

# Advice and treatment | Cement Tiles, manufacturer of cement tiles and Floor Tile

 [cimenterie-de-la-tour.com /cement-tiles/advice-treatment/](http://cimenterie-de-la-tour.com/cement-tiles/advice-treatment/)

## Laying cement tiles :

We strongly recommend that a professional tiler should lay our tiles using traditional methods. Remember these tiles are handmade and quality workmanship can only enhance the beauty of your floors or walls. In any case, the following advice should be of help:

- When the tiles are unpacked they have a slight film of cement dust caused by the drying process. This is normal and can be removed with fine sandpaper and water before final laying
- First, the floor tiles should be laid dry to achieve a perfect match of the subtle variations and harmony in the tone of the colors.

### For laying by the traditional method :

Wet the tiles to clean and remove any dust. Lay the tiles on a screed of light mortar (150 kg/m<sup>3</sup>). Place then directly on the screed and level with minimum pressure. Do not use a hammer to level them. We recommend the use of a large diameter wooden mallet.

### For adhesive cement laying, follow these 8 steps:

- Prepare a thick adhesive mixture (picture 1)
- Using a wide tooth comb, spread the mixture over an area slightly exceeding the width of the tile and long enough to permit several tiles to be laid at once (picture 2)
- Coat the surface of the tile with the same mixture and place the tile in position (3)
- The distance between tiles should be the thickness of a trowel blade (4)
- To level the tile, use hand pressure only (5)
- Remove all excess cement from the tiles as soon as fixed in place to avoid permanent cement burns (6)
- Use either standard grouting or, in the case of floors, sweep in dry adhesive cement and moisten it (7)
- Surface treatment (8)



## Cement tiles – surface treatment :

To ensure a service second to none, Cement Tiles of Tour has partnered with the company Sodéra Equipment, who are specialists in surface treatments.

In the case of cement adhesive fixing, surface treatment should be left until at least a week after laying the tiles; in the case of tiles laid on a concrete screed the ideal waiting method is one month. This permits the completion of the process of carbonisation, which results in a white surface film. Delaying the treatment even longer does not give rise to any problems.

## **STAGE 1: Decarbonisation**

A/ Apply an appropriate decarbonising product to the tiles, strictly following the manufacturer's recommendations. Different brands vary in concentration. Cement Tiles of Tour recommends and uses "S4", diluted with water (250 ml for 15 liter minimum) and applied to small areas at a time with a disposable pad, such as green Scotch Brite. For small surfaces a scrubbing brush will do. The scrubbing action, combined with the acid solution, will eliminate the white residue of the cement. It will also make the surface smoother, for easier cleaning in the future.

B/ Rinse the surface two or three times with clean water.

Leave to dry at least 24 hours.

C/ USE THE DECARBONISING PRODUCT ONCE ONLY ! If there are still some traces of white, remove them with fine glass paper or Scotch Brite.

## **STAGE 2: Preparation for Kitchen Surfaces only**

Apply a coat of "Oleosealer", which increases resistance to oil and grease stains, beyond waterproofing. The product should be applied using a squeegee or a brush and allowed to dry. 1 litre is sufficient for approximately 8m<sup>2</sup>.

## **STAGE 3: Permanent waterproofing**

Cement Tiles of Tour uses "terrazo sealer"

A/ Ensure the surface to be treated is clean, dry and free from grease or oil. Then apply the micro-porous product with a squeegee or a wool fleece roller (8 to 16mm). 1 litre will cover 10m<sup>2</sup>.

In most cases a single coat will suffice. If a second coat is required, wait 24 hours between coats. In the case of floors do not walk on them for 24 hours.

B/ (Optional) To speed the formation of a satin-like patina on the surface of the tiles, two coats of a patina surface treatment may be applied.

## **STAGE 4: Daily Care**

After the above waterproofing, use normal cleaning products for kitchen or bathroom tile surfaces. No special care need be taken.

**IMPORTANT :** It is very important not to clean the tiles before their treatment with soft soap containing linseed oil, otherwise the pores of the tiles.

After application keep the surface protected from water for at least two weeks. It will become blocked with the oil. In such a case it will be necessary to always use linseed oil-based soft soap for cleaning the tiles.

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