



### 7. Rectification:

During manufacturing, this is a process whereby porcelain tiles are cut, generally with a watered diamond blade, to ensure that all tiles are consistent in size.

### 8. Cost of Laying:

In many cases, the end result of laid porcelain requires a very straight and level surface. Some tilers will therefore charge a higher rate for laying and levelling of porcelain, if this is the case.

It is recommended that a qualified tile layer be used for any tile laying job.

# Did you know?

# About Porcelain Tiles

Your Australian Tile Council Member

## 1. What is a porcelain tile?

Porcelain tiles are merely a form of ceramic tiles. Whilst the preparation of both types of tiles are similar, it is the pressing and firing process which results in the porcelain tile having the superior characteristics of being much stronger and less porous with a water absorption rate of 0.5% or better.

## 2. What are the main types of porcelain tile?

- a. Polished or semi polished: as the name suggests, an elaborate technique is used to finish the tile after the firing process. Generally, this process means that the tile must be sealed, unless otherwise stated by the manufacturer. A polished surface is not actually a glaze, so do not be fooled into thinking that polished porcelain is glazed.
- b. Glazed porcelain: various techniques are employed by different manufacturers to glaze a tile. Once a porcelain tile has been glazed no further treatment is required in the sense that these tiles are considered non-porous.
- c. Matt, honed or natural porcelain: generally speaking, this type of product comes out of the kiln in this form and undergoes no further processing. Normally, sealing is not required.
- d. Rockfinish or structured porcelain; This type of porcelain is extremely textured and quite often used for external purposes. Normally sealing is not required

## 3. Sealing Porcelain Tiles:

- a. First and foremost, you should ask your tile merchant whether the product you have purchased requires sealing. You then need to determine what kind of sealer is best suited to your porcelain tile. Generally, the sealing of porcelain tiles is seen as an aide to the prevention of staining. As a rule, due to the low levels of porosity found in porcelain tiles, it is generally accepted that a penetrating sealer be used for this purpose. Normally it is polished porcelain that requires sealing, as the process of polishing can cause minute surface micro pores.

- b. Pre sealing, prior to grouting, should generally be carried out where dark coloured grout is to be used on porous tiles. This will ensure that the grout colour does not bleed into the tile. In some instances, you may wish to pre-seal dark porcelain tiles where light grout is to be used

## 4. Cleaning Wax Residue From Your Tiles:

In the production process, wax is often added to the surface of the tile to protect it, to keep it clean and to keep it safe from scratching when in transit. There are various effective products on the market to clean this residue from the surface of your tiles and you should ask your merchant which product is best suited to your porcelain.

## 5. Laying Your Porcelain Tiles:

In all cases, the appropriate type of adhesive must be used. The substrate must also be adequate for the material to be used, that is, the flatness of the surface is paramount. If not, tile lipping may occur. In the case of floors, uneven surfaces may be levelled out with the use of a floor leveller. Your tile fixer will be able to guide you through any concerns you might have, so don't be afraid to ask questions.

## 6. Cleaning and Maintenance:

- a. Once again, it is best to ask your supplier what kinds of products should be used to clean and maintain your porcelain. Significantly, different types of stains may require different cleaning products and /or cleaning procedures. If you are unsure of what type of cleaner is most suited to your porcelain tiles, it is recommended that a spot test be carried out with a general purpose cleaner in the first instance. Your tile merchant should be able to assist with the selection of the most suited type of cleaner.
- b. With regard to maintenance and sealing, a good quality sealer should last 5 to 10 years. This can be ascertained from the manufacturer of the sealant used.