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## COMMERCIAL INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Marazzi commercial porcelain tile is manufactured using the most advanced technology and processes available in the world today. The finest natural materials combined with our state of the art research and development program assures every Marazzi commercial end user of the finest porcelain tile available.

### PRE-INSTALLATION PREPARATION

Prior to installing any ceramic or porcelain tiles, please refer to written guidelines detailed in the current TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass and Stone Tile Installation.

### PENETRATING SEALERS

If unglazed tiles are used in areas prone to excessive spills, or are light in color and are installed with a dark-colored grout, use of a penetrating sealer may be desirable prior to grouting. A penetrating sealer is one that does not leave a coating on top of the tile. Rather they are below the surface and fill the microscopic surface pores.

The use of a penetrating sealer is recommended for the following:

- SistemN

Penetrating sealers do not alter the surface appearance of unglazed tiles, since they are designed only to fill the microscopic pores and not to coat the surface. Slip resistance should not be affected.

Proper application of penetrating sealers is important. Follow the manufacturer's application guidelines carefully. We recommend a product similar to Aqua Mix Penetrating Sealer or Miracle Sealants 511 Impregnator. Remember that the surface must be clean and free of any foreign matter. Apply in a circular motion using a dense sponge, working the sealer into the tile surface.

Completely remove excess sealer from the surface within a few minutes using a clean cotton cloth, rag or paper towels. Penetrating sealers must not be allowed to dry on the tile surface.

### USING A GROUT RELEASE AGENT

A grout release agent is highly recommended when installing the following series:

- Monolith - Natural Surface Only
- SistemA - Matte Surface Only
- Graniti - Pavé Surface Only



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## COMMERCIAL INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

### SPECIAL GROUTING SITUATIONS

Before grouting any Marazzi commercial product, regardless of the grout color chosen, Marazzi strongly recommends that a test spot be done by the contractor to determine if the grout pigment will contaminate the surface of the tile. Special care should be given when light colored tiles are to be grouted with a contrasting dark grout. If no grout discoloration occurs, the installer can proceed with grouting. If the grout discolors the surface of the tile, Marazzi recommends that the tile be treated with a grout release agent similar to Aqua Mix or Miracle Sealants recommended products.

The following steps are **recommended to be added to the grouting process**, to ensure the best outcome:

1. Limit the area to be grouted to a reasonable working space. We recommend grouting a maximum of 10 square feet at one time so the excess grouting compound can be easily removed.
2. Clean the surface of the tile two to three times before the grout is allowed to dry.
3. When installing products such as Monolith, SistemA and Graniti (Pavé), you may find it beneficial to use a “grout cleaning tub system” for highly effective cleanup during the grouting process.

### INITIAL CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

The single most important step for future daily maintenance involves the complete removal of grout and construction dirt after products have been installed. Marazzi commercial porcelain tiles can be cleaned successfully by scrubbing the installation with hot water and detergent, followed by a thorough rinsing, then removing the rinse water with a wet vacuum or dry toweling. If some residue remains further cleaning will need to be done in consultation with the grout manufacturer. For more aggressive cleaning floor scrubbing machines equipped with nylon pads or brushes should be used. Wet vacuuming of the suspended dirt and grout is recommended.

If a customer insists on the use of an acid for cleaning the installation, they should be cautioned to use sulfamic acid or phosphoric acid mixed in a solution according to manufacturers’ instructions. It is important that before the acid solution is placed on the floor, the grout joint be thoroughly saturated with water first. Grouts that contain latex can actually bond more strongly to the tile surface if cleaned with acid. Latex and polymer modified grouts should be cleaned with a solution recommended by the grout manufacturer. Installers should wait until the grout joint has fully cured, usually 14 to 21 days before using acid cleaners.