



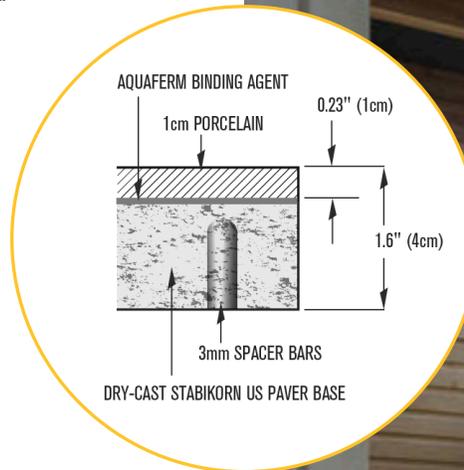
Installation Guide

GEOCERAMICA[®]

Tools Required

While GeoCeramica installs using the same standard operating procedures as a concrete paver, there are several tools we recommend having on-site to make the job easier and ensure a high-quality installation. Below is a list of tools you should have on-hand at your job site:

- Vacuum Lifting Device
- Rubber Mallet
- Wet-cutting saw with continuous rim, non-segmental porcelain rated tile blades
- Pressure Washer (optional)
- Roller Compactor



STEP 1: Site Prep / Base

GeoCeramica® units are 1.6" in thickness, therefore depth of excavation should be a minimum of 10" below finished grade. Ultimate depth of base will be contingent upon several factors including soil conditions, regional climate as well as local building codes.

Be sure to consult your local codes prior to design. It is recommended to install GeoCeramica® on an open graded/hybrid base, consisting of a base layer with a minimum thickness of 6" ASTM #57 ($\frac{3}{4}$ " open graded crushed stone) along with a setting bed of ASTM #8 or #9 ($\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{3}{8}$ " clean stone chip). Be sure to maintain positive drainage away from all structures by using a minimum slope of $\frac{1}{8}$ " per foot.

Commonly available edge restraint systems are used with GeoCeramica®, including metal, PVC, low profile and cementitious. Be sure to consult your preferred manufacturer's installation details or compatibility with open graded/hybrid bases.

Product Installation

STEP 2: Packaging & Handling

Examine all products, ensuring shipping documents match colors and styles ordered. Report any discrepancies or damage immediately to your authorized GeoCeramica® dealer.

GeoCeramica® is banded to wooden shipping pallets with edge protection on all four corners as well as the top perimeter. For further protection, hot melt strips or plastic beads are added to each layer to protect the surfaces from rubbing against each other. These beads and/or hot melt strips can be easily removed prior to installation.

Remove all packaging and document production labels for future reference. Discarded packaging can be used on jobsite for added protection of units during installation.

Handle GeoCeramica® units with extreme care. Although porcelain by nature is very durable, its edges will chip if not cared for throughout the entire installation process. Vacuum/suction systems are recommended for the effective handling and placement of GeoCeramica® units.

Be sure to pull units from multiple pallets during installation to ensure colors and patterns are evenly distributed. DO NOT drag units across one another or allow them to rest on their edges as this will scratch or chip the surface of GeoCeramica®.

GeoCeramica's Stabikorn® base incorporates 3mm spacer bars allowing for consistent installation. When installed, the spacer bars create an approximate joint width of $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Use of a resin-based jointing compound is recommended to fill joints.



STEP 3: Unit Placement

GeoCeramica's thickness varies slightly. When placing units, ensure that any height inconsistencies exceeding $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm) between units are corrected by adjusting base materials or replacing/re-orienting units. Variances in height under $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm) will be removed with the use of a roller compactor. Although extremely durable, never strike GeoCeramica® units with anything other than a soft rubber mallet to make minor adjustments during installation. When adjusting units to maintain alignment, be sure to use a non-marring pry bar instead of bare metal tools, as these will crack/chip units.



STEP 4: Cutting

GeoCeramica® units are cut on a stationary, water cooled tile saw equipped with a continuous rim, non-segmented blade specifically designed for cutting porcelain. Ensure that the saw can safely accept the large size format or GeoCeramica®, and that the RPM rating for the porcelain blade meets or exceeds the RPM rating for the saw. DO NOT use excessive force to push the product into the blade.

Allow the saw to cut at its own pace, maintaining proper RPM's. This will minimize the risk of pulling/chipping along GeoCeramica's cut edge. Projects with intricate details may require the use of a hand operated chop saw or small battery powered hand grinder. For these scenarios be sure to follow the same guidelines listed above, introducing water during the cutting process.

Once placement of GeoCeramica® is complete, use of a roller compactor is essential. Never use a vibratory plate compactor of any kind on GeoCeramica®, as it will damage units. Ensure the roller compactor has non-marring, rubber or plastic coated rollers.



STEP 5: Finishing

Once placement of GeoCeramica® is complete, use of a roller compactor is essential. Never use a vibratory plate compactor of any kind on GeoCeramica®, as it will damage units. Ensure the roller compactor has non-marring, rubber or plastic coated rollers.

Final cleaning may be necessary to remove any stains resulting from installation and/or the manufacturing process. A low-pressure power washer is recommended with a maximum output of 1600 psi.

Using any more pressure can cause damage to the surface of GeoCeramica® units. It should also be understood that pressure washing can remove jointing material and that re-sanding may be required.

In rare cases, Aquaferm® stains can be removed with a solvent based cleaner, and cement-based stains can be removed with a diluted masonry detergent. Be sure to follow the cleaner manufacturer's instructions for use.



Manufactured by:



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