



# glass tile installation

please read carefully  
before installing

Island Stone Glass Tile is handmade and kiln-fired. Some batch variation is natural. Inspect the product before installation, as use implies acceptance and no claim can be acknowledged after installation. Points below are a general guide only. Please contact your Island Stone stockist if you need more detail.

The tiles are installed similarly to high grade porcelain tiles. But they are less forgiving of poor preparation or workmanship. Installation must be prepared and carried out carefully.

As glass expands more than ceramic, ensure adequate expansion control joints including the perimeter. Maximum distance between joints: internally 20 -25 feet (6-7.5 meters), externally 8 -12 feet (2.5-3.5 meters). Grout joints should be a minimum 1/16 inch (1.5-2 millimeters).

## fixing

Island Stone's advanced glass backing allows installation over a combed thin-set bed as per standard ceramics. Use a white, latex modified thin-set mortar with high flexibility. With grey adhesive, some slight tonal shading may occur. Mix adhesives in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**Note:** Due to the impervious nature of glass, you may need extended drying times.

## cutting

Straight cuts need quality "score and snap" tile cutters. Those with a "T bar" lever action from above are best, eg Sigma brand. Those splitting by a point rising from beneath often result in chipping. Sharp edges should be dressed with a diamond stone. Cut outs and difficult cuts need LOW revolution (3500 -3800 rpm) wet saws with continuous rim diamond blades, eg Makita brand, model 4190DW. TIP: Glass cuts better when warm. Drilling requires water-cooled machines of low revolution speeds. Water-swivels fitted with hollow diamond core bits are best.

## grouting

Tile edges are transparent, so grout color can influence the color effect of tiles. Use grouts matching or tonally lighter than the tile color. Grout only when the adhesive has cured to a strong bond. Grouts should form part of a complete system as recommended by the adhesive provider. In exterior, wet, submersed or high vibration uses, use polymer/latex to modify the grout. Test sanded grouts beforehand.

## clean-up

Take extra care in grout clean-up. Pay special attention to glass with a textured surface or if modified grouts have been used. Grout left on the surface will shadow on the tile back. Grout on a textured surface can be hard to see if the surface is damp. Check carefully to ensure all excess has been removed. In the case of modified grouts, excess left to harden will be extremely difficult to remove. Grout an area that can be readily cleaned at a time.

Clean up by wiping with a COARSE, segmented sponge that is DAMP not wet. Wipe in a diagonal direction. Keep the sponge flat and wipe in short strokes. Rinse thoroughly between strokes. Avoid dragging grout from the joints. As glass is impervious, grout joints may dry slower than grout on the tile surface. Use a dry cloth for final polishing. If additional post grouting clean-up is needed, allow a minimum of ten days after grouting, then treat with an acid-based cleaner. Mask off sensitive materials and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Sealing glass serves no purpose as it is impervious. If desired, it can be treated with a surfactant such as "Ravak Anticalc" or "Clean-X Invisible Shield" to prevent soap/ calcium build up.