

Tile Placement and Treatment

For an optimal result when placing the Cement Tiles and Zelliges we have put together the information below. It is important that you carefully follow the instructions and steps as given.

Cement Tiles

General

Azule cement tiles are made entirely by hand using traditional methods. It is a unique and authentic product and therefore requires a special treatment with regards to placement and maintenance in comparison to other types of tiles. The cement tiles are produced without heat and only use environmentally friendly and durable materials.

Slight deviations in the colour, form and pattern are inherent in the production of these tiles as they are all handmade. These deviations are considered normal and it is exactly these variations which give the tiles their unique characteristics.

For more information regarding the history and production of cement tiles visit our web site.

A). Necessary materials;

- Primer, Weber LH700
- Glue; Weber LC220
- Grout; Weber LV400
- Azule Tile Spacers 2mm
- Permaflex breathable coverfoil (or a breathable cotton blanket, not plastic!)
- Azule Cement DirtRemover
- Azule StainStop
- Depending on the area; Azule TileOil, ColourIntensifier, Polymer, Nano-spray
- Azule MaintainSoap
- Foam brush roller, tray, sponge and a bucket
- Watercooled tile cutter
- Grout float, trowel, 8mm notch trowel
- Lint-free cotton cloth

B). What you need to know:

GENERAL

- We advise always using an authorised tiling company who have experience in setting this type of tiles.
- Make a well thought out plan on how the tiles should be arranged in the space. Use our floor planner for a symmetrical calculation.
- When your pattern consists of a pattern in the middle and border tiles it is wise to begin laying the tiles in the middle first and place the border tiles later. This will result in a more even edge.

- The underlying ground must always be flat. Before glueing the tiles, it is best if you first treat the underlying ground with a primer to help strengthen adhesion. This also applies if you are planning to use the tiles outside on a terrace.
- If you want to tile over a wooden surface, the wood must be water resistant/ water resistant multiplex. Make sure that the wooden surface is very secure, use beams to secure well if necessary so that no movement can occur when walking over the floor. A wooden floor which is not very well secured can eventually lead to the loosening of joints and through this breakage of the tiles lying on top. Use a primer which is suitable for strenghtening adhesion to wood.
- Cement tiles are best cut with a watercooled tile cutter. This can be hired from a Building depot. It is advisable to immediately wash the freshly cut tiles with clean water to avoid the waste water absorbing into the top layer of the tile.
- Take care to always work cleanly. The top layer of the tile is made from marble powder and left untreated is very susceptible to dirt and liquids. This top layer left untreated is quite porous. Always immediately remove any glue or dirt which comes into the contact with the top layer of the tile whilst laying them.
- Only use a silver-grey, grey or jasmine-white grout. This depends on the colour of your chosen tiles. Never use a black coloured grout.
- Use tiles spacers of a maximum size of 2mm for the grout; a broader grouting will disturb the pattern. You can obtain the tiles spacers from Tiledesigns free of charge.
- Always work in a well ventilated area during the placement and treatment of the tiles and carefully read the instructions on the packaging of the materials you use. Never turn on the floor heating during the laying and treatment of the tiles.
- During your building use a breathable coverfoil to protect the floor (this is also available from Tiledesigns). Never use plastic or any type of non-breathable material because it seals the floor completely and prevents the tile from drying properly. In addition to this the colour of the non-breathable material could transfer to the tile. The edges of the tiles can be finished/ protected with an inox L profile. This special profile is availabe from Tiledesigns.
- The tile edges can be finished with a RVS corner profile which can be glued underneath the tiles. This special RVC corner profile is available from TileDesigns.

IMPREGNATION

- Impregnate the cement tiles after gluing. Before grouting always apply Azule StainStop twice. This is the first impregnation agent. Remove any bubbles with a clean sponge. Do not apply any pressure on the sponge.
- After grouting and cleaning the tiles with Azule CalciumRemover, you need to impregnate the tiles again. Depending on the size of the area there are several additional impregnations required. In areas where more dirt will come into contact with the tiles such as; in kitchens, hallways and toilets, but also for use in outdoor areas, it is necessary to impregnate using Azule TileOil or ColourIntensifier.

