

## LAYING BODJ FLOOR TILES

### CHARACTERISTICS

Due to the organic nature of BODJ floor tiles, the hand production methods and the firing technique, each tile is unique. Minor irregularities will occur in the shape, colour and tone of the tiles. These are all characteristic of this type of product and add to the unique appeal.

### APPLICATION

BODJ floor tiles are suitable for interior domestic floors and fire hearths and are also suitable for use with underfloor heating. We do not recommend for outdoor usage or areas prone to damp or excess moisture - i.e. bathrooms.

### PREPARATION

BODJ floor tiles are supplied with an un-finished surface. Therefore it is important that the surface side is sponged with a sealant prior to laying. We recommend resealing and polishing once the floor has been grouted and cleaned.

There is a good range of floor adhesives, grouts, impregnating sealers and polishes available on the market specifically for terracotta. These are available from any good hardware or tile store.

Our sample tiles are sealed with *Hagesan HG Impregnating sealer*.

A 50/50 mix of turpentine and boiled linseed oil also makes for a good, natural sealant. This tends to give a paler colour than HG products.

Hagesan HG also sell a wide range of cleaners and terracotta wax polish. Visit the website for further details [www.hginternational.com](http://www.hginternational.com) Hagesan HG terracotta wax natural is especially recommended for polishing the floor.

### LAYING

The handmade nature of BODJ tiles means the installation requires a little more care than the fixing of machine made tiles.

The sub-floor must be sound and dry before the tiles are laid. If the floor is damp the tiles may not bond and moisture can rise and create blooms beneath the seal. It is advisable to lay out and cut (where necessary) the tiles before fixing them to the floor. This allows you to sort

through the impressions and colour variations to achieve the best composition.

Due to the minor irregularities in the tiles we recommend a generous spread of floor adhesive to give room for slight levelling adjustments whilst fixing the tiles. It is best to lay and fix tiles in batches of around 5. Once laid, grouted and dried, for the recommended amount of time (refer to the instructions on your floor adhesive), the floor can be resealed and polished.



#### *Laying onto wooden floors*

Advice should be sought before laying tiles on a wooden floor, due to the weight and possible movement.

Firstly check that your wooden floor is rigid and stable enough to bear the additional load and in order to minimise any damaging effects of movement in the floor surface, we recommend that the floor is prepared with a subfloor prior to laying the tiles:

Any good tile store will usually recommend a 'fleximat'. This is a type of plastic corrugated sheet that is laid and fixed across the floor with adhesive - prior to laying the tiles. Alternatively the floor may be stiffened, to remove any flexing, by fixing a minimum 15mm plywood or water resistant (green) type chipboard.

When laying the tiles onto the subfloor we recommend you use a Flexible Adhesive and add Flexibond into the grout.

#### *Using tiles on a hearth*

BODJ tiles are suitable for fire hearths. However we recommend that any exposed edges are framed to prevent chipping.

### MAINTAINING YOUR FLOOR

Sweep the floor on a regular basis and occasionally mop with warm soapy water. Periodic polishing helps to build a deep patina and enriches the tone and colour of the tiles over time.

If you have any further queries please telephone 01983 537760 and ask to speak with a technical advisor.