



Cimenterie  
de la Tour

## ABOUT THE CEMENT TILES

### Tile Measurements:

Dimensions (cm)	Thickness (mm)	Tiles per m <sup>2</sup>	Tiles per linear m.	Weight per tile (kg)
20 x 20	16	25	5	1.30kg
15 x 15	16	45	7	0.73kg
20 x 10	16	50	5	0.65kg

### Tile Structure:

- The base of the tile is a 13mm layer of wet mortar, consisting of grey cement, sand and gravel.
- There is an intermediary layer of cement and dry sand.
- The top layer of about 3mm consists of white cement and marble powder, mixed with coloured pigment.

### Manufacturing Process:

#### - Preparation

The mould is meticulously cleaned and lubricated. In the case of pattern tiles a grid is laid in the bottom of the mould to separate the colours.

#### - Colouring Process

Using a small funnel, the pigment is carefully poured into each section of the grid. A weight of 20 kg is applied to ensure an even spread of the colour.

#### - Intermediary Layer

The grid is removed with great care, so that the different colours meet without merging. (Hence the importance of the consistency of the pigments – if they are too liquid they merge.) A thin layer of cement and sand is then applied to fix this upper surface.

#### - Base

The mould is then filled with wet mortar and the total thickness checked with a wooden gauge. The mould is then covered with a heavy lid and inserted in a hydraulic press at 100kg/cm<sup>2</sup> (40 tonnes per tile).

The quality of the mould is critical at this point, for only the excess water must be released under pressure.

#### - Removal from the Mould

A critical stage of the process. The mould is dismantled and the tile, face down on the base of the mould, must be removed without distortion or other damage.

**Espace Lacombe 20 rue de Croix - 34 880 Lavérune - France**

**☎: (33) 04 67 07.50.55 - 📠: (33) 04 67.07.50.47 - E mail: [info@cimenterie-de-la-tour.com](mailto:info@cimenterie-de-la-tour.com)  
n° de siret 409 258 787 000 46**



**Cimenterie  
de la Tour**

**- Drying**

The tiles are then placed on their edge in wooden racks for 24 hours, while the cement starts to set. They are then plunged into cold water, where they remain for several hours, to stop the setting process before they become brittle.

**- Storage**

Although this may seem less important, it is this process which ensures the lasting quality of the tiles. For 30 days the tile must dry in the shade and not be moved; it is only after that time that the cement is completely mature and becomes stable.

**FINALLY ...**

The quality of a good cement tile is of course dependant upon the mix of ingredients (a professional secret), the quality of the equipment and the skill of the artisans.

But all these qualities are wasted if the final drying and storage of the tiles is not done properly. This stage can be compared to the maturing of a fine cheese or a wine.

Some manufacturers of cement tiles have adopted mass production techniques and reduced the time of the production cycle. And while the effect of insufficient drying is not directly visible, it will become apparent after the tiles have been laid, for they are fragile, unlike those made in the traditional method. Indeed in North Africa, the traditional home of cement tiles, millions of square meters have been laid and survived for generations – even in industrial premises.

It is for this reason that the production at Cimenterie de la Tour combines strict adherence to traditional methods and a modern manufacturing environment.

**NON CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENT**

---

**Espace Lacombe 20 rue de Croix - 34 880 Lavérune - France**

**☎: (33) 04 67 07.50.55 - 📠: (33) 04 67.07.50.47 - E mail: [info@cimenterie-de-la-tour.com](mailto:info@cimenterie-de-la-tour.com)  
n° de siret 409 258 787 000 46**