



Installing Large Format Tiles

Classy large format tiles are one of the most popular trends for interior decoration. Large format tiles varied in size (over 600mm) than the most standard wall and floor tiles, which are 300 mm x 300 mm. By using large format tiles, sizes such as 24"x 24" and larger, your home or office will be instantly transformed into a spacious and stylish environment.

Tiling large format tiles are a real test for skilled or even for the most experienced tilers. The specific approach to installing large format tiles has to be applied due to their size, proportionally small grout widths, or physical properties. Laying large format tiles requires particular precision and diligence on

the part of the contractor. There are stricter rules on substrate preparation, and higher accuracy is needed than for standard ceramic tiles.

The particular requirements for large format tiles start at the substrate preparation stage. In the first step ensure a perfectly flat surface. According to

British Standards BS 5385, the wall or floor must be perfectly level, with no defects. Otherwise, the imperfect surface will result in insufficient adhesion of the adhesive and - as a consequence - uneven floor, cracking of the tiles, particularly in areas exposed to heavy loads during everyday use. The substrate should have no cracks, should be well cured and clean. The uneven floor is called lippage.

It is necessary to correctly install the waterproofing layer, which will ensure the trouble-free floor for many years, and in the event of flooding, minimise its consequences and prevent unnecessary costs. Waterproofing ensures there will be no development of damp in wet rooms.



but minimises the risk of cracking during everyday use due to even distribution of load stresses.

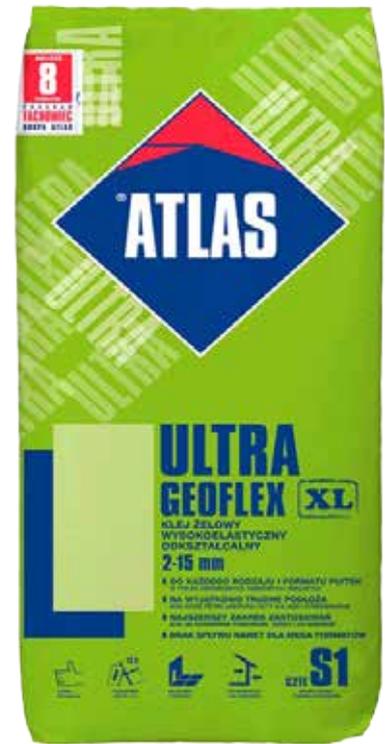
The jointless joining of tiles is becoming more common as it gives the effect of a smooth surface. It can be found in a minimalist, modern interiors. In the case of large format tiles, the grout lines have to be at least of 3mm to allow the floor to expand and contract without cracking. Grout lines are particularly important for larger tiles as they reduce the rigidity of tiling. The floor will "work" due to a change in temperatures caused for example by underfloor heating what is called the thermal expansion. Moreover, the hygrometric shrinkage can occur. To avoid cracking it is also recommended to use the flexible grout for finishing larger format tiles. Also, the distribution joints must be created every 25m² for interiors.

The cutting of large format tiles is a challenge for every tiler - both due to the length of the tile, which can reach up to 3 meters, and a small thickness ranging between 3mm to 12mm. There are tile cutters designated for large-size tiles. These must feature more substantial cutting and breaking forces, and more significant strength. Also, due to the considerable disproportion between the thicknesses of tiles, such tiles cutters should have the highly precise blade to avoid unwanted cracking of tiles or other mechanical damage. Depending on the needs we can choose electric or manual tile cutters.

Handling the large format tiles requires lots of care. It is advised to carry and install them with runners and frames with suction cups to limit any twisting or bending. The large format tiles can be precisely cut with a handheld cutter. The key is to find a cutter with guides long enough to ensure a reliable and stable cut.

Moreover, for large format tiles, it is recommended to use the highly flexible adhesive. Here, we can advise Geoflex gel adhesives. The adhesive intended for this type of tiles has to feature the increased adhesion and high deformation capacity. Such parameters will prevent any cracking.

With larger format tiles it is advised not to use the floating or buttering adhesive application method but the double-buttering technique. Any adhesive should be applied to the substrate and combed with a notched trowel. Moreover, a thin layer of adhesive should be spread over the back of the tile with the trowel's flat side. This method of adhesive application not only provides full adhesion



AVAL GEOFLEX ULTRA
£16.45 net*

*price for registered customers

The blade has to run from the very edge, preferably with a single, determined and smooth motion. Then using the tile snips, squeeze the tile at both ends of the incision, beginning with the careful and precise breaking of the material. It is recommended to place the cutter at the edge or on the joist. Then the force of gravity and the force of breaking will cause a rapid and precise cracking of the tile precisely on the designated line.



WALTER MGZ 800mm
£75.00 net*

*price for registered customers