



**YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO BEAUTIFUL, STYLISH TILES**



We stock Ceramic and Porcelain tiles from some of the worlds finest tile manufacturers from countries such as Italy and Spain.



## LOVE TILES, CHOOSE TILES, WHY TILES

- Smooth wall and floor surfaces are better than soft furnishings for people who suffer from asthma and allergies
- Tiled floors are ideal for conservatories. They will not fade and heat will not damage their surface.
- Tiled floors are more robust and withstand hard knocks and even large spills
- Tiled floors last much longer than carpet and Easily Maintained
- Smooth flooring is hygienic and easy to clean
- Tiled walls are very hygienic and safe near cookers and hobs
- Suitable for Underfloor Heating
- Vast array of styles, sizes and finishes available

### USING TILES

Where are we using tiles? Well almost anywhere. Floor tiles, in particular, are being used in every room in the house – and exterior patios and decks, see our exclusive ranges of outdoor slip resistant tiles from Tau Ceramica & Vitacer)

### SELECTING YOUR TILES

There are several different types of tile available and they vary in their technical properties. Also, tiles have become bigger in recent years due to advances in manufacturing technology,

Important Considerations when choosing a floor tile

- Area and amount of use the tile will get
- Slip resistance – If there are children, less abled or elderly people involved.
- Type of finish you prefer – matt or polished
  - Size of the Tile – with most tiles replicating Wood, Stone, Marble or Concrete, bigger tiles give a much more realistic look.
- Low Maintenance
- Rectified or non rectified-? a rectified tile give a much tighter looking grout line and a sharper look.



**Floor tiles** we stock from 20X20 up to 120X120

**Wall tiles** we stock from 10X20 to 120X60

## What's the Difference between Porcelain and Ceramic Tiles?

1. Porcelain tiles are harder than ceramic tiles.
2. Porcelain tiles are more suitable for areas of high traffic.
3. Porcelain tiles absorb less moisture than ceramic tiles.
4. Porcelain tiles are more likely to survive a frost; thus, most of them are suitable for use on outdoor patios.
5. Ceramic tiles (which have a higher moisture content) will be subject to the forces of freeze / thaw on Winter nights if installed outside; thus, they will crack during a cold snap.
6. Porcelain tiles are far less likely to crack or fail when installed over a wooden substrate, for example a tongue and groove floor, where there may be a lot of movement as people walk across the floor.
7. Most porcelain tiles are made with floors in mind. However, all tiles can be used on walls, so it's perfectly acceptable to use porcelain tiles on bathroom walls for example. This is often done with tiles that are rectangular, such as 30 x 60 cm sizes.
8. Ceramic is usually significantly cheaper than porcelain. The raw materials, production costs, and transport costs (ceramic is lighter) are all lower.

### Categories of Tiles

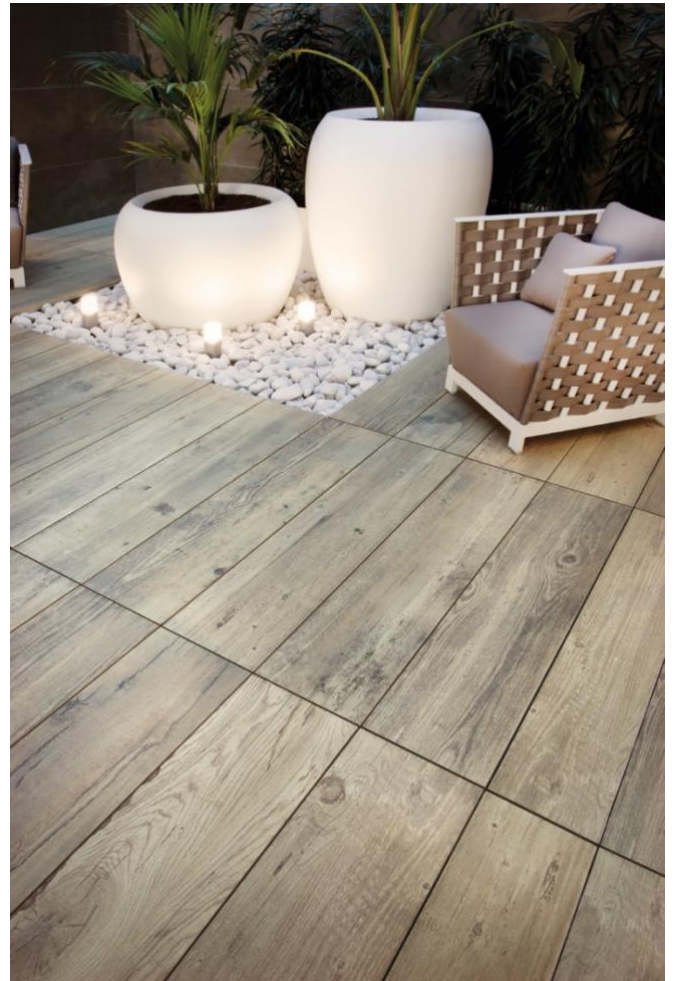
**GLAZED CERAMIC** - Glazed tiles are the obvious choice for walls in bathrooms, kitchens and laundry areas. Glazed wall tiles come in a wide variety of sizes from tiny mosaics and decorative borders to tiles as large as a metre square. Large tiles will make your room look bigger as there are fewer grout lines. High quality white glazed tiles can be an inexpensive option and look dramatic teamed with vibrant patterned borders. Glazed floor tiles are beautiful in conservatory floors and in reception rooms but are not suitable for outdoor use or heavy traffic floor areas. They need protecting from the grit brought in on shoes with entry matting if they are anywhere near an external door.

