

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.

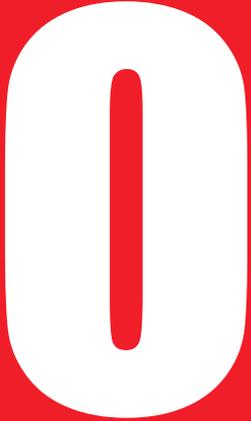
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OPACITY

A tile may be fully or partially opaque or, as with glass tiles, transparent. Any tile which, when fired, would normally be transparent can be rendered opaque by the use of a coloured or colourless glaze prior to firing. When using transparent or only partially opaque tiles, consideration should be given to the colour of the dried adhesive. In most cases, an adhesive which dries to a white finish is advisable. In addition, care will be needed when fixing such tiles. The spread of adhesive needs to be uniform, with no gaps which could show through the tile as discolorations.

BAL INSIGHT

Doing the research into which type of tile you will be using is just as important as the adhesive you choose, most natural stone tiles will only accept white adhesives due to the opacity properties they have. Using grey can cause discolouration in the form of shadows and burning due to a reaction with grey cement, Glass tiles also have special requirements so at Bal we have reduced the production of grey adhesives to aid in the choosing the correct product for the Job.



OPEN TIME

The length of time after adhesive has been applied to the substrate during which it retains its ability to adhere to and bond a tile. An open time of 20 or 25 minutes is typical for most tile adhesives, including ready-mixed products. In other words, after the adhesive has been spread on the floor or wall, there is then a period of 20 or 25 minutes for tiles to be placed, into the adhesive successfully. Open time should never be confused with pot life.

BAL INSIGHT

Every job will be different and choosing an adhesive based on open time should depend on how quickly you get the tiles into the adhesive before in skins over, Don't over spread, think about working in M² areas at a time as a guide and overtime you will waste less in turn save money.

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OVERLAY

Use of timber or tile backing board to “overlay” or strengthen an existing subfloor prior to tiling.

BAL INSIGHT

Getting the overlay correct ensures the tiles are fully supported and also decreases the likelihood of too much lateral movement and deflection, These are two of the most common causes of failure in floor tiling. A good solid and stable overlay ensures the tiles are down securely.