

# **GYPSUM.**

## **“BLOCCO” COLLECTION**

### **Characteristics - Installation instructions - Maintenance**

**Version:** 02/07/2024

#### **THE MATERIAL**

The Blocco collection is manufactured using an innovative, high-performance cement with technical characteristics that stand out for its resistance to dirt, stains generated by liquids other than water, chemical attack, freeze/thaw cycles, saltiness, etc. The material is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. Common dirt (coffee, oil, wine, ketchup, coca cola, lemon, tomato, etc.) can be simply cleaned with a sponge dampened with soap and water.

The method of application (equipment, methods, adhesives and materials used) is identical to the method used for ceramic tiles. There are also no particular requirements regarding use and ordinary maintenance, but it is recommended to carefully examine the indications contained in this sheet (also available on our website).

#### **THE TILES**

The tiles are manufactured using natural materials (concrete, aggregates, iron oxides and additives), with a completely artisanal and ecological production cycle: concrete dosed with electronic weighing systems is mixed by hand and poured into moulds. After hardening, it is placed on special shelves and left to cure. The next stage concerns surface treatment, which is also carried out manually according to a codified processing cycle, and using carefully selected products and materials, so that the tiles acquire the resistance characteristics described in the previous paragraph. The result is a unique handcrafted product, characterised by small colour differences that create the "uniqueness of the piece".

## TOLERANCES

Because of the nature of the materials used, the tiles may show a "shade variation" i.e. visible and non-homogeneous colour differences, either between different tiles or within a single tile. Several factors influence this: batch of materials used, temperature, humidity, atmospheric conditions, etc. Furthermore, the production cycle, which is completely artisanal, means that the tiles are not rectified: therefore they may differ in size and thickness according to industry tolerances. These are particular characteristics that feature and differentiate the product, which is why they should not be considered as defects.

## INSTALLATION

This manual provides the necessary instructions for the correct installation of tiles, in order to achieve professionally executed works with eco-friendly materials. It is however always advisable to carry out an assessment of the situation before starting the installation work to check that the instructions contained herein can be implemented.

## MATERIAL STORAGE

Before laying, **the material must be stored in a covered, dry place**. The material must not be stored in adverse weather conditions. It must not be stored outdoors by covering it with polyethylene or other similar systems (such as cellophane) which could create condensation or mould.

## SUBSTRATE CHECK

- All substrates must be flat, seasoned, undamaged, compact, rigid, resistant, dry, free of release agents and rising damp.
- With certain types of substrate (e.g. timber, plaster, metal, etc.) it is necessary to prepare the substrate using special primers (e.g. Keragrip Eco on timber or Kerakoll Primer A Eco on plaster or similar). Always follow the instructions provided by the adhesive manufacturers.
- The laying surface must be flat: the tolerance measured with a straight edge is 3 mm every two metres. Larger irregularities must be corrected before installation with suitable levelling compounds.
- On large surfaces or in cases where it could be beneficial, consider applying an anti-cracking waterproofing membrane (such as Kerakoll Green-Pro or similar).

## INSTALLATION TOOLS KIT

*Note: the numbers refer to the image below.*

- To mix the adhesive and grout, use an electric mixer with a suitable blade for the amount to be mixed (1).
- To cut the tiles follow the dry method, using a circular saw (2) or a flex saw (3) equipped with a diamond blade (4). Ordinary manual tile cutters (5) are not recommended as they do not give a clean cutting pattern.
- To spread the adhesive, use a notched trowel suitable for the format to be installed (6).
- To level the tiles, apply pressure using a straight edge (7) or rubber trowel (8).
- Use a common brush (9) with soap and water (e.g. Cibermac by Ciber or similar) to clean up any adhesive residue.



## JOINT BETWEEN TILES

When installing the Blocco collection, there are no joints: the tiles must be laid side by side. In order to maintain the pitch, the tile has a thickening on the vertical side and one on the horizontal side: during installation, these thickenings must be kept to the right and downwards.

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When used outdoors, in showers or in environments where percolating water is present, we recommend placing an approximately 3 mm bead of MS Stick Seal (or similar) between the tiles. This operation is required to seal the joint and prevent water infiltration that might penetrate to the back of the tile, causing it to detach or alter its appearance.

## EXPANSION JOINTS

For correct installation of the product, expansion joints must be made according to the different needs of the building site. In general, one joint is required every 35-40 m<sup>2</sup> indoors and 10-15 m<sup>2</sup> outdoors. Application of waterproofing/anti-cracking membrane (such as Kerakoll Green-Pro or similar) is also possible. All general information **must necessarily be evaluated on site by the construction management**, who will make the necessary decisions.

