

# EUPHORIA

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## APPLICATIONS

Suitable for:

- Interior walls
- Showers (no steam)
- Pools (except freeze thaw areas)
- Exteriors (including freeze thaw, except on horizontal surfaces where water can accumulate)

This is not a step-by-step installation guide, but general precautions and tips on how to install and care for your tile. Select installers for our products with great consideration and care as proper installation is critical. Installation constitutes acceptance.

The ceramic body for Euphoria did pass freeze/thaw testing for outdoor use. However, we do not recommend using Euphoria on a horizontal surface where water can accumulate.

## HANDCRAFTED CHARACTERISTICS

Variation in shade, color, texture and size are inherent characteristics of these handcrafted tiles. Euphoria glaze formulations and firing process are an evolution of the traditional Raku process, a type of Japanese pottery. The result is a uniquely beautiful tile where no two pieces are exactly alike. As such, the tiles finally purchased will vary from both the catalog illustrations and samples. Once properly installed, the beauty of this handcrafted tile is enhanced by such variation.

## BEFORE INSTALLATION

- The beauty of Euphoria glazes can result in **EXTREME** variation, particularly with the lusters.
- **AN EXPERIENCED CRAFTSPERSON MUST BLEND AND SET EUPHORIA TILES.**
- All tiles must be laid out prior to setting to allow for blending of the color range. The resulting variation is beautiful, but tiles must be carefully blended prior to installation.
- The high fire process used to produce this tile sometimes results in a hazy residue. Prior to blending for color, wipe off tiles with a soft, damp cloth. The true color of the tile will be more apparent without residue.

## INSTALLATION

- Install Euphoria per industry standards and always refer to the most current Tile Council of North America (TCNA) “Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation”
- Movement joints are essential for the success of tile installations. Follow recommendations on movement joints EJ 171 in the most current TCNA “Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation”
- It is very important to use a glass cutting thin diamond blade to cut Euphoria not a tile/brick blade.

## SEALING

- **FOR ALL APPLICATIONS CRACKLE GLAZES MUST BE SEALED BEFORE GROUTING TO LIMIT WATER PENETRATION AND TILE DISCOLORATION.** We recommend a sealer such as Aquamix Gold or similar. To create crackle glazes, the glaze surface develops cracks (which do not affect the integrity of the tile), not the tile body. As a result, **unsealed crackle tile will stain**. If unsealed crackle glaze tiles get wet, they will temporarily darken from the moisture. Allow tile to dry before resealing the area. Crackle glazes may continue to crackle over time and resealing is highly recommended every 6 months based on usage and application. Some water related darkening may still occur.
- Sealing is also recommended for backsplashes to help prevent staining in the cracks from food splashes while cooking. Unsealed tile may stain. Resealing the area should be repeated every 6 months to maintain best appearance.

## GROUTING

- **Any dark or contrasting grouts are likely to stain crackle glazes. Sealing may not prevent staining.** If a dark or contrasting grout is desired, sealer and grout must be tested on tile prior to installation. Sealers such as Aquamix Gold or similar may help prevent staining, but must be tested prior to using a grout color and always follow sealer manufacturer’s instructions.

## SHOWERS

- We recommend the use of pre-formed waterproof shower systems (such as Schluter Kerdi-Shower-Kit, Laticrete Hydro Ban or similar products), or one of the TCNA methods that require a gap and flexible sealant between the mortar bed and shower wall substrate.

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## CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

- For everyday cleaning use a mild dishwashing soap with water or a ph neutral cleaner made for tile
- Avoid harsh chemicals (such as phosphoric acid, vinegar, lemon juice etc.)
- Use a non-abrasive cloth/sponge for cleaning
- For any cleaning products, always test a small inconspicuous area first to make sure it doesn't affect the tile's glaze
- Clean up any spills or stains immediately not allowing them to dry
- Grout lines can be cleaned with warm water and soft bristle cleaning brush
- Periodic resealing every 6 months based on usage and application is highly recommended

## **IMPORTANT!**

We recommend wet cutting or the score and snap method during the installation process. Do not dry cut using power tools during the installation process. Improper installation techniques could expose installer to harmful dust.