- Use only a silver grey, grey or jasmine white grout. This will depend on the colour of the tiles. Never use a black colour grout.
- After applying the ColourIntensifier with a roller brush, immediately rub with a cotton lint-free cloth.
- 15 minutes after applying TileOil with a roller brush, rub with a clean, lint-free cotton cloth.
- With 1 liter of Azule CalciumRemover, 1 liter StainStop, 1 liter ColourIntensifier and 1 liter of Azule TileOil you will have enough to treat between 10m² to 12 m².
- Never leave Azule ColourIntensifier and/ or Azule TileOil to dry into the tiles. This will only cause stains.
- Maintain your tiles periodically (approximately once per week) with preferably Azule MaintainSoap and water. This agent is acid free and contains a small concentration of impregnator. You can easily order Azule MaintainSoap on our website and therefore ensure a long life for your tiles.
- Never use cleaning agents which contain acid on the tiles. Agents such as sanitary cleansers, all-use cleansers, bleach and chlorine bleach cause irrevocable damage to the surface of your tile.

C). Step by Step placement and treatment:

For the best result it is wise to strictly follow the step by step guide and instructions.

Step 1: Gluing the tiles

When gluing your tiles, only use a flexible tile glue which suitable for natural stone.

We advise Weber LC 220. Make the glue according to the instructions on the packet. The surface area to be glued must be dust and grease free, flat and dry. Use a primer to enhance adhesion.

The glue must be applied evenly to the surface area (the area on which the tiles will be placed) using a trowel (100% coverage). Apply enough glue so that you can lay about 10 tiles. Place the tiles with a sliding motion in the glue. For the correct distance between the tiles, use 2mm tile spacers. Remove any superfluous glue or dirt from the tile immediately.

Once the floor has been glued you must wait 24 hours before walking (carefully) on it. We advise that you leave the floor to dry for at least 72 hours – in a normally heated room – before you move on to the next step. By leaving the joint between the tiles open for this length of time, oxygen can reach the glue and help to harden it. It is important that the moisture in and under the tiles is allowed to evaporate. Do not use under-floor heating at any time during this process.

Step 2: Cleaning the tiles with Azule CalciumRemover

Once the tile glue has hardened to a satisfactory level, you can clean the floor with Azule CalciumRemover. This product will remove any (building) dirt from the tiles or any dirt which was created during placement. Use a sponge to clean the tiles. See the packaging for the correct usage.

Azule CalciumRemover can also be used undiluted when using on extremely dirty surfaces.

In this situation, leave the liquid to be absorbed and then clean very well with a brush. The floor must be completely dry before moving to Step 3.

Step 3: Impregnating Cement Tiles with Azule StainStop

Cement tiles always need to be impregnated – before grouting – with Azule StainStop. If this is not done then the toplayer can be permanently damaged. Azule StainStop is a base impregnation agent.

The tiles must be completely clean and dry before you begin the impregnation. You can check this easily by using a fatfree A4 piece of paper and leave it for a number of hours on the tiles. If the paper becomes damp or warped the floor is not dry enough. You should always impregnate the tiles twice, irrespective of the area.

Cover 2 rows of 10 tiles each with Azule StainStop. For this use a foam roller brush and cover the tiles generously and evenly with Azule StainStop. Do not press too hard on the roller brush. Once you are at tile number 10, you will see that tile number 1 has already started to dry. The cement tiles absorb the impregnation agent quite fast.

The impregnation agent will foam lightly during the application with the roller brush. For this reason it is best that after impregnation a dry sponge is rubbed gently over the tiles.

Do not apply pressure. By this you can avoid the impregnation agent drying in a foamed state and thus leave as few blemishes as possible. The rubbing is only intended to spread the impregnation agent in a more even manner and remove any soapy water or bubbles from the surface of the tile. For clarification; rub very gently, apply no pressure and do not use any water.

Once you have treated the all tiles 1 time as described above, you can repeat a second time in the same manner. Once the second layer has been applied, leave the floor to dry for at least 12 hours – in a normally heated and ventilated room - before grouting.

Be careful! Take care that the tiles are always clean and dry before treating them with Azule StainStop. Cement tiles must never be impregnated if they are still wet or if there is damp present under the tiles. This can cause small white stains (calcification) because the impregnation agent can not evaporate.

Make sure there is good ventilation during the impregnation. Carefully read the instructions on the label.

Step 4: Grouting Cement tiles and cleaning with Azule DirtSolver

Once you have applied the first 2 treatments as described in Step 3 and allowed to properly dry (approx. 12 hours), you can move on to grouting. Use a water-resistant grout which is suitable for natural Stone. We advise Weber LV 400 which is available from Tiledesigns. Use only silver-grey, grey or jasmine white grout. This depends on the colour of your chosen tiles. Never use a black coloured grout! This is because of conflicting pigments. It is very important that the grout is not applied too thinly. Read the instructions for the grout carefully.

