

A-Z OF TILING

Every week as part of our “Stay Positive, Back Stronger” campaign we will be providing you with our A-Z of Tiling Terms. Get in-depth description of many of the common tiling terms, plus some expert insight or top tips from our team.

IMPACT RESISTANCE

Impact resistance is the ability of a tile to resist damage when subjected to a sudden applied load. Ceramic tiles are tested for impact resistance under a test method defined in BS EN ISO 10545-5:1998 and is determined by using the Coefficient of Restitution (Dropping Ball).

BAL INSIGHT

The resistance of a tiled floor to impact resistance is dependent upon several factors including;

- Tile strength and thickness i.e. thicker floor tiles with increased impact resistance
- Compressive strength of the sub-floor
- Surface regularity i.e SR1
- Ensuring tiles are solidly bedding in the tile adhesive. Any voids are potential points of weakness under load.
- Type of traffic e.g. light or heavy, small hard wheeled traffic etc.

ICONS

An image, picture, representation, etc.

BAL INSIGHT

A quick way to indicate warning signs or product benefits before reading the information.

IMPACT SOUND INSULATION

The noise of footsteps and other traffic on tiled floors can be reduced by the use of impact sound insulation as an underlay. One system, for example, is a matting which comprises recycled rubber and cork with a polyurethane binder in a thickness of up to 5 mm.

BAL INSIGHT

Some elastomeric tile adhesives can contribute towards the impact sound reduction in floors, when used in conjunction with a suitable resilient acoustic underlayment matting.

INSET TILE

A decorative tile used in isolation within a plane of field tiles to enhance the appearance of a wall or floor.

BAL INSIGHT

Inset tiles are usually factory produced, but some fixers can cut their own on site to suit individual installations.

INTERIORS

The materials and techniques required for exterior tiling may not vary widely, but interiors cannot be regarded in the same fashion. Each area within a building will present its own challenges, with the potential for variation within a single room, and tiling of any interior area should not commence until its specific requirements have been checked.

BAL INSIGHT

In the same way as external tiling, internal areas may be subjected to significant thermal changes, for example when tiling onto underfloor heating or direct sunlight in a glass Atria or moisture expansion as in wet duty applications.

INTERMEDIATE MOVEMENT JOINTS

Movement joints are required when a tiled floor may be subject to movement, to prevent cracking of tiles and grout. In such cases these will always be needed at the floor perimeter, typically of 6 mm x 6 mm cross-section. Larger floors may also need intermediate movement joints.

BAL INSIGHT

Movement joints should always be free of adhesive and grout to allow maximum movement. In heated screeds intermediate movement joints should be at least every 8m and in external tile installations they may need to be every 3m.

INSTALLERS

A person who places or fixes equipment, machinery or materials in place ready for use.

BAL INSIGHT

Installers are key to the tiling industry however it is a constantly changing workplace with the development of larger tiles, new substrates, new systems and fixing methods. It is important to stay up to date with the latest techniques so installers should look to take advantage of any training offered, this in turn will help them to work smarter and more efficiently saving them time and money.

IMPREGNATOR (SEALER)

An impregnating sealer is designed to protect surfaces against staining from external sources such as grease, dirt, oil, water and other potential surface contaminants.

BAL INSIGHT

Impregnator sealers are used to protect the surface of tiles and stone before fixing or grouting. this can change the look of the finish so always check with the customers/client. BS 5385:Part 5: 2009 advises under 5.3.3 Selection of natural stone, clause 5.3.3.1 General that “NOTE 4 All natural stone will benefit from the application of an impregnator to assist in the cleaning.

and

“Surface treatment of stone might affect the slip resistance, either negatively or positively, and should be considered at the design stage”