## BONDING

We have experience in using Kerakoll products, which we recommend.

Customers may choose products of different brands, in which case a preliminary test is recommended.

- **The environmental conditions must be checked first**: room and substrate temperature, ventilation, outdoor weather forecasts, etc. Avoid bonding in hot weather in direct sunlight and/or excessively ventilated environments, in which case take the necessary precautions to obtain ideal installation conditions. Check that the temperature of the air and the substrate are acceptable for the adhesive used: avoid bonding if too hot or too cold.
- Recommended adhesive: indoors, use slow-setting cement-based adhesive (Kerakoll H40 No Limits or similar), quick-setting adhesive (Kerakoll H40 Revolution or similar) or two-component epoxy adhesive (Kerakoll H40 Extreme or similar). Outdoors, use two-component epoxy adhesive (Kerakoll H40 Extreme or similar). It is recommended to follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Choice of adhesive**: all recommended adhesives can be used to bond the Blocco collection.
- Mix the adhesive according to the manufacturer's instructions and spread it on the substrate using the notched trowel for tiles. Spread an adequate amount of adhesive

according to the size to be bonded, creating continuous beads over the entire surface **(DO NOT bond in chunks)**.

- To level the tiles do not use a hammer, but instead apply adhesive and exert pressure with a straight edge or rubber trowel.
- **When installing, mix the tiles carefully**, avoiding placing tiles of the same colour close together as this could create “colour spots” (see installation error in the following photo).



- Remove adhesive residues from the surface (while the adhesive is still fresh) using a sponge or white Scotch-Brite™ trowel wet with water.
- When the surface is dry and clean, proceed with the end-of-laying wash with Ciber's Cibermac soap (non-foaming concentrated neutral soap) or similar.

## PROTECTION ON THE BUILDING SITE AFTER INSTALLATION

Once installation is complete, **it is strongly recommended to take all necessary precautions for the good preservation of the product installed**, protecting it from building site work (e.g. painting, masonry work, etc.).

Cover the surface carefully. If non-woven fabric (TNT) is used, it is recommended to use the white type. **ATTENTION:** Avoid direct contact with polyethylene (cellophane) for covering, as permanent marks may be generated due to moisture. We therefore recommend applying white non-woven fabric first, then polyethylene and then additional layers as required.

## **OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL TREATMENTS**

The tiles are supplied ready for use and are resistant to dirt, stains generated by liquids other than water, chemical attack, freeze/thaw cycles, saltiness, etc. For more details see the Cementobasic® or Cementoskin® technical data sheet (depending on the chosen finish) on our website. No additional treatment is therefore necessary.

Other surface treatments can, however, be carried out using certain water- and oil-repellent products in order to improve performance.

For more information on this, please contact our offices.

## **ROUTINE MAINTENANCE**

- For ordinary tile cleaning we recommend the use of a good quality pH-neutral soap which can be bought in any supermarket. As an indication of professional products, we recommend Ciber's Cibermac soap or Fila's Cleaner Pro soap, diluted as needed.
- Cleaning with a monobrush is permitted.
- In the case of stubborn stains, use a concentrated professional soap (e.g. Cibermac by Ciber diluted 1:2 or similar) with the help of a stiff brush, preferably in sorghum, or a monobrush for greater effectiveness.

## **EXTRAORDINARY MAINTENANCE**

- If necessary, we offer a range of professional products suitable for removing the most difficult stains (e.g. iodine dye, permanent marker, diesel, engine oil, rust, etc.). For more information, contact our offices.
- The surface treatment must be repeated every 5 to 10 years, depending on the location of the product, and in any case when cleaning requires greater effort, by applying a water-based product. In this case contact our offices for all the necessary information.

## **GENERAL PRECAUTIONS**

For proper tile preservation:

- avoid, as much as possible, prolonged soiling of the surface;
- avoid prolonged contact with solvents or acidic substances;
- avoid contact with sulphuric acid;
- avoid contact with bleaching substances or substances containing active oxygen;
- avoid rubbing with aggressive abrasives (e.g. sandpaper).

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## WARNINGS

GYPSUM S.r.l. is not liable in the event of:

- damage and/or aesthetic variations of the product deriving from improper use of a physical or chemical nature;
- miscellaneous damage resulting from improper use of the product of a physical or chemical nature;
- damage caused by non-compliance with installation and maintenance procedures;
- damage caused by unauthorised modifications or improper use (e.g. sanding of the surface);
- aesthetic changes in the product as a result of incorrect surface treatment.

GYPSUM S.r.l. reserves the right to amend this document at any time and without prior notice.