



Installation & Care Guidelines for Metal and Glass Mosaics

Note: Directly bonding glass tiles to wood substrates is not recommended. Setting surface should be clean and free of dust, oil, grease, paint, tar, wax, curing agent, primer, sealer, adhesive residue, form release agent or any other residue or debris which may prevent or reduce adhesion. We recommend any high grade flexible mortar system (latex modified) as a setting material for mosaic glass tiles, For grouts, a premium polymer-modified unsanded grout for joints from 1/16" (1.5mm) to 1/8" (3mm) wide. For grout lines larger than 1/8" (3mm) wide use sanded grout.

Metal Mosaics

Installation

NOTE: Ensure a qualified electrician carries out all the electrical work around the metal mosaics. Make sure that the grain of the stainless steel is going in the right direction. If not, the sheet will appear to be different colors. The fixing surface must be clean and even. Apply the proper adhesive with a straight edge of the trowel. Do not apply more than 15 square feet at a time. Rake adhesive with notched edge of the trowel. Press down so the teeth contact the fixing surface, ensuring a uniform thickness of the adhesive. Set the sheet, ensuring the mosaic is facing the right direction. Allow the sheet to set in the adhesive for 24 hours. Use specific filler to process the joints. Allow the filler to dry for 15 minutes. Clean the sheet and remove the haze.

Metal Care

- For most dirt and stains, use a mild soap and water.
- For fingerprints and watermarks, use pure olive oil or alcohol.
- For difficult stains, use an abrasive cleanser and a new, non-scratching pad.
- For disinfecting, wipe surface with diluted household bleach (1 part water, 1 part bleach).
- For removing scratches, sand with 180 or 320 grit fine sandpaper until the cut has disappeared.
- DO NOT allow liquid soap and household cleaners to dry on the surface of the metal, chemical additives may affect the original luster. DO NOT leave standing solutions of chlorine bleach and water on the surface for an extended period of time, chlorides are aggressive on stainless steel. DO NOT use a steel wool pad to clean the mosaic sheers. If a more abrasive product is needed, use a non-scratching pad, being sure to run in the direction of the grain lines. Steel wool pads have a tendency to break apart and small particles of stainless steel can become embedded in the surfaces of the mosaic – and those particles will rust. DO NOT allow food/beverage residue, or metal canned products to remain on the surface. DO NOT set hot pans directly on the metal sheets. DO NOT use any strong acids or alkali products on the metal surface.

Mesh-Backed Glass Mosaics

Installation

It is strongly recommended to use **white** setting materials for installing glass mosaic, otherwise lighter colors may appear darker. Read and follow adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Material should be mixed to a consistency that holds mosaic sheets in place. Spread the mix evenly onto surface in the area of one square (4 or 9 sheets) using the notched side of a 3/16" x 5/32" x 3/16" V-notched trowel. (note: The use of a larger size notched trowel will result in excess setting material in the grout joints). Using the flat side of the trowel, smooth out all ridges to achieve a consistent, even 1/8" thick coverage. Do not attempt to cover too large of an area to avoid skinning of setting material. Apply glass mosaics sheets, mesh-side down, firmly into the freshly troweled setting material. **Note: It is critical to keep the joint spacing consistent between rows of mosaic.** It will be necessary to cut mesh to adjust individual tiles or entire rows. Using a rubber float or equivalent tool, gently press the tile into the adhesive to insure complete contact. Do not push the sheets too deeply into the setting materials, as to cause the setting materials to ooze up between the spaces between the tile, we recommend leaving at least 2/3 of the tile depth available for grouting. Adjust tile sheets for correct alignment and even spacing between sheets. Do not allow setting material to dry or skin over before completing this process. Clean all excess setting materials with a damp sponge. Wipe away any haze that may have remained behind. Allow setting material to cure for 24 hours before grouting.

Grouting

Use modified grouts (unsanded, sanded or epoxy) compatible with the setting materials. Read and follow grout manufacturers' instructions. Spread grout with a rubber float in horizontal and vertical directions. Remove excess grout with rubber float in a diagonal direction. Clean excess with a damp sponge and polish off any remaining haze with a dry cloth or towel. Follow grout manufacturers recommended cleaning procedures. After grouting, protect area from light foot traffic and light water exposure for at least 72 hours. Protect area from heavy traffic and regular use for at least 7 days.

Cleaning/Maintenance:

After all materials have properly cured, mosaic may be cleaned with a glass cleaner and/or neutral mild detergent and water.

Paper-Faced Glass Mosaics

Installation

It is strongly recommended to use **white** setting materials for installing glass mosaic, otherwise lighter colors may appear darker. Read and follow adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Material should be mixed to a consistency that holds mosaic sheets in place. Using the flat edge of the trowel spread the mix evenly onto surface in the area of one square (4 or 9 sheets). With the notched edge of the trowel min. (note: The use of a larger size notched trowel will result in excess setting material in the grout joints). Do not attempt to cover too large of an area to avoid skinning of setting material. **Apply mosaic sheets with the front mounted paper facing the installer.** Keep the lines on the paper running in the same direction. **Note: It is critical to keep the joint spacing consistent between rows of mosaic. Embed tile with a seating block or rubber float to ensure adequate adhesion.** After completing the next square 4 or 9 sheets (20 to 30 minutes later), return to previously set sheet, and with a wet sponge begin to dampen mounting paper. Repeat the dampening process until paper loosens. Starting at a corner, carefully remove wet paper by pulling close diagonally across the sheet. Make any adjustments to mosaic with a trowel at this time. Repeat process until setting is complete. Allow setting material to cure for 24 hours before grouting.

Grouting:

Use modified grouts (unsanded, sanded or epoxy) compatible with the setting materials. Read and follow grout manufacturers' instructions. If paper face mounted mosaic were installed, clean tiles thoroughly of any residual glue left from mounting paper before grouting. Spread grout with a rubber float in horizontal and vertical directions. Remove excess grout with rubber float in a diagonal direction. Clean excess with a damp sponge and polish off any remaining haze with a dry cloth or towel. Follow grout manufacturers recommended cleaning procedures. After grouting, protect area from light foot traffic and light water exposure for at least 72 hours. Protect area from heavy traffic and regular use for at least 7 days.

Cleaning/Maintenance:

After all materials have properly cured, mosaic may be cleaned with a glass cleaner and/or neutral mild detergent and water.