

TILE 101

**TILE
SPACE**

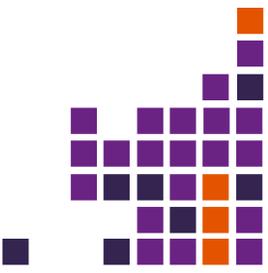


Everything you need to know about tiles.



CONTENTS

Benefits Of Using Tiles	4
Useful Information	6
Things To Consider	10
Design Possibilities	17



BENEFITS OF USING TILES

EASY TO MAINTAIN

Tiles are stain-resistant, tough and easy to clean. Warm soapy water works for most jobs, but they can handle harsh cleaners when required.

WATER RESISTANT

Modern tiles have a porosity of around 0.5%, meaning they don't absorb water. This makes them the perfect option for bathrooms and inside showers.

HOLDS UP IN HIGH-TRAFFIC AREAS

Porcelain floor tile is an ideal choice for the areas in the home of high traffic and will outperform other surfaces in both long-term appearance and durability.

FOR INDOOR & OUTDOOR USE

With several ranges suitable for both indoor and outdoor installation, tiles are ideal for creating a cohesive space with indoor/outdoor flow.

CAN BE INSTALLED WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING FOR COLDER MONTHS

Tiles are good heat conductors and go well with underfloor heating. Tile Space stock 'Hotwire', a cost-effective and easy to install, under tile heating system.

FIRE RESISTANT

Tiles get fired at more than 1200 degrees, so do well in the fire resistance department. They are non-combustible and won't give off toxic chemicals in a fire.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Tiles are manufactured from clay, sand and water, with ultra-low VOCs. They replicate natural products, therefore, help to protect against the unsustainable depletion of natural products like marble and timber.

SOMETHING FOR EVERY BUDGET

At Tile Space, we have ranges to suit every budget. We source our tiles from Italy, Spain, Brazil, UAE and Asia. The country of origin usually impacts the price and quality, however, we have excellent relationships with all our suppliers and we guarantee all our tiles for 10 years.

THEY WILL LOOK AS GOOD AS THE DAY THEY WERE INSTALLED FOR DECADES

Ceramic and porcelain tiles are made to last. When properly installed, they'll look as good in 20 years as they do today.

IDEAL FOR HOMEOWNERS WITH ALLERGIES

If you have concerns about allergies and asthma, tiles are a great solution. They don't build up dust, dirt, or support mould or mildew.

PEACE OF MIND

All tiles come with a 10-year guarantee and Tile Space has introduced a 15-year extended system warranty for all products (tiles, grouts, adhesives) purchased from Tile Space.



USEFUL INFORMATION

DESCRIPTIVE & NOMINAL SIZES

Tiles sizes are shown in their nominal size (approximate size). As tiles are kiln fired, each batch can vary by a few mm.

TILE FACES

When tiles replicate natural materials like stone or marble, the number of tile faces and variation will indicate how natural it will look. In nature, you will see infinite variation, and that is part of its charm. When tiles have the same pattern repeated, it will look artificial, a good quality tile will have a degree of variation to make it look more authentic. The number of faces can vary from one on basic tiles to over thirty on premium ranges.

