

## **Installation and Care**

Painted and etched products are intended for interior vertical and low traffic residential flooring installations only. Not for use outdoors in direct sunlight.

### **Inspection requirement:**

Confirm that all products have been inspected and approved before installation begins. Installation of the product signifies acceptance.

Claims of damage must be reported within 48 hours of receipt of material. Freight companies require that all product, boxes and packing material be saved for inspection. Store tile in a dry area where temperatures do not dip below freezing.

### **Grouting:**

We recommend non-sanded grout, however, sanded grout can be used with care. You should not use metal spatulas, trowels, or other tools. Instead, use tools that are rubber, plastic or some combination of poly/rubber/plastic. We have not tested every grouting product on the market, so it is always advisable to test first.

### **Tape:**

Do not use tape of any kind on products; this includes "Blue Tape."

## **Sealing:**

Grout must be sealed. Reseal product and grout with penetrating sealant yearly. If tiles are cut, be sure to re-seal edges before installation.

**\*Advisory regarding installing natural stone products in wet areas: Stone is VERY porous and should not be submerged. Do not use in any application where the tiles will be submerged in water, such as fountains or pools. While tiles may be installed on shower walls, a high quality waterproofing system, such as Schultex or Laticrete, should be used in showers. Our decorative tiles are not safe for installation in steam showers, saunas, or shower pans (floors).**

## **Countertops and stove tops:**

Stone is relatively soft, so we do not recommend installation of our tile on kitchen countertops. If tile is being installed behind or above a professional grade stove, please confirm the correct size riser is being used in accordance with the stove manufacturer's recommendations to ensure combustible wall material (including tile, dry wall, and wood studs used in standard "to code" construction) is properly protected from prolonged exposure to high heat.

## **Fireplaces:**

These tiles are sealed with a clear and strong acrylic which withstands temperatures below 600 degrees. The tile is perfect for a fireplace mantel so long as no flame or excessive temperatures will reach the tiled area.

**Freeze/thaw conditions:**

Our products have not been tested for use in temperatures below freezing.

**Moisture Barrier Disclaimer:**

When stone is installed on a concrete slab at ground level, it is the responsibility of the buyer and installer to ensure that a proper moisture barrier is in place prior to installation.

**Continuing Care and Cleaning Recommendations for Natural Stone:**

Stone is a natural product, and care should be taken to protect it from harsh abrasive cleaners and abrasive cleaning tools. Cleaning can be done with a soft cloth, warm water, and non-acidic soap. Avoid any care products that contain abrasives, phosphoric acids, scouring powders, chlorine, acetone or glycolic acids, and avoid brushes and scouring pads. Never use an electric scrubber/buffer, any rotary tools, etc. Follow sealer maintenance schedule recommended by sealer manufacturer.

As part of a normal maintenance procedure, all products require re-sealing on a regular basis. Follow maintenance schedule recommended by sealer manufacturer. Decostone Design do not warranty, and will not be responsible for any claims regarding sealers.

**Variation and Uniformity:**

Variations of shade and color are inherent in any natural stone product. No two pieces are exactly alike. Certain types of stone tiles have naturally occurring holes or veins running through them. Your product will have surface variations throughout the design. All natural stones have unique natural variations and inclusions that are impossible to show in a photograph or sample. For this reason, all items should be unpacked and inspected prior to installation, as Decostone Design cannot accept claims for variation in any stone after installation.

**Disclaimer:**

Decostone Design provides product information and information concerning certain installation procedures and maintenance practices to assist its customers in making selection, usage, installation, and maintenance decisions. It is the responsibility of the customer and/or the customer's installer to prepare any installation requirement to meet the owner/customer's approval. The customer's selection and usage of our products and the installation procedure and maintenance practice employed are outside the direction and control of Decostone Design and are strictly and completely the choice and responsibility of each customer. Decostone Design does not warrant any product for any specific use, nor any installation procedure or maintenance practice. Decostone Design expressly disclaims all claims asserted after customer installation or use of Decostone Design products.