**UNGLAZED CERAMIC** – These are normally used in commercial and industrial settings and are available with slip resistant profiles for wet areas. They are wear, stain and frost resistant. Because they are so robust, they are ideal for laundry and utility rooms, bathrooms, playrooms and garages. They will withstand heavy foot and light wheeled traffic. They come in various categories of slip resistance,

**PORCELAIN** – These are the most popular tiles as they are beautiful and extremely hard wearing and often have good anti-slip qualities. They are similar to unglazed ceramic but extremely attractive often produced to look like natural slate stone or even wood. There are both porcelain wall and floor tiles and many ranges that are suitable for either. They are available glazed or even polished. Many ranges have the same colours in matt and gloss effects to let you create subtle pattern effects. They are fired at such high temperature that in the main they are frost resistant and can be used inside or out.

**2CM EXTERIOR PORCELAIN** – Ideal for Patios & Decks,

1. Will not fade
2. Will not stain
3. Can be power hosed
4. Multiple ways to fix externally
5. Special Step Nosing's & Fittings for outside (see outdoor tiling on our website)
6. Matching tiles made for inside & Outside – you can have your Kitchen opening on to a patio using standard 10mm tiles inside with matching Slip resistant tiles in 10mm or 20mm for outside
7. Value for money
8. [Click here to view catalogue](#)



**QUARRY TILE** – The traditional cottage kitchen tile quarry tiles are made from natural clay, some are frost resistant and can be used for floors internally or externally. Their natural clay surface gives good slip resistance and they are extremely hard wearing. Expect to find them in rich warm shades of red and brown with a great deal of natural variation in colour. They do not need sealing and over time will develop their own rich patina.



**TERRACOTTA** - These are made from natural clay in the same way as quarry tiles but they are fired at lower temperatures and vary in water absorbency. Generally, they are unsuitable for exterior use in the UK's climate, as they are not frost resistant. Most terracotta tiles need sealing prior to and after laying and your supplier will advise on the products to use. These are much lighter than quarry tiles varying from the terracotta colour of a plant pot to almost white.



**MOSAIC** - Small pieces of ceramic tile or glass usually sold in sheets on a mesh backing for ease of fixing. You can use these all over a wall or as border tiles. They are very useful for fitting to non-square shapes such as purposely curved walls or just an uneven surface. Many come with a slip resistance suitable for wet rooms,

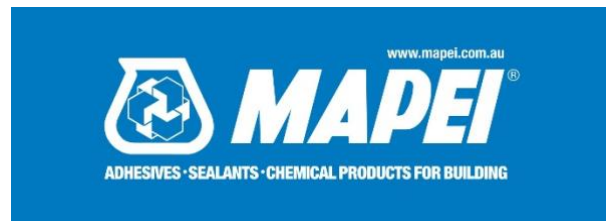
**NATURAL STONE PRODUCTS, LIMESTONE, MARBLE, GRANITE, SLATE** - These products vary enormously in wear ability. Some are extremely hard and others quite soft; most need sealing and they can vary a great deal in thickness. They polished variety need a high level of maintenance to preserve the polished look.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING ADHESIVE & GROUT

The choice and suitability of the correct tile adhesives and grout depends upon the size and type of tile, the nature of the substrate and the conditions to which the tile installation will be subjected. It is important to select the correct adhesive & Grout, we stock a full range from both **Weber & Mapei**, two of the world's leading adhesive manufacturers, our staff will help & advise you as to what adhesive & grout is suitable for your project