During grouting remove any superfluous grout immediately from the toplayer of the tiles. The grout cannot be allowed a chance to absorb into the toplayer of the tile. The excess grout must be removed from the tile within 30 minutes with a sponge and water-thinned Azule DirtSolver (1/3 of the bottle to 5 parts water). The sponge should not be too wet.

Leave the tiles to dry until there is a light grey film left. This normally appears within 1 hour in a normally heated and ventilated room. Remove this film with a sponge and new mix of Azule DirtSolver and water. Repeat this treatment until the tiles are clean and there is no trace of the film left.

Step 5: Repeat impregnation

After you have treated the tiles twice with Azule StainStop (step 3) and once the grout has been well cleaned with Azule CalciumRemover (step 4), you should apply the finishing layers. You should impregnate the tiles with the finishing layers a few more times (minimum 2x) in order to give the right level of protection. The amount of times differs per tile. The tiles are well impregnated when the water stays on the surface of the tile and is not absorbed.

What you treat the tiles with depends on the area concerned (kitchen, living-room, toilet, terrace, etc) and the desired effect (intensifying the colour, shine, etc). Choose for one of the following treatment products; ColourIntensifier, TileOil, Nano-spray or again StainStop and treat the floor several times. Combining ColourIntensifier, TileOil or Nano-spray is not possible.

Be careful!! Irrespective of the final treatment the surface of the tile should always first be impregnated twice with Azule StainStop; For the optimal result we advise the following impregnation agents for the finishing touch per room:

Room: Living-room, Hallway, Conservatory. Effect: Colourless/ Standard => Azule StainStop.

Azule StainStop is a colourless impregnation agent. The appearance of your floor will remain the same.

Apply the product evenly with a foam roller on the clean and dry surface area. Simultaneously cover 2 rows of 10 tiles each generously with Azule StainStop. When you are at tile number 10 you will see that tile number 1 is already beginning to dry. The cement tiles absorb the impregnator quite quickly. You will also see that the impregnation agent foams slightly during application. For this reason you must, after impregnation, gently rub a

dry sponge over the tiles. Do not apply pressure. By this you avoid the impregnation agent leaving small circles or stains. The rubbing is only intended to spread the impregnator more evenly and to prevent any soap or bubbles staining the tiles. You should rub very gently as otherwise the impregnation agent will not be absorbed into the tiles! If the entire area has been treated, the second layer can be applied immediately in the same manner.

In total you should treat the tiles 4 times with Azule StainStop. Repeat the treatment until Azule StainStop is no longer absorbed. Remove any unabsorbed product within 10 minutes to prevent any stains from forming.

Room: Toilet, Bathroom, Shower and outdoor terrace. Effect: Intensify the Colour => ColourIntensifier

Azule ColourIntensifier contains resins and enhances the colour and structure of the tile.

Apply the product evenly with a foam roller on the clean and dry surface area. Simultaneously cover 2 rows of 6 tiles (max.) generously with Azule ColourIntensifier. When you are at tile number 6 you will see that tile number 1 is already beginning to dry. The cement tiles absorb the impregnator quite quickly.

Following this you must immediately wipe the area just treated (2 rows of 6 tiles) with a lint-free cotton cloth. This prevents stripes from forming. Repeat this until you have treated the entire surface of the tile. Once the entire tile surface has been treated one time in this manner, the second layer can be applied after a few hours in the same way.

In total the surface area of the tiles should be now treated twice with Azule StainStop and twice with Azule ColourIntensifier.

Room: Kitchen and dining room. Effect: Strong depth of colour without shine => Azule TileOil

Azule TileOil gives your tile a beautifully deep, rich colour. Tiles with white colours become a off-white colour. TileOil makes the tile more resistant to grease (from food, cooking splatters) and is therefore strongly advised for kitchen floors.

Apply the product, with a foam roller brush, thinly and evenly on the clean and dry surface. Leave the TileOil to dry in for a maximum of 15 minutes on the surface area.

After each application with the foam roller brush, rub the surface with a clean, lint-free cotton cloth. Once the surface has been treated once in this manner, the second layer can be applied after a couple of hours in the same way.

In total the tile surface should be treated to a minimum of twice with Azule StainStop and twice with Azule TileOil! For the best result you can repeat the treatment with TileOil until the product is no longer absorbed into the tiles.