VARIATION

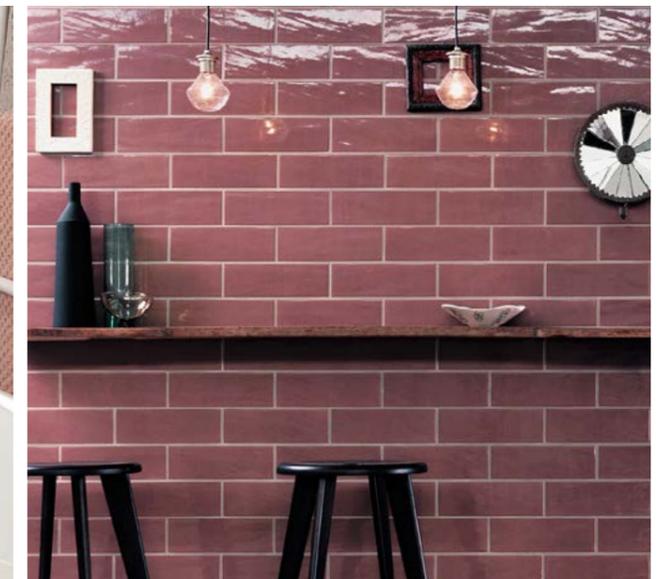
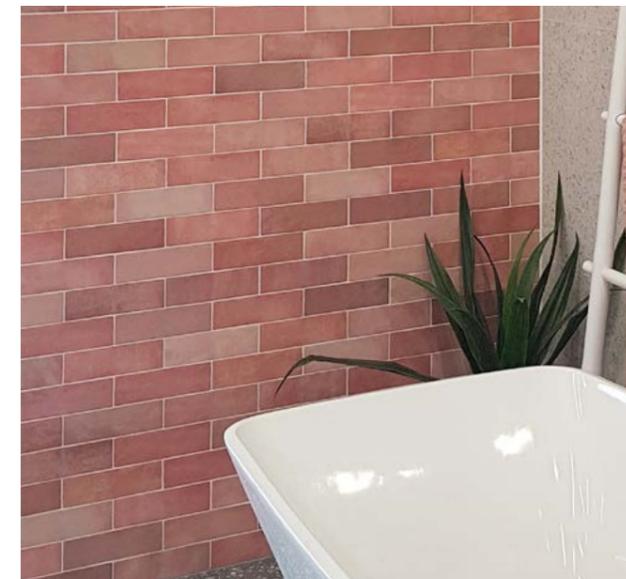
Variation refers to the difference between each tile from the same batch. A low variation tile (V1) means there is limited variation between each tile and when the tiles are laid the finished result will look uniform. A good example of a uniform tile would be a white wall tile. Whereas, a high variation tile will deliver the complete opposite look. Each tile is different and when laid together will show a variety of colours and textures.

At Tile Space, we use the following ratings:

- V1** Uniform – minimal differences between pieces of the same production run.
- V2** Slight - clearly distinguishable differences in texture and/or pattern, with similar colours.
- V3** Moderate – the number of colours on each piece vary significantly, but they do not differ greatly between pieces.
- V4** Substantial – random colour differences from tile to tile so that one tile may have different colours from another tile.

Marvel Calacatta shown in photo (left) has 69 faces whereas Absolute Carrara in photo (right) has only 5 faces. Fewer faces show the same print repeated therefore making it look less natural.

Artisan (left) is an example of a subway tile with a high variation rating of V4. Manhattan Vintage (right) is an example of a subway tile with low variation V1.



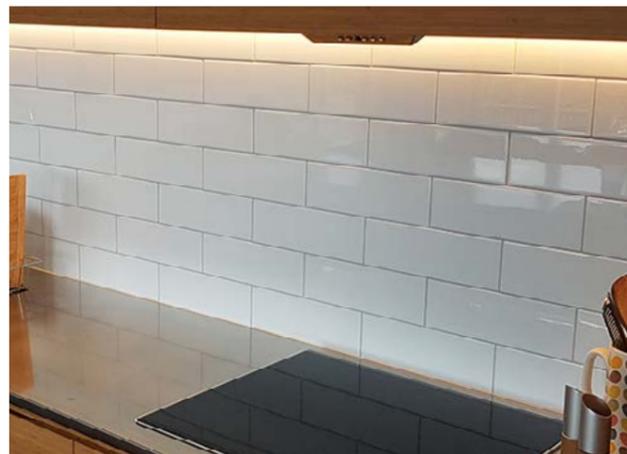
THE IMPORTANCE OF LIGHTING IN A TILE INSTALLATION

When it comes to tile installations lighting plays a huge part in how the overall result will look. Modern spaces now have multiple lights with installation inside the bath or shower stall and directly above walls. While LED strip lighting can create a contemporary feel, the placement of lighting should be considered as it can make a dramatic difference in the appearance of the tile. Wall wash lighting is by far the most common lighting to cause problems. Even with perfect tile installation, some distortion caused by the natural variation in the tile's surface is inevitable. Lighting can take the smallest variance and cast a large shadow on the tile surface joints, dramatically affecting how the tiles look.

PREVENTIONS

- 1 Install the permanent lights before the tile installation, this will allow the tile installer to make adjustments during the installation.
- 2 Locate light fixtures away from the edge of the wall, moving the lights just a few centimetres off the edge of the wall will make a difference to the perception of the tile.
- 3 Where wall-wash lighting effects are desired, ensure the substrate is perfectly flat as any variations in the flatness of the substrate will make it more difficult to lay the tiles.

The below photos show the effect of overhead lighting panels. This harsh lighting technique creates shadows that accentuate any irregularities in the surface of the tile.



The above examples show Bisazza Ghiaccio mosaic tile used with slightly different overhead lighting. The first image you see the light has been placed just a few centimetres off the edge of the wall, this is how you want your tiles to look when installed.

