

technical information

VIHARA

<p>CHARACTERISTICS</p>	<p>Vihara glass tiles are made with the intention that there is variation in shape, texture, hue and shading from piece to piece. Surface folds and wrinkles are inherent to the product. Once properly installed, the beauty of this handcrafted glass is enhanced by such variation.</p>		
<p>INSPECTION</p>	<p>Always inspect your tiles before they are installed, as installation of material constitutes acceptance. We strongly recommend the selection of an experienced tile contractor to blend and set Vihara glass. Any questions as to acceptability must be resolved before installation. Sonoma Tilemakers is in no way responsible for the installation of our tiles or thereafter. The responsibility for correct installation rests with the end user.</p>		
<p>INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE</p>	<p>PAPER FACING Please note that Vihara glass tiles are “PAPER FACED” for the ease of installation and for overall appearance. Paper facing is used on Vihara glass because they are transparent or translucent, where mesh backing will not work. Please be certain to mount Vihara glass tiles with the paper facing out, to be removed after the mosaic has been seated into the thin-set. This is done by wetting the paper, lightly sponging, allow a few minutes for water to soak, and then peel off.</p> <p>SUBSTRATE Make sure that glass tile is installed over the proper substrate. This is one of the most important factors in ensuring a good installation. Glass tile should be installed over a clean, sound, and flat concrete substrate, with a rubber trowel, free of contaminants including curing compounds. Substrate should be free of cracks and in water areas should be waterproof. If necessary, use the installation material manufacturer’s membrane for crack and water protection. Glass tile is a reflective product; any inconsistencies in your substrate will show up after the tile is installed. For pool and fountains we recommend installing a mortar bed according to TCA P601-07.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="673 1228 1307 1449"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Approved Surfaces for Setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fully cured concrete substrate - Properly installed cement backerboard - Gypsum Board: ASTM C1396/C1396M/Dry Areas Only </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; padding-left: 20px;"> <p>Do Not Install Glass Tile On:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Particleboard - Chipboard - Masonite - Press Wood - Plywood - Asbestos Boards </td> </tr> </table> <p>ADHESIVES-MASTICS Organic adhesives (mastic) are considered unacceptable, due to yellowing, lower bond strengths, and the fact that they set or dry by air exposure. Some epoxies may also be unacceptable due to low flexibility, chemical staining, and degradation under UV sunlight exposure.</p> <p>THIN-SET MORTAR CHOICES Choosing the best mortar for the job is important to assure a long-lasting installation. The following (white) Thin-Set Mortars are recommended. (Always consult the manufacturer’s product data sheets for specific installation instructions):</p> <p>CUSTOM BUILDING PRODUCTS “Megalite” Crack Prevention Mortar</p> <p>LATICRETE “254 Platinum” Multipurpose Thin-Set Mortar</p> <p>MAPEI “Adesilex P10” Premium-Grade, Bright White, Thin-Set Mortar</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued...</i></p>	<p>Approved Surfaces for Setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fully cured concrete substrate - Properly installed cement backerboard - Gypsum Board: ASTM C1396/C1396M/Dry Areas Only 	<p>Do Not Install Glass Tile On:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Particleboard - Chipboard - Masonite - Press Wood - Plywood - Asbestos Boards
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INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE Continued...

We recommend the use of a **bright white thin-set**, which allow the true color of the glass to come through. **The color of the thin-set will affect the final appearance of the glass color.** The most satisfactory results have been achieved in straight-combing the thin-set to the wall, placing the tiles and then “seating” them, by pushing the tiles perpendicular to the combed thin-set, forward then back, rolling the combed thin-set into itself and coating the back of each tile, thus eliminating trowel lines. When first set in place, every effort should be made to smooth the thin-set both vertically and horizontally to minimize trowel lines.

GROUT

- Prior to grouting, 1-3 coats of grout release may be applied to make grout clean-up during installation easier. Allow grout release to set per manufacturer’s instructions. Clean with water until surface is clean.
- A non-sanded grout may be used per manufacturer’s instructions.
- Grout joints should be packed full and free of all voids and pits.
- It is very important to continually clean excess grout from the surface as work progresses, while grout is fresh and before it hardens. No acids should be used to clean grout haze.
- Use damp sponge for the final clean washing and smoothing of grout joints.
- After 48 hours of curing, a cleaning solution such as liquid dish soap and warm water or stone and tile stripper can be used for final cleaning.
- Consult grout manufacturer’s for their sealing recommendation.

CUTTING

- Vihara can be cut with the use of a high quality wet saw with a diamond blade designed for cutting glass. Pieces should be cut individually to avoid saturating paper facing. To prevent rough edges, glass tiles must be cut in an extremely slow manner.
- Note: Cut tile face up.

INSTALLATION WITH OTHER SONOMA TILEMAKERS PRODUCT

When installing Vihara glass with other Sonoma Tilemakers product, fir out backer board behind the Vihara glass with 1/8 inch shims. This will insure that the installation is on the same plane.

USAGE

Appropriate for use in all residential applications (walls and floors) and many commercial applications. Commercial uses include most vertical and horizontal applications with the exception of medium and heavy duty flooring.

- Suitable for pools and all water area applications including steam showers.
- Suitable for freeze-thaw conditions.

Sonoma Tilemakers provides product information concerning certain installation and maintenance procedures to assist customers in making selection, usage, installation and maintenance decisions. Customer’s selection and usage of Sonoma Tilemakers products and the installation practices employed by each customer are outside the direction and control of Sonoma Tilemakers and are strictly and completely the choice and responsibility of each customer. Sonoma Tilemakers does not warrantee any product for any specific use nor any installation procedure and expressly disclaims all claims asserted after customer installation or usage of Sonoma Tilemakers products begin.