Room: All vertically placed tiles. Effect: Water and dirt resistance/ colourless => Azule Nano-spray

Azule Nano-spray makes the surface water and oil resistant without diminishing the natural appearance. Walls in kitchens (especially behind stoves) will be protected against cooking

splatters and grease spots.

Apply the product thinly and evenly to the surface. Spray the tiles from a distance of 10cm to 20cm, spray in a downward movement. Occasional treatment is sufficient. However for the correct level of protection this should be repeated once per quarter.

The following applies to all products: work in a well ventilated area and in the case of uncertainty, first test a small area. When the tiles are laid in different rooms/ areas it is wise to choose the same protection to avoid any differences in colour.

With correct use stain buildup can be as avoided as much as possible. As the tiles are handmade, each can differ in the level of porosity, colour and toughness and remain vulnerable to damage through the absorption of dirt, you must take this into account! Always remove any dirt as soon as possible.

Step 6: Daily Maintenance

For regular maintenance (once a week) use Azule MaintainSoap. This is a liquid soap which we developed especially for cement tiles. MaintainSoap contains a small concentration of impregnation agent so that the floor is impregnated a little with each clean.

Finally

If there are unexpected stains on your tiles, please contact us. Stains can have many possible causes and in most cases can be easily overcome.

We strongly recommend only using the previously named products.

If you have questions or are unsure of the treatment, please contact us in order to avoid any disappointments.

Zelliges

General

Zelliges (Moroccan wall tiles) are handcrafted and delicate products. Unusual colour nuances give this tile its distinctive character. Therefore it is possible that you can come across slight differences in colour within the same box of tiles. Zelliges are baked two times in a traditional tile-oven. The tiles must go into the oven/ dried one time plain, then the pigment is added and they go into the oven for the final stage. Once this process is complete the tiles are finished by hand. The edges are obliquely truncated with a hammer and chisel. This gives the tile a sharp but fragile edge. Due to this sharp edge the zelliges can be placed very closely together so that only the minimum amount of grout will be needed. Zelliges are very easily broken, so transport of the tiles must be carefully undertaken. We advise ordering 5% to 10% extra Zelliges in case of breakage. This is a permissible percentage. It is unfortunately not possible for us to check all boxes, therefore we advise that you order an extra 5% to 10%. The artisan character of the tile means that there can be small inconsistencies, tears, cracks or uneven edges present. These serve to make the tile more vivid and enhance the Arabian appearance. Remember that Zelliges are not your standard factory tile. Zelliges are available in sizes 10x10cm and 5x5cm. The thickness can vary slightly. This is also an inherent part of this product. The difference in thickness can be overcome by applying more tile glue or 'double-glue' to the underside of the thinner tiles.

Placing Zelliges

Place the tiles as close as possible to each other. A grout width of 1mm is sufficient. Glue the underside of the Zelliges and the wall. Use enough glue on the Zelliges and on the wall so that any difference in thickness is concealed. Make sure that the wall is flat and even; use a primer to increase adhesion.

As Zelliges are quite different to other variations of tiles in terms of form, thickness and colour, they do not have to be precisely placed. The grout width of 1mm (maximum) will be more than enough, there will actually always be a slightly uneven surface. This is the nature of Zelliges! We advise that you use the following tile glue: Weber LC 220.

Grouting Zelliges

Use a thin grout so that it can be easily placed between the thin grout spacing. Only begin grouting 1 day after laying the tiles (once the glue is completely dry). Always use a water-resistant grout. Do not wet the tiles before grouting! After grouting the tiles must be cleaned well with water and soap. It may be necessary for the grout to be applied a number of consecutive times (as a thin grout must be used). We advise that you use the following grout: Weber LV 400 (more colours are available).

Zelliges can be water-cooled and cut with a tile saw. This needs to be done very carefully as the Zelliges are not as hard as factory baked tiles.

When choosing which tiles to cut, always use the tiles which already have some chips or a little damage. Preserve the perfect tiles for the middle areas. Zelliges are hand-made,

therefore it can happen that during transport or shipping that small chips are made on the tiles. These tiles can be used for the walls or corners. Unfortunately we cannot do anything about this. The permissible percentage of breakage is calculated at 10%. The broken tiles are in fact perfect for use on the places where you would need to cut the tiles to fit. In most instances you will be able to use all broken tiles in your project.

You can maintain the Zelliges with normal cleaning materials.

These details are not legally binding, they are for information only and depend upon the person who applies them to our products. [Click here](#) for the general conditions of sale and warranty.