In the second photo, the lighting is too close, resulting in a large shadow on the tile surface joints, dramatically affecting how the tiles look. It's also important to match your grout colour, a close-coloured grout will make the space look premium, whereas a badly matched grout colour can change the look of the tiles when laid..

THINGS TO CONSIDER

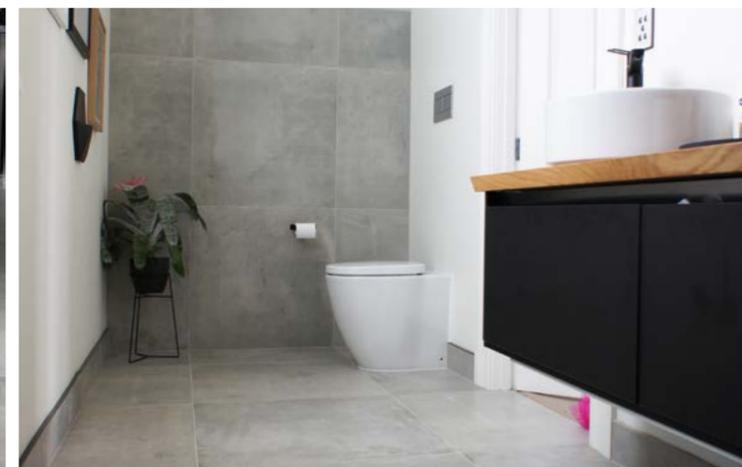
SIZE

From small formats to large slabs, tiles come in many shapes and sizes. The most popular size is 600x600 as it's easy to lay but large enough to make an impact. Larger tiles make the space look bigger and more elegant as there will be fewer grout lines.

A large format tile can look fantastic in a small space too as it will make the space look larger than it is. Note that the installation of large format tiles can be more expensive as there is often more wastage.



Same tile, Cementia Grey in sizes 600x600 (left) and 750x750 below.



LAYING PATTERNS

When choosing individual tiles, there are several different patterns they can be laid in to add interest to a space. A rectangular tile will make the direction that it's laid in look longer. For instance, if you have a low ceiling height, you

could lay the tiles vertically to make it look higher. Laying patterns such as Stack lay give a modern look, while Brick lay and Herringbone look more traditional.



Different lay patterns, pictured clockwise from top left; Vertical, Brick lay, Herringbone lay and Stack lay.

INSTALLING

We recommend that plank tiles are laid 1/3 or 1/4 offset or stacked directly on top of each other to minimise bowing that may be apparent (laying brick bond will highlight bowing). Note that large-format tiles and mosaics are usually more expensive to lay, due to requiring extra labour or more specialist tilers.

Some collections, such as our Microtiles and Mini Mosaics are sold on a sheet already laid. These collections are available in fun laying patterns such as basketweave, herringbone, brick and dot.

(Below top left) are metal look plank tiles laid with a 1/3 overlap and right are timber look plank tiles laid with a 1/4 overlap.



WARM OR COOL? DARK OR LIGHT?

To keep the space cohesive, we recommend you match warm tones with warm and cool tones with cool.

The photo (below left) is an example of a cool grey wall tile, paired with a cool grey floor tile, whereas the photo (below right) shows a cool wall tile with a warm floor tile.



Dark tiles can make the room feel cosy and intimate, when used well they can give a room a wonderful air of moodiness and sophistication.

Light colours will make the room look larger and brighter, as the pale colour reflects more light.



INDOOR-OUTDOOR FLOW

It is common to match an interior tile with the exterior version for a seamless indoor/outdoor flow. We have several ranges available in matching indoor and exterior finishes. Indoor-outdoor flow creates a cohesive space and can make the space look and feel larger.

Below: Indoor outdoor flow



MATCHING FLOOR & WALL

As well as using the same tile on the floor and wall, continuing materials from the floor to the ceiling creates the illusion that the area is larger. All of our floor tiles (apart from outdoor pavers) are suitable for wall installation.

We encourage using a floor and wall tile from the same range and supplier, for example, a polished and matt version of the same marble look tile, as they are designed to work together. If you wish to align the floor and wall grout joints, note that tiles come in nominal sizes, so care should be taken to make sure the joints line up.

Below: matching floor and wall



GROUT

It's really important to specify your grout colour to your tiler, as grout colour has a big effect on the look of the tiles once they are laid.