**PREPARATION** Time spent on proper preparation makes the fixing easier, quicker and ensures a better finish.



Things to consider

### Floor Type.

**Concrete** (must be cured for min 4-6 weeks depending on thickness of concrete)

**Anhydrite** (Needs to be sanded and sealed with Mapei Primer G and Needs to be moisture tested prior to tiling )

**Timber** – has to be sound and without deflection – should be overlaid with 6mm cement backer board,

**Lino or Vinyl covered Concrete Or wood** – preferably removed but where it is bonded permanently to the floor a primer Mapei Eco Prim Grip has to be used

**Have you underfloor heating installed?** – this needs to be gradually brought up to maximum heat and gradually turned off prior to any commencement of tiling,



**ADHESIVE** – 20kg generally covers approx. 4m<sup>2</sup> depending on floor level.

Note – Tile adhesive is not a levelling compound and should not be bedded up to level a floor, most adhesives should not be bedded over 10/12mm, if your floor is off level use a floor levelling compound like Weber Fast flex Floor leveller – can be applied from 3mm to 50mm in one go and generally tiled on within 24 hours



ALL ADHESIVE HAS TO BE CLASSIFIED FOR USE ( This will be printed on the bag)

C1 – NORMAL TILE ADHESIVE – NOT SUITABLE FOR PORCELAIN TILES

C2 – POLYMER MODIFIED TILE ADHESIVE – FOR EXTRA BONDING STRENGTH – IS SUITABLE FOR PORCELAIN – SMALL AMOUNT OF FLEXIBILITY

S1 – FULLY FLEXIBLE TILE ADHESIVE – SUITABLE FOR ALL TILES WITH A FLEXIBILITY RANGE OF 2/3MM (We would always recommend to use an S1 ADHESIVE if you are not sure of conditions on site)

S2 – FULLY FLEXIBLE TILE ADHESIVE – SUITABLE FOR ALL TILES WITH A FLEXIBILITY RANGE UP TO 5MM



**GROUT** – 5kg will grout approx. 12m<sup>2</sup> of tiles but this depends on the tile size / Tile thickness and the width of the joint. We stock a full range of Weber & Mapei Grouts and matching silicone colours. Give careful consideration to matching your grout colour with your tile, a good matching grout colour can make all the difference to your finished tiling job,

[Click here to view full range of Weber & Mapei products](#)





### **Wall Tiling**

Again the substrate has to be solid and without deflection, usually you will find the walls are constructed of plaster board or solid block skimmed with plaster, any gypsum plaster product should be primed with Mapei Primer G – ADHESIVE is generally cement based and can de-bond if fitted directly on to gypsum,

**PREPARATION** You will need a perfectly flat surface for tiling. Do not cut corners – preparing the surface is vital. (a) New plaster should be left for 4 weeks and be thoroughly dry before tiling. Old plaster is suitable, provided it is sound. (b) Plasterboard is suitable for walls provided it is well supported with the board being a minimum of 12.5 mm. (c) Painted surfaces. It is very important to make a detailed examination of the surface, as the permanent success of the installation is dependent on good adhesion between the tile and the wall

The other consideration is the weight of tile going on to a wall

The general rule is

Unskimmed plaster board – 32kg m<sup>2</sup>

Skimmed Plaster Board – 22kg m<sup>3</sup>

Cement Backer Board – 50kg m<sup>2</sup>

Please note almost all Tile Adhesive manufacturers do not recommend tiling on to Plywood or Magnesium board and in most cases will not guarantee their products if used on either of these substrate

**HOW MANY TILES DO YOU NEED?** You will need to work out the area to be tiled. We can arrange a visit by one of our team to measure or alternatively measure the area to be tiled, if you have several small areas measure each individually and our staff will calculate what you need, remember you will need to add between 10% & 20% for cutting and wastage depending on the tile size,



Tiles are produced in batches, Tone & Calibre is clearly marked on each box and it is important to make sure you have enough tiles from the same batch for your project, so order slightly more than you need. Any extras can be stored for future repairs we will accept returns of fully unopened boxes if **A) made within 30 days and B) we still have the tone and calibre still in stock**



**PREPARATION** Time spent on proper preparation makes the fixing easier, quicker and ensures a better finish.

### **Levtec Easi Levelling Tile System.**

Particularly suitable for Large Format tiles & Linear Wood Effect Tiles to ensure a perfectly level finish and eliminate lipping in tiles.

[See link to Levtec Easi Levelling](#)

### **Slip Resistance & What it Means**

Slip Resistance and what it means is one of the most commonly asked questions, there are various tests and international standards although up to recently the most accepted test in Ireland was the Ramp Test – R9 - R13,



In recent years the Pendulum Test is more widely used known as PTV Test

Below we'll explain both

#### **What is a pendulum test?**

The Pendulum test is the British standard method of measuring slip resistance. And is the Health and Safety

Executives preferred method of testing. In these tests the HSE recommends a minimum score of 36 or more for floor coverings to be used in public places in both wet and dry conditions.

