

Metallix Installation Guide

These instructions are provided as a general guide to most installations. Please read and understand this information before proceeding. The stainless steel is a 7mm ceramic tile body wrapped with .35mm of stainless steel creating an elegant, stylish and contemporary look. Its primary use is interior wall applications though it can be used on interior floors as well. If used on the floor this tile will wear as any metal floor tile will, showing scratches and developing a burnished appearance over time. It may also dent or crease when impacted with sharply edged objects.

What Should I be Aware of When Buying Metal Wall Tiles?

It should be noted that not all metal wall tiles are created equal. I am not referring to the difference between the elements and alloys mentioned on this web site, but to posers that feign to be “metal” tiles but are actually plastic with metal sprayed on them or composite items that are effectually plating. Some are made from pewter, a soft metal amalgamation, and then plated with bronze, copper or another desired metal. Fully copper tile is heavier than one of these composites, and any other metal will feel denser than the plastic substitute. These options might be what you are looking for, and if so, great. They offer affordable solutions. But if you are looking for the real deal, be warned. Weight and a keen eye will guide one to discern what is metal and what is “metal”.

What are the Typical Cleaning Methods for Metal Wall Tiles?

Cleaning of metal wall tiles is easy. They are very durable and stand up well against most household cleansers. Anything that contains acid, especially acid based agents should be avoided (most household cleansers do not contain acid). Acids will remove the natural patina and expose a dulled original metal surface. However, polishing quickly after exposure will restore the luster. If there is sufficient darkness, you can use a copper or brass cleanser, followed up with a waxing to maintain the restored brightness.

What Should Know Before Installing Metal Wall Tiles?

Installation of metal tiles is similar to ceramic. With ceramic tiles, cracking occurs with some regularity. This complicates the installation process by requiring broken tiles to be removed from their mounting and replaced. This adds more time and cost to the process. Metal tiles are far less brittle than ceramic tiles, which mean that they crack less often, and installation is easy in this regard. Furthermore, metal tiles can be cut with a liquid cooled ceramic tile saw, though it is preferred with some types of metal that a band saw be used. Basically, if you can install ceramic tiles, you can install metal tiles.

Applications

High Temperature installations are those defined by but not limited to backsplash areas behind cooktops or fireplace faces.

- Cooktops: Maintain a minimum distance of four and a half inches between tiled surfaces and burner elements. When large cooking vessels are in use on back burners the same four and a half inch distance must be maintained. Due to expansion and contraction of the steel, flexible sealant/caulk is required in place of cement grout in critical areas noted below.
- Fireplace Faces: Maintain a minimum distance of six inches from fireplace opening on all sides. Due to expansion and contraction of the steel, flexible sealant/caulk is required in place of cement grout in critical areas noted below.
- Flexible sealant/caulk referred to above, shall be used anywhere tile work abuts restraining surfaces such as perimeter walls, inside corners, dissimilar floors, curbs, counters, columns, pipes, ceiling, cabinets or any projection through the tiled surface.
- Floors: Interior concrete slabs require a 28 day minimum cure time. Additional truing/leveling and repair of any surface cracks may be necessary prior to installation. Cement backer board or cement mortar bed is required over interior wood sub-floors.

Stainless steel tiles are not for shower, bathroom or kitchen floors where puddles or standing water may exist.

- Walls: Concrete/masonry and cement backer board can be used for both interior and exterior walls. Gypsum board may be used on interior walls.

Installation

These stainless steel tiles are all face taped for the protection of the tile finish during the course of the installation. Avoid prolonged exposure to heat or direct sunlight. This can make stripping the tape difficult and may leave adhesive residue on the surface of the tile damaging the product. Do not remove until after the final clean-up. The individual patterns pressed into the stainless steel tiles provide different effects according to how the tiles are placed.

Setting Material & Method

Mortar: To minimize slippage and gain superior adhesion use a premium thin-set mortar modified with polymer or latex.

Cutting/Drilling

Eye protection should always be worn when cutting, drilling or grinding metal tile. Stainless steel tile is challenging to cut. Cuts must be made with a wet saw and a new diamond rimmed blade designed to cut the tile. Tile should be cut face up. Miter cuts are not recommended. Care should be taken cut steel tile can have very sharp edges and burrs. These can be smoothed and dulled with a diamond hand pad, tile blade dressing stone or belt sander using silicone carbide belt.

Grouting

Stainless steel tiles require flexible sealant/caulk be used anywhere tilework abuts restraining surfaces such as perimeter walls, inside corners, dissimilar floors, curbs, counters, columns, pipes, ceilings, cabinets or any projection through the tiled surface and in compliance with the current Tile Council of America guidelines.

After installation it is recommended the tile be cleaned with a commonly accepted neutral cleaner. White nylon scrub pad or cheese cloth is good for wiping off initial heavy film, finish with a clean grout sponge or slightly damp terry cloth towel preferably white as dyes may transfer to the grout joint.

Maintenance

Stainless steel may be cleaned with warm water and soap or a mild detergent. Rinse the surface with clean water. Wipe with a soft, clean cloth. Do not leave detergents containing bleach in contact with the surface. Do not leave cloths, sponges, or any other material soaked in detergents in contact with the surface. Do not use abrasive or scratching products. Do not use brushes or steel wool.

When using products of unknown composition or potentially aggressive formulas, a small hidden area of the surface should be cleaned first to assess any change in appearance.