



# **INSTALLATION, CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE**

**PAVIGRÉS<sup>®</sup>**  
GRUPO



## **INSTALLATION, CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE**

**PAVIGRÉS offers a wide range of ceramic products for use in floors and walls, which are divided into three groups: porcelain tiles, glazed tiles made of vitrified white body single fired and ceramic wall tiles in white body (whose characteristics meet the requirements of the International standard EN14411).**

These products come in various types of finishes and formats that must be taken into account when choosing the product for the type of intended use.

### **Cautions before ordering:**

It is important that the customer choose the product by a factor not only the aesthetic but also taking into account the technical characteristics of the same, these should suit the requirements of the place where they will be installed.

During the execution of the works will result always some material breakage, resulting from cuts, holes, accidents, etc. In addition, sometimes the measurements of the areas are not very accurate and for these reasons, to prevent unwanted material shortages, it is recommended that the client orders about 5 to 10% more product in relation to the area provided.

### **Check the product before the fixing:**

Before starting to fix the material, the customer must confirm the amount and inspect some of boxes in order to verify that the product, size and shade are those that he ordered.

The client should do a panel with several pieces of different boxes / pallets, to check if there is a mix of shades. Sometimes the ceramic floor tile attempts to reproduce natural products and as

itself is produced from natural raw materials, it is normal that there may be a slight variation of shade but not affecting its aspect and sometimes even garnish, aesthetically, the final panel. In some rustic products, the differences in shade are deliberate in order to reproduce the material in which the product was inspired. For the reasons described, it is advisable during installation to use pieces from several boxes.

### **During the fixing:**

It is very important that the support in which the material will be applied is perfectly levelled, free of any dirt and completely stable. In the event that the installation of the tiles is to take place over an existing one, the fixer must ensure that the former floor tiles are well installed, without any mosaics poorly glued. The adhesive should be tested before the fixing, in order to ensure that it adheres well to the surface of the support (you may need to attack the surface either mechanically or chemically, to increase the adhesion of the adhesive). The ceramic tiles whose main feature is a rigid material, non-deformable, so that some dimensional variations in the structure must be accommodated by the support and / or absorbed by the joints.



- The joints must have at least 3mm (or 2mm in the case of a rectified product) to minimize small dimensional differences (common in this type of product); to disguise the defects of the installation and be able to absorb small deformations that may occur in the support during the execution of the works. It is recommended the use of crosses, wedges or wire together to facilitate and ensure the proper alignment of tiles.
- The type of the adhesive glue depends on the nature of the work (if it is to floor covering or wall, the type of site, etc.), adherence of the support and the type of the ceramic tiles to be installed (depending on its porosity). The porcelain tiles, due to its almost zero porosity, are the ceramic tiles that need a more careful choice about the type of adhesive and bonding process. Typically, this type of material is recommended to use a mixed adhesive glue (cement and resin), to obtain maximum adhesion between the tiles and the support, and prevent the formation of hollow areas, it is recommended to use the technique double glue (glue on the backside of the tile and also in the support). During the application, from time to time, one should remove a few tiles to verify the effectiveness of the adhesive glue. The application must be made by, experienced professionals who should follow the recommendations of the manufacturer (mixture of components, preparation and drying periods).
- The fixing of the tiles should also be careful with the weather conditions such as temperature, humidity and wind can influence the drying period and quality of the adhesion.
- The “staggered” installation of tiles should be tested in advance to verify the final result. Small differences in the flatness of the tiles, which are admissible in this type of material (although the flatness values are accordingly with the values established by the European standard EN 14411), these value are taken to it’s maximum with this type of application.
- It is not recommended the use rubber mallets to tap the pieces as they may leave marks / residues of rubber (use silicone mallets or protect the material with a cloth before tapping).
- One should not scratch the unglazed material (porcelain or polished) with permanent ink markers or scrape with metal objects on its surface.
- The installer should be especially careful with the use of coloured grouts (avoid black grouts containing micronized coal) on the material,



especially with light colours and polished products. The tiles, despite having almost zero porosity, on the surface they have a small roughness on the surface (matt finish) or micro-porosity (polished finish) that can hinder the cleaning of the remains of the coloured grouts after drying.