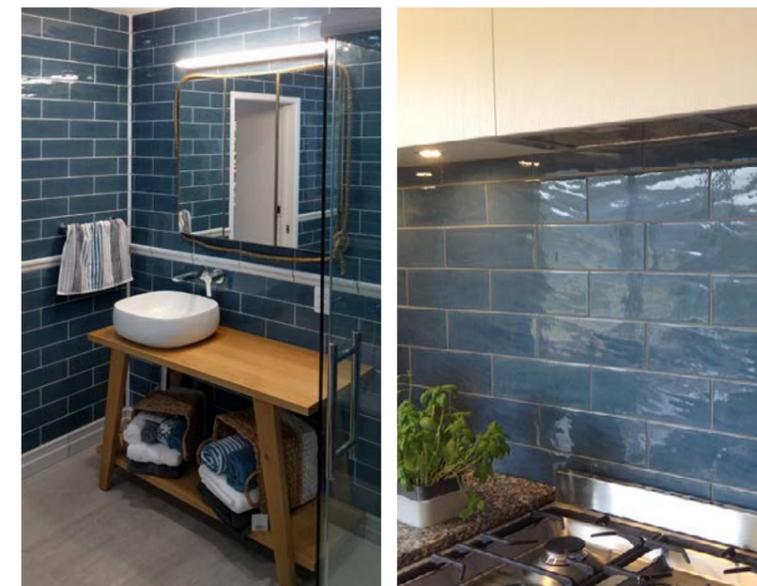
Grout is available in all different hues. Match the colour of your tile for a more subtle and natural look or choose a contrasting grout colour to make the design pop.

Our design consultants can help you choose a grout that will complement your tiles with stock available to buy from our Trade section. (Note, some of the less common grout colours may need to be ordered in specially.)



SAME TILE, DIFFERENT GROUT

Here is an example of how using different grouts can change the look of a tile. The white contrast grout (left) makes the space look bright and contemporary whereas the grey grout (right) gives the space more of an earthy old-fashioned look.



EPOXY GROUT

Epoxy Grout is recommended for swimming pools and high traffic areas where grout fading and maintenance can be issues. It is also recommended for shower recesses as it resists mould. If you are using Bisazza Mosaics discuss your grout options with one of our Design Consultants.



DESIGN POSSIBILITIES

FINISHES

Tiles come in different finishes, each offering a unique look and feel. Some finishes are recommended for particular areas of the home such as grip for outdoor use, whereas others are chosen for their design aesthetic.

Matt – Non polished, durable option, suitable for floors and walls.

Satin – Lightly polished for a honed finish.

Polished or semi-polished – After firing the tile is mechanically polished, for a shiny, reflective finish. Polished finishes are more durable than glazed finishes.

Glazed – A glaze is applied to the top layer of the tile to give it a shiny non-porous surface.

Roccia or structured – A finish with ridges and dips in the surface of the tile for extra grip outdoors.

Grip – A sandpaper-like finish, for extra grip outdoors.

ANTISLIP REGULATIONS

There are no specific New Zealand Building Code requirements for antislip and it is a customer's personal preference to choose which finish most suits their home and needs. The majority of our customers will choose a matt floor tile in wet areas such as the bathroom as they are less slippery than a polished tile.

For outdoor areas, we have tiles with a grip finish, while these can be harder to clean they are the preferred choice for high traffic areas such as entrance ways and terraces. A grip finish ensures the tiles aren't slippery when wet.

At Tile Space we stock over 200,000 sqm in our tile warehouse with 1000's of different designs. We have Art Deco, Contemporary, Wood Look, Concrete Look, Marble Look, Exterior and everything in between. The design possibilities are endless!

NATURAL MATERIALS

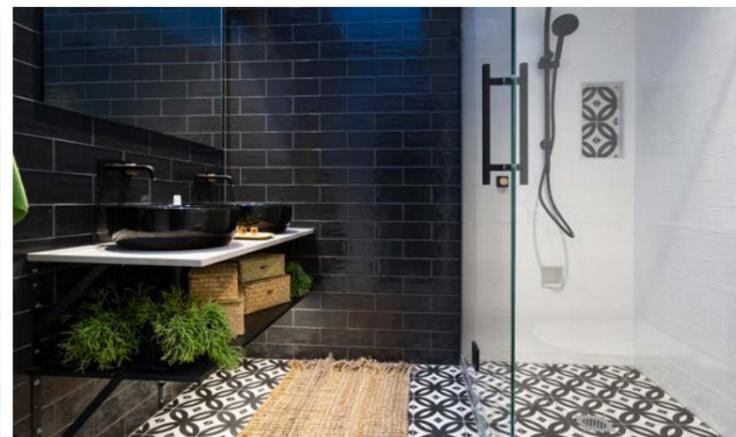
Modern tile manufacturers utilise sophisticated printing techniques which replicate natural surfaces realistically, offering almost limitless design options.

