



METHOD OF STATEMENT: MARBLE & TILE FLOOR INSTALLATION USING TILE ADHESIVE

1. Purpose

To define the safe and quality-controlled procedure for installing marble and ceramic/porcelain floor tiles using approved cementitious tile adhesive.

2. Scope

This method applies to internal floor installation of marble, granite, ceramic, porcelain, and similar tiles over prepared concrete or screed substrates.

3. Materials and Tools

- Approved tile adhesive suitable for the tile type and substrate
- Approved grout and, where required, flexible sealant
- Marble/tiles, spacers, trims, and movement-joint materials
- Clean potable water
- Primer or waterproofing membrane where specified
- Notched trowel, rubber mallet, spirit level, tile cutter, straightedge, mixing drill, grout float, sponge, and cleaning cloths

4. Pre-Installation Requirements

- Confirm approved shop drawings, tile layout, material samples, and method of fixing.
- Ensure the substrate is sound, clean, dry, level, and free from dust, oil, laitance, paint, and loose material.
- Repair cracks, hollows, and uneven areas before installation
- Verify substrate flatness and levels against project specifications.



- Store tiles in a dry, protected area and inspect for damage, shade variation, and size consistency.
- Mark reference lines, finished floor level, tile pattern, cuts, thresholds, and movement joints.
- Ensure waterproofing is completed and tested where required before tiling.

5. Installation Procedure

1. Clean and prepare the floor substrate thoroughly. Apply primer if required by the adhesive manufacturer.
2. Set out the tile grid from the approved reference lines. Dry-lay tiles where necessary to confirm pattern, joints, and cut sizes.
3. Mix tile adhesive in a clean container using the manufacturer's recommended water ratio. Mix mechanically until uniform, allow it to stand if specified, then remix. Do not use adhesive beyond its stated pot life.
4. Spread adhesive over a workable area using the flat side of the trowel, then comb it with the appropriate notched trowel. Do not spread more adhesive than can be tiled within the open time.
5. For marble, large-format tiles, natural stone, and areas requiring full support, apply adhesive to both the substrate and the back of each tile (back-buttering).
6. Place tiles firmly into the adhesive bed, sliding slightly perpendicular to the trowel ridges to achieve full contact. Tap gently with a rubber mallet and check levels with a spirit level and straightedge.
7. Maintain uniform joint widths using spacers. Align tiles continuously and remove excess adhesive from joints before it hardens.
8. Avoid lipping between adjacent tiles. Adjust immediately while the adhesive remains workable.
9. Provide movement joints at perimeter walls, around columns, at thresholds, and at intervals specified in the drawings or manufacturer's recommendations. Do not fill movement joints with rigid grout.



10. Allow the installed tiles to cure for the adhesive manufacturer's recommended period. Protect the floor from traffic, impact, water, and contamination during curing.

11. After curing, remove spacers and grout the joints using approved grout. Press grout fully into joints with a rubber float, remove surplus material, and clean the tile surface with a damp sponge.

12. Apply flexible sealant to movement joints, perimeter joints, and interfaces with walls or fixed elements.

6. Quality Control

- Verify tile type, colour, size, finish, and adhesive against approved materials.
- Check floor levels, slopes, alignment, joint width, and tile pattern during installation.
- Ensure adequate adhesive coverage, particularly at corners and edges.
- Inspect for hollow spots, cracked tiles, stains, lipping, and uneven joints.
- Confirm grout colour and finish are uniform and that all movement joints remain functional.
- Protect completed work until final handover.

7. Health and Safety

- All workers shall wear safety shoes, gloves, eye protection, and dust masks when cutting or mixing materials.
- Use mechanical cutters with guards and dust-control measures.
- Keep work areas clean and free from slip, trip, and electrical hazards.
- Follow manufacturer safety data sheets for adhesives, grout, primers, and sealants.
- Use safe lifting practices for marble and large-format tiles; use lifting aids where needed.
- Dispose of waste, broken tiles, and empty containers in approved designated areas.





8. Acceptance Criteria

The completed floor shall be level or sloped as specified, firmly bonded, free of cracks and hollow sounds, consistently aligned, clean, and finished with uniform grout joints and properly sealed movement joints.

