



HOW TO TILE WITH LARGE FORMAT & NATURAL STONE TILES ONTO FLOORS

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE (ALSO INCLUDES A GUIDE FOR WHEN UNDER
TILE HEATING SYSTEMS ARE BEING INSTALLED)



WHAT YOU NEED.

Large format tiles are generally any tile greater than 300mm x 300mm.

Natural Stone has been used for thousands of years and continues to be a popular choice today. There are many different types of Natural Stone each with its own characteristics. So due to these differences, these are some useful fixing tips and guidelines to help avoid any installation pitfalls.



TILE CONSIDERATIONS

Light coloured stone should be fixed with white adhesives. Darker coloured stone may be fixed using grey adhesives. Natural stone should not exceed 20mm in thickness and must be dry, before fixing.

Types of Ceramic Tile

Terracotta, Quarry or Glazed Porcelain / Fully Vitrified

Types of Natural Stone

Granite, Travertine, Limestone, Marble, Slate and Sandstone

WHAT TO USE

Preparation:

Dunlop Universal Bonding Agent and / or Dunlop Premium Floor Leveller (where required - see inside guide).

Adhesion:

Dunlop Large Format & Natural Stone Adhesives (or Dunlop 2-Part Rapidset Flex on timber).

Grouting:

Dunlop Flexible Floor & Wall Grout (or Dunlop Floor & Wall Grout with Dunlop Flexible Additive where required).

Finishing:

Dunlop Silicone Sealant with Microban®

BEFORE YOU START

Ensure that the background is in a sound condition.

CONSTANT SUPPORT

Full instructions for surface preparation and product usage appear on all Dunlop packaging. To make the job easy and worry-free, please ensure you follow them.

You can also view this tutorial online, or on WAP enabled phones. Just go to www.dunlop-adhesives.com or www.dunlop-adhesives.mobi from your mobile*.

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PREPARATION

If you are using an under tile heating system please go straight to the preparation section and the 'Under Tile Heating System Guide' in the box on the far right immediately.

The sub-floor onto which it is intended to lay tiles must be sound and suitably stable for the purpose intended. The floor's surface must be level, dry, clean and free of any dust, grease or loose material.

Fresh screeds shrink during drying which creates cracks, which can cause delamination of tiles or even tile cracking if not allowed to dry out prior to fixing (i.e. concrete must be at least 6 weeks old and be fully set, cement:sand screed need at least 3 weeks for the screed to cure. A longer period may be necessary in poor drying conditions). All floors must have a suitable damp proof membrane.

Depending on the surface the area may / may not need to be primed with Dunlop Universal Bonding Agent as follows:

Absorbent cement:sand screeds and concrete surfaces should be primed with a diluted primer such as DUNLOP UNIVERSAL BONDING AGENT (1 part Bonding Agent to 4 parts water).

Anhydrite screeds must be primed with 2 coats of a suitable primer such as DUNLOP UNIVERSAL BONDING AGENT (diluted 1 part Bonding Agent to 2 parts water). Ensure each coat is allowed to dry.

ADHESION

1. For most floor surfaces Dunlop Large Format & Natural Stone Adhesive should be used. (Dunlop 2-Part Rapidset Flex should be used on timber).

2. Make sure tiles and sub-floor are clean and dry.

3. Mix tile adhesive, making sure that only sufficient is mixed for use and any unused material should be discarded. Do not add further liquid or re-temper.

4. Apply adhesive to a floor area of around 1m² using a trowel capable of achieving a solid bed of adhesive. Do not exceed the maximum bed thickness of the adhesive. Spread only what can be tiled in 20 minutes.

5. Fix tiles firmly into place to achieve a solid bed of adhesive, with no voids beneath.

6. Clean any adhesive from the surface of the tile with a clean, damp cloth as soon as possible. Set adhesive will prove very difficult to remove.

7. Clean adhesive from between joints to allow for grouting.

8. Once the main area is completed, prepare the perimeter and bond pre-cut tiles, ensuring that fresh adhesive is used.

9. Clean all tools immediately after use.

GROUTING

1. Allow adhesive to set according to the recommended drying times. Make sure all joints are clean and dry and free from any surface contaminants.

2. If you are tiling with natural stone tiles, when dry, a suitable sealer should be applied to the surface if it is necessary (please seek advice from the tile retailer).

3. Dunlop Flexible Floor & Wall Grout should be used (Dunlop Floor & Wall Grout with Dunlop Flexible Additive should be used when tiling on to timber).



UNDER TILE HEATING SYSTEM GUIDE

PREPARATION

When tiling onto under floor heating the preparation of the sub-floor is the most critical process.

Firstly, check the system with the manufacturer to ensure that it is compatible to the substrate that it is to be applied and to the environment it is to be used in. Lay the heating system as recommended by the heating system manufacturer. Heating must be switched off at least 48 hours prior to application.

If you are using a heated pipe set in a traditional cement:sand screed please now continue from the main guide from the section marked 'ADHESION'.

When using cable or mat heating systems you must apply Dunlop Premium Floor Leveller as detailed below.

Mix Premium Floor Leveller and pour over the area to be levelled and spread to the required depth using a steel trowel (Note: Do not use Dunlop Premium Floor Leveller on timber substrates). The leveller should be allowed to dry out for at least 4 hours. Please now continue from the main guide from the section marked 'ADHESION'.

Please note: On completion of tiling, ensure that 14 days elapsed before the floor is brought to its operating temperature. The system should be heated slowly at a maximum rate of 5°C per day until it reaches a temperature of 25°C. This should then be maintained for 3 days before being allowed to cool to room temperature.

4. When grouting stone tiles focus the application on the joints and avoid the tile surface where possible. The tile surface must be kept clean at all times. All joints should be fully filled ensuring no air is trapped under the grout joints.

5. It is essential that all excess grout is removed with a damp cloth or sponge.

6. Leave to dry for a minimum of 24 hours.

FINISHING

Perimeter movement joints should be a minimum 6mm in cross section and should be filled with Dunlop Silicone Sealant with Microban®.

Dependent on trafficking, any intermediate movement joints may need to be filled with a harder wearing, more durable epoxy polysulphide type sealant. In general joints should be located:

- Over existing and/or structural movement joints.
- Over junctions between different base materials.
- Around the perimeter of the floor and where tiling abuts columns or steps.
- On heated floors movement joints should be incorporated at not greater than 3.5 m centres.
- On suspended floors the bay size should be reduced and additional joints provided over supporting walls or beams.

Please note: Only neutral cure silicone sealants can be used on Marble or Limestone natural stone.

CHECKLIST



Make sure you have everything you need. Below is a quick checklist of the products and tools you will need to make the job simple and easy from start to finish.

CHECKLIST

- Tiles
- Tiles Trim

DUNLOP PRODUCTS

- Dunlop Universal Bonding Agent*
- Dunlop Large Format & Natural Stone Adhesive**
- Dunlop Flexible Floor and Wall Grout***
- Dunlop Silicone Sealant with Microban®

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

- Floor Tile Spacers (3 or 5mm)
- Spirit Level
- Tile Cutter
- Tile Nippers
- Tile Saw
- Tile File
- Suitable Notched Trowel
- Grout Squeegee/Float
- Sponge
- Diamond Cutting Wheel for Natural Stone

* Use Dunlop Premium Floor Leveller where required

**Use Dunlop 2-Part Rapidset Flex on timber

***Use Dunlop Floor & Wall Grout with Dunlop Flexible Additive when tiling onto timber

PLEASE CONTACT DUNLOP HELPLINE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: 01782 591120

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