Global Italian companies put more money towards research, design and production. This results in a tile that is well thought out, has a more accurate design and is an excellent replica of natural materials such as marble or stone. These high-quality tiles have many different faces and variation, therefore, the pattern is less likely to be repeated, making them look more realistic and natural.

Below: Different finishes



Below: Different antislip tiles



Marble look



Timber look



Concrete look



Stone look



CREATE A FEATURE

From patterned encaustic look tiles to colourful subways and mosaics, tiles are a great way to create a feature. Whether you want a contemporary look, fun geometric design or pop of colour, the possibilities with tiles are endless.

Pair a feature tile with a complimentary tile in the same tone to create a cohesive space with interest.



PATTERN

Plainer patterns make the space look larger and the tiles are more of a backdrop for interesting furnishings.

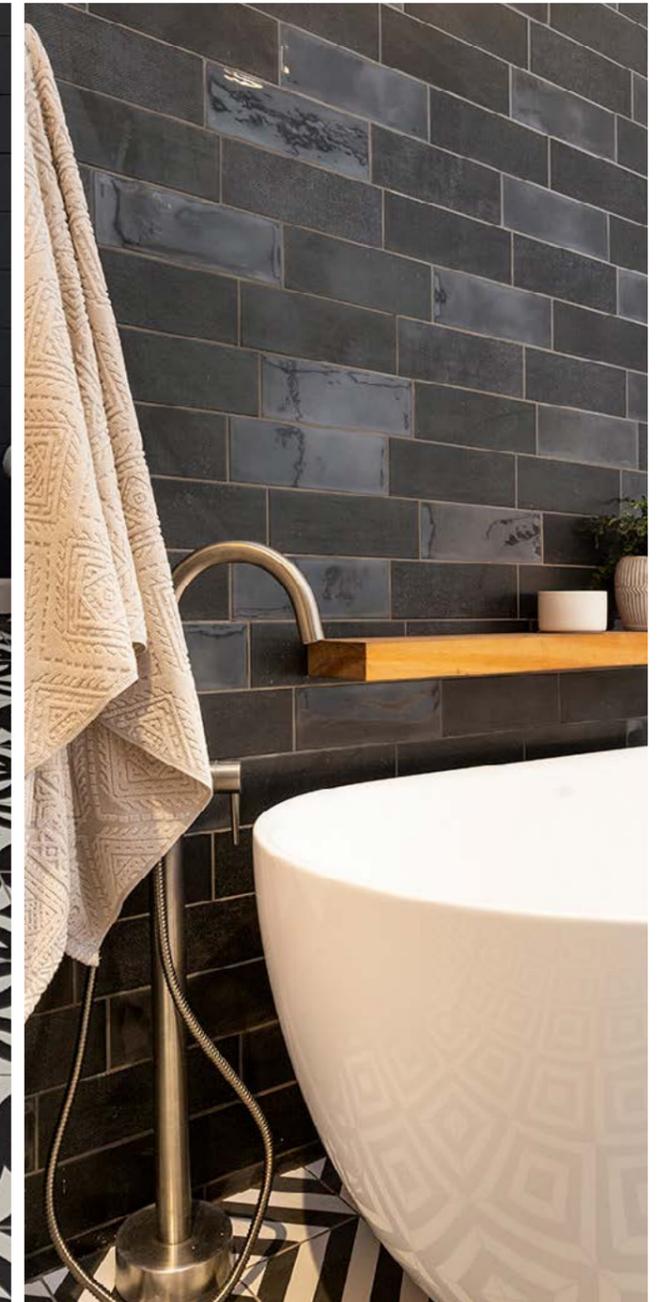
Busier patterns create wow-factor and make the space bolder.



FINISH

Polished is more refined and throws more light into the space whereas matt is more rustic and less slippery.

Create an interesting and contemporary look by mixing finishes when laying like the Diesel range below.



TILE SPACE

Albany ▪ Botany ▪ Ellerslie ▪ Henderson ▪ Parnell ▪ Whangaparaoa
▪ Hamilton ▪ Tauranga ▪ Wellington ▪ Dealers Nationwide ▪ tiles.co.nz