

## technical information

### ARTISAN / STELLAR / STAR / TRIBECA

<p><b>CHARACTERISTICS</b></p>	<p><b>OVERALL:</b> These product lines are made with a semi-absorbent talc clay body. With this body particular attention must be paid to the following: 1) installation of an absorbent clay body; 2) usage of matte glazes; 3) extra care required for crackles in wet area.</p> <p><b>CRACKLES:</b> To create a crackle glaze, the glaze surface actually develops the cracks, not the tile body. As a result, crackle glazes are more prone to water staining in wet areas.</p> <p><b>MATTE:</b> Our matte glazes have a very durable surface that holds up to most abrasion tests. However, some matte glazes are more prone to surface staining. Surface staining may develop when particles get trapped in the “micron size pits” on the glaze surface. Please see the Usage section below for more information.</p>
<p><b>INSTALLATION &amp; MAINTENANCE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow TCA installation guidelines to prevent water from entering the back or edges of the tile</li> <li>- Seal cut tile with penetrating sealer prior to installation</li> <li>- Before grouting, seal all the tile edges with a penetrating sealer after they have been set</li> <li>- Seal grout with penetrating sealer or grout sealer</li> <li>- For crackles, use a penetrating sealer to help prevent or delay the effects of water staining. Soaking tile for 5 minutes in a penetrating sealer will help to minimize staining. Please note that unsealed tile will stain.</li> </ul>
<p><b>USAGE</b></p>	<p><b>ALL GLOSSIES &amp; CRACKLES:</b> These tiles are intended for use on interior walls and some counter tops. While not rated for counter top usage, glossies and crackles are suitable for light duty counter tops. As with any transparent glaze, scratches may show more easily. If crackles are used in a wet area, staining may result. This can be minimized by following the notes in the Installation &amp; Maintenance section above.</p> <p><b>ARTISAN &amp; STELLAR MATTES:</b> Intended for use on interior walls as well as some counter tops and floors. Artisan and Stellar mattes are comparable in terms of their high resistance to abrasion. However, Stellar mattes are resistant to staining; Artisan mattes are more prone to staining. Therefore, Stellar mattes are more suitable for medium duty counter tops and floors.</p> <p><b>STAR &amp; TRIBECA MATTES:</b> Intended for use on interior walls as well as some counter tops and floors. Star/ TriBeCa mattes have a high resistance to abrasion, but may be prone to staining.</p>
<p><b>ASTM TEST RESULTS</b> (American Society Testing for Materials)</p>	<p>Artisan and Stellar mattes were tested by Tile Council of America for abrasion resistance and staining. They are rated class 4 according to ASTM Test C1027 which indicates they are graded for heavy traffic. Based on the staining test (ASTM C1378). Stellar mattes were highly resistant to various staining agents. Artisan mattes were found to be more prone to staining.</p>