally may show some signs of natural fading when exposed to direct sunlight.

IF IN DOUBT WE RECOMMEND CONSULTING YOUR SUPPLIER or e-mail SALES@SIMINETTI.COM

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* To be used in conjunction with Siminetti Aqua-Tek