

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.

J

JOINT

The space between tiles usually filled with grout.

BAL INSIGHT

Recommended minimum joints widths for wall and floor tile installations as outlined in BS 5358 Parts 1 & 3 are:

- 2mm for wall tiles with a facial area $<0.1\text{m}^2$ (with no side over 600mm long).
- 3mm for wall tiles with a facial area between 0.1m^2 & 1m^2 (with no side over 1200mm long).
- 5mm for a 3 m long wall and floor ceramic panels. The minimum joint width should increase proportionally, depending upon the panel size.
- 3mm for floor tiling

JOINT, CONTRACTION

A formed, sawed, or tooled groove, typically in a concrete structure, intended to create a weakened plane and thereby regulate the location of any cracking which may result from dimensional change of different parts of the structure.

BAL INSIGHT

Structural or expansion joints in the tile and adhesive bed should be sited directly over any existing structural movement or contraction joints within the base and should be continuous.

JOINT, CONTROL

An intentionally weak break made in a concrete surface to accommodate contraction stress. The material is generally only scored, not cut right through, allowing the concrete to crack naturally at a joint rather than elsewhere in the slab. Control joints in concrete should extend through the tile.

BAL INSIGHT

Keep this in mind when you are setting out and if you can set out from the scored sections and provide movement joints at these points.

JOINT EXPANSION OR MOVEMENT

A stress-relieving joint used to compensate for movement of tiles and / or the substrate, by separating a large tiled area into independently moving tile fields to prevent cracking, bulging/tenting or debonding. These joints, for example should extending through tile, adhesive and the screed, base and are typically used in larger tiled floors and walls. Movement joints should be planned for set points at the beginning of a project.

BAL INSIGHT

For floor tiling BS 5385: Part 3 recommends that the maximum tile field should be no more than 10 metres in any direction but, in practice, it may be required to site movement joints at intervals of between five and eight metres e.g. where thermal influences exist or when tiling over suspended floors. For external tiling intermediate movement joints are required at 3 meters apart.