The test replicates the heel of a foot (there are different attachments to measure a rubber sole to a bare foot) slipping on tiles in both wet and dry conditions. This represents a more accurate simulation of real-world conditions. The results are known as Pendulum Test Values and determine the level of potential slip risk. These PTV values are classified as;

0-24 High Risk

24-35 Moderate Risk

36+ Low Potential of Slip

- PTV of 20 indicates a 1 in 2 [probability](#) of a slip
- PTV of 24 indicates a 1 in 20 [probability](#) of a slip
- PTV of 27 indicates a 1 in 200 probability of a slip
- PTV of 36 indicates a 1 in 1 million probability of a slip

PTV	Slip Potential
0 - 24	High
25 - 35	Moderate
36+	Low

### What is a Ramp Test?

The Ramp Test involves an active participant standing on a ramp protected by a fall restraint harness. The operator, wearing standard footwear or barefoot (depending on the standard), walks backwards and forwards over a sample of a flooring material that has been evenly coated with a contaminant - either oil or soapy water depending on the standard. The test starts with the ramp in a horizontal position; the operator gradually increases the angle of inclination until the limit of safe walking is reached and the test person “slips”. The acceptance angle obtained is used to express the degree of slip resistance (the “R” value). The German ramp test method is recognised worldwide (Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the Ceramic Tile Institute of America (CTIOA))

### Floor R-Ratings Explained

R1 to R8 do not exist	R9	R10	R11	R12	R13
	High Slip Risk	Moderate Risk	Low Slip Risk		

### Slip Resistance

For domestic use a Matt Tile either R9 or R10 PTV 24-35 is more than adequate for most domestic areas – Kitchens , Hallways, Conservatories Etc

For Wetrooms / Walk in showers – it's recommended to use an R11 OR PTV 36+ TILE

City Tiles & Bathrooms carry ranges of tiles with new technology glaze that are smooth to touch but have a slip resistance of R11 OR PTV 36+ ask staff for details

Most Polished or Shiny tiles do not have a slip rating –

Remember the slip resistance of any surface can be affected by Grout Residue, Waxes & Silicone's contained in cleaning agents, food debris etc left on the floor.

## WET ROOMS

Tiles are the obvious choice. Fixed to a water-resistant background (Baseboard Cement Tile Backer Board) they provide a surface that is easy to clean and won't be harmed by water splashes. No need to worry if the shower curtain drips or you spill body lotion on the floor. Tiles can help you create walk in showers that are large enough not to need a shower curtain or door.



[Click here to view video of wetroom installation](#)

Or you can design your bathroom without a shower area at all by making it into a wetroom. This, the very latest trend, is where the whole of the bathroom is the shower and there is no shower screen or curtain. The water flows into a drain in the centre of the floor. To do this the whole room must be tanked (made waterproof) so do consult a competent tile fixer. In use this is extremely practical and

very suited to minimalist high-tech city apartments. We carry a full range of wet room products from Wetroom shower trays, Cement Backer Boards to line the walls & Floors, waterproofing Tape & Liquid for sealing all exposed joints – this is referred to as "TANKING", Tanking is generally inexpensive and must be carried out prior to tiling

When fixing tiles in wet areas such as in showers and wet rooms it is essential to tile onto an already water-resistant background. Sand/cement render, dense concrete or water-resistant tile backer board are ideal backgrounds. Plaster, plasterboard, timber and timber-based products such as MDF or plywood are absorbent and should be made



waterproof by the use of a waterproofing or tanking system. Failure to do this is currently the most common cause of tiling failures in domestic bathrooms.

*A drain installed in a wetroom*

[Click here to view video of wetroom installation](#)

### **FEEL THE HEAT WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING**

Specialist under-tile heating systems are the very latest 'must have' for bathrooms and kitchens. They give that added feel of luxury and free up valuable wall space in rooms where that space is at a premium. They can be fitted on top of existing floor surfaces so there's no need to dig up floors and they are very thin so there is no noticeable extra height to the floor. We stock Flexel Electric Underfloor Mats in SIZES from 1.5m<sup>2</sup> up to 16m<sup>2</sup> with Manual or Digital Thermostat / Timer,



The latest systems are very easy and quick to install; they are surprisingly inexpensive and extremely cost effective in use – and oh, the luxury of a warm bathroom floor. They are also ideal for conservatories which typically have very little wall space.

[Click here for a how to install guide](#)