



234 Middle Street  
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## **Critical Basic Installation Instructions**

### ***Inspection and Preparation***

Before proceeding with the installation, it is essential to consider the following:

- **Tile Inspection:** Examine the tiles for any defects or damage.
- **Mock Installation:** Perform a trial layout to plan the arrangement of tile prior to installing and inspect for any defects or damage. Pieces of the tiles may need to be turned and properly placed to optimize the look of the layout being installed. This is particularly critical if a stacked joint is desired.

### ***Preparing the Substrate***

To ensure a successful installation, prepare the substrate as follows:

- **Clean and Level Surface:** Ensure that the substrate is clean and level.
- **Tolerances:** The maximum allowable deviation is 1/4" over 6'.
- **Stability:** Confirm that the surface that the tile is being installed on is stable and not subject to vibrations.
- **Compatibility:** Verify that the substrate is suitable for the specific application, whether it's a wet area, exposed to steam, heated floors, etc.

### ***Thin-Set Adhesive***

Select the appropriate thin-set adhesive, and adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Thin-Set Type:** Choose a Thin-Set adhesive that complies with C2-S1 classification (TDS 137EN) – a Low Modified Thin Set with improved flexibility.
- **Substrate Stability:** Unmodified Thin-Set can be used on a really stable substrate.
- **Alternative Thin-Set:** Thin-Set with following specifications: F=fast, T=Reduced Slip, E=Extended Open Time, can be used if the manufacturers instructions are followed properly.
- **Application Instructions:** Apply the Thin Set as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Thickness:** Apply the Thin Set in a thin layer, usually under 3/16". Avoid gaps beneath the tiles or uneven adhesive thickness, which can lead to issues like breakage, warping, or glaze cracks (crazing).
- **Surface Leveling:** Thin-Set is not suitable for leveling or flattening surfaces. Use the appropriate leveling products to level the surface itself.
- **Tile Contact:** Ensure there is at least 80% contact between the tiles and Thin Set for dry areas and 95% for wet areas.
- **Back-buttering:** Back-buttering the tiles will enhance the bond and curing of the Thin-Set.



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### ***Tile Joints***

When installing tiles, pay attention to the joints:

■ **Minimum Joint Width:** Maintain a minimum joint width of 1/16", with 1/8" being the recommended size.

■ **Grout Selection:** Select grout based on the intended use of the surface and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

■ **Crackle and Fluid Tiles:** Seal these tiles before installation to prevent substances from infiltrating the cracks.

### ***Joints Between Different Surfaces***

For transitions between different surfaces, such as walls to walls, walls to floors, etc.:

■ **Use Flexible Products:** Fill these joints with Suitable Sealant as per TCNA EJ171 standard and manufacturer recommendations.

### ***Cleaning***

Properly cleaning the Thin-Set and grout residue is vital:

■ **Follow Manufacturer's Instructions:** Adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for cleaning residue.

■ **Routine Maintenance:** Regularly clean with water and mild, non-reactive cleaning products.

■ **Avoid Abrasives:** Never use abrasive or mechanical cleaning methods.