



Installation Guide for Japanese Paper-Faced Mosaics

Thank you for purchasing these artisanal Japanese mosaics from Academy Tiles. Please take the time to read this guide prior to installation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your Academy Tiles Sales Representative.

Most Japanese mosaics are supplied with paper-facing on the front of the tiles. When compared with mesh backed mosaics, paper faced mosaics allow greater contact between the glue and the individual tiles, and as a result, better adhesion.

Please note, this guide is intended to provide additional information about the installation of paper-faced mosaics, rather than to provide a complete guide to installing tiles.

An experienced installer is recommended.

Step 1 - Examine product

Before initiating your tile installation, carefully inspect your delivery to ensure the correct product has been received and that the product is as expected and not damaged. Should any concerns arise, please notify us immediately and prior to installation.

Variation

Variation in mosaic piece size is an inherent characteristic of the artisanal manufacturing process. Consequently, alignment of mosaic pieces on the sheets is not intended to be perfect. Once a matching grout is installed, these variations will be less visible, and will contribute to the product's organic, handmade appearance. The amount of variation in piece size and alignment can differ depending on the specific products shape and characteristics of the product.

Compression

Occasionally, paper-faced mosaics may experience compression in transit, which can result in diminished spacing in certain areas. If this occurs, please lay the sheets out to allow them to flatten. If the paper-facing has creased, the sheets can be gently stretched. Wedges and spacers can also be used during installation to correct any remaining compression.

Step 2 - Affix tiles

Evenly spread your chosen tile adhesive across a small section of your designated surface area, ensuring the correct notch of trowel is used depending on the size of the product. Press the mosaic sheets firmly into the adhesive. Spacers should be used to ensure the spacing between each sheet corresponds to the spacing between pieces on each individual sheet.

Step 3 - Remove paper-facing and adjust

Once the adhesive begins to set and become firm enough to hold the pieces in place, but before it fully sets, the paper facing should be removed. This will allow for any individual pieces that are misaligned to be adjusted, before the adhesive fully cures.

Curing times vary by adhesive brand and can be impacted by environmental conditions. Please refer to the manufacturer's instructions of your adhesive for further information, or contact the adhesive supplier for further guidance on curing times. Your tiler should also be familiar with the curing times for the various adhesives they use.

To remove the paper facing, thoroughly but carefully wet the paper with a sponge soaked in warm water. Allow to stand for 3 minutes, during which time, if necessary, reapply water to ensure the paper stays wet and that there is enough water to soak through and soften the adhesive behind the paper, then slowly and carefully peel back the paper facing, ensuring you do not remove pieces as you do it. If you do not wait the full 3 minutes and keep paper wet, it will be hard to remove and will rip.

Adjust individual pieces if needed to create a harmonious visual outcome.

Step 4 - Remove glue residue

Once adjustment is completed, any remaining glue residue should be removed from the surface of the tiles. The sooner this is done, the easier it will be to remove. This can be done with a brush or sponge and warm water. Alkali detergents can also be used to further soften the glue, but should then be cleaned off with warm water. Using a cleaning tool such as a brush and a sponge may help to clean the tile surface thoroughly until there is no slimy glue remaining.

Important - All glue residue must be removed before grouting. Any remaining glue residue will mix with the grout when applied, rendering it much harder to remove.

Step 5 - Grout

Once the adhesive fully cures, and the glue residue from the paper facing has been completely removed, grout may be installed following the manufacturer's directions. We recommend matching grout to assist with softening alignment irregularities. Grout washing should be done before the grout becomes completely dry and solid.

Step 6 - Final Clean Up

For removal of any grout residue, use Aqua Mix® Cement Grout Haze Remover.

For any paper facing glue residue remaining on the surface of the tiles, a high alkaline cleaner like Aqua Mix® Heavy-Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner may assist. Alternatively Aqua Mix® NanoScrub® can help to remove stubborn residue.

On occasions there can be some visible marking left where the paper facing adhesive was, particularly on glossy glazes. This can be removed with Geal Ceramix. Please contact your rep for specific information about this process and supply info.

Please contact your Academy Tiles Sales Representative for supply of these products.