The polished homogeneous technical porcelain tiles (UGL) of Pavigrés is treated with an anti-stain sealer in order to facilitate cleaning during and after the installation, however, it may not be sufficient, if it is not done a careful and timely cleaning of the material.

- It is recommended that, immediately after the grout dry; the tile fixer should wipe the excess with a wet cloth (always following the manufacturer's instructions).

Our products can also be used with other fixing systems, such as floor (raised floors) or as a coating (ventilated facades).

### **Final work**

Most of the problems reported after the tile works are done, are due to a poor and sometimes non-existent cleaning after tiles are laid.

At the end of the works, it should take place a cleaning operation of the entire surface in order to eliminate the waste of cements, adhesives and dirt from the works in general. For this, we recommend the use of a commercial acid based detergent (the recommended time for drying of the adhesive cement glue and the grouts must be respected, once the acid may deteriorate and stain the floor area where the glue is not yet ready). In the end, you should wash the entire surface with plenty of water.

If there is still work to do on site that may cause scratches or other damage on the surface of the tiles, these should be protected (usually with cardboard or thick plastic).



### **Cleaning and Maintenance:**

The unglazed porcelain tiles polished or honed, need special attention in relation to the cleaning of some type of stains.

The daily cleaning is simple, once it requires only a commercial detergent and clean water.

The stains such as, coffee, wine, coke, grease, etc; on the porcelain tiles should be immediately cleaned with a wet cloth, otherwise it may require the use of a specific detergent to remove them.

You should be careful with the use of commercial detergents to remove certain specific difficult stains (aluminium, paints, etc), because due to its chemical composition, they can degrade the surface of some glazed tiles and polished porcelain tiles. You should never use products containing hydrofluoric acid, because they damage all ceramic tiles.

One of the brands with a wide range of products for cleaning and maintenance of ceramics, which was tested in our laboratories, is FILA. However, other companies sell cleaning products specific to this type of material.

You should give especial attention to the use of oily products (olive oils, waxes, etc) that may form in some materials, a coating that causes an effect similar to a sealer, which can result in some colours to a change in shade when subject to counter light. The removal of this coat can be more or less difficult depending on the type of material and the time of the stain.

**Note:** As a precaution, stronger cleaning products should be previously tested in a small and less visible area, in order to verify their possible effects.



The product in end of life should have the appropriate follow up towards the good environmental practices; it should not be released in the environment.



**PORCELAIN TILES • HOMOGENEOUS TECHNICAL PORCELAIN TILES  
HOMOGENEOUS TECHNICAL PORCELAIN TILES, DOUBLE LOADED**

| TYPE OF STAIN  | TYPE OF DETERGENT ADVISED BY PAVIGRÉS   | PRODUCTS ADVISED BY FILA   |
|--|---|--|
| Calcareous matter / deposits:<br>• ink<br>• rust and oxides<br>• mortar  | hydrochloric acid detergent:<br>• muriatic acid<br>• sulphuric acid<br>• oxalic acid    | DETERDEK   |
| Beer / wine<br>Ice cream, coffee and  tea<br>Vegetable and animal fat<br>Urine<br>Vomit                                | Alkaline detergent:<br>• caustic soda<br>• potash                                       | FILA PS/87<br>FILA SR/95   |
| Rubber<br>Paints<br>Grease<br>Varnish<br>Shoe polish<br>Wax crayon<br>Hair dye<br>Lipstick<br>Putties<br>Wax<br>Resins | Solvent detergent:<br>• turpentine<br>• oil of turpentine<br>• thinner trichloruethylen | FILA PS/87<br>FILA SR/95<br>FILANOSPOT<br>(grease   shoe polish)<br>FILASOLV<br>(putties   wax   resins) |
| Felt tipped pen<br>Ketchup<br>Coke<br>Vinegar<br>Methylene blue  | • Alkaline detergent<br>• Acid detergent  | FILA PS/87<br>FILA SR/95   |
| Graffiti   |   | FILA NOPAINT STAR  |
| Dirt on grouting joints  |   | FUGANET  |
| Daily cleaning   | Normal detergent  | FILACLEANER  |

Use greatest caution whenever working with acids or other strong cleaning chemicals. Read product label carefully and always follow manufacturers directions and precautions.

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We recommend that one should search for information and if necessary ask the manufacturer for advice before you select a product to make sure that you select the right tile for the envisaged use.