TECHNICAL INFORMATION

RAVELLO

ARTISANAL TEXTURED STONEWARE

Sonoma TILEMAKERS EST. 1994

APPLICATIONS

- Residential/Commercial walls
- Floors*
- Showers (+ Steam)
- Exteriors (+ Freeze/Thaw areas)
- Fireplace surrounds and cooktop areas
- Pools/Fountains (see Submerged Applications on page 3)

* Please refer to our DCOF (Dynamic Coefficient of Friction) statement and spec sheet found in the resources section of our website. Determining suitability lies with the end user.

DCOF is a measure that can help determine if a tile is suitable for flooring, however it should not be the only consideration.

This is not a step-by-step installation guide, but general precautions and tips on how to install and care for your tile. Select installers for our products with great consideration and care as proper installation is critical. Installation constitutes acceptance.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

- Our products are handcrafted. Variation in color, size, thickness and texture should be expected. **For this reason, all Ravello tiles should be unpacked, inspected and BLENDED prior to installation. Make sure the installer understands the blending requirements.**
- **Due to the manufacturing process Ravello tiles are not perfectly flat.** Therefore patterns that have the center of one tile near the end of another may sometimes create slight lippage.
- Due to the handmade nature of Ravello, variation in size is to be expected. A minimum of 1/8" grout joint is recommended, though a slightly larger grout joint may be preferred depending on layout. This is up to the installer and end user.

INSTALLATION

- Install Ravello tile per industry standards and always refer to the most current Tile Council of North America (TCNA) "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation"
- Movement joints are essential for the success of tile installations. Follow recommendations on movement joints EJ 171 in the most current TCNA "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation"

CUTTING

- When cutting using a wet saw, we recommend a high-quality diamond blade made for cutting porcelain/stone. In addition, it's critical that the water used in the saw is clean. Recirculated water containing tile dust may collect in the tile's textured surface creating a stained or hazy look. This is particularly true if cutting multiple colors of Ravello and especially a darker color before a lighter color without ensuring water is clean.

IMPORTANT!

We recommend wet cutting during the installation process. Do not dry cut using power tools during the installation process. Improper installation techniques could expose installer to harmful dust.

GROUTING

- **Grout is an aesthetic choice** that has significant impact on the overall design. Tone on tone grout colors are recommended for Ravello. **The unique textured surface may retain some grout haze during installation.** A compatible grout color will minimize this effect.
- **Contrasting grouts may stain tiles.** If a contrasting grout is considered, sealer and grout must be tested on tile prior to installation. **Sealers such as Miracle Sealants 511 Porous Plus or Aquamix Gold may minimize staining** but must be tested prior to using a grout color and always follow sealer manufacturer's instructions to ensure that final appearance is acceptable to end user.

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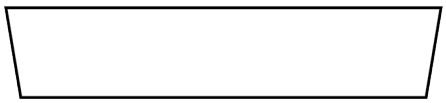
DETERMINING WHICH SIDE IS THE FRONT

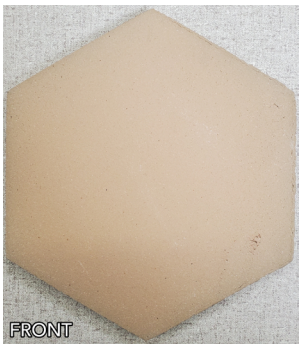
There are several ways to confidently know which side is the front.

- The backs of 25% of the pieces are marked with the Sonoma Tilemakers logo
- The front side is smoother
- Most pieces have a subtle "draft" where the wider side is the front.

TOP OF PIECE



LINK TO VIDEO:
https://sonomatilemakers.com/ravello/#downloads



- We strongly recommend mock up boards to test grout colors and grout line widths to ensure the end users design intention is achieved.

SEALING

- **We recommend a sealer such as Aquamix Gold or similar. Unsealed tile may stain**. Allow tile to dry before resealing the area. Resealing is highly recommended every 6 months based on usage and application.
- Sealing is also recommended for backsplashes to help prevent staining from food splashes while cooking. Unsealed tile may stain. Resealing the area should be repeated every 6 months to maintain best appearance.

SHOWERS

- We recommend the use of pre-formed waterproof shower systems (such as Schluter Kerdi-Shower-Kit, Laticrete Hydo Ban or similar products), or one of the TCNA methods that require a gap and flexible sealant between the mortar bed and shower wall substrate.

NOTE ON STEAM SHOWERS

- Because of their unique moisture environment, steam showers require specific installation methods. Follow TCNA guidelines for steam shower installation and always refer to the most current version of the TCNA "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation."
- When installing Ravello tiles in steam showers we also recommend sealing the top and sides after setting but before grouting. A second coat of sealer should be applied once the grout has set. This will help prevent water penetration and tile discoloration. In addition we recommend sealing grout joints or using a water resistant grout to help mitigate moisture absorbing into the tile. Follow grout manufacturer's recommendations for resealing periodically.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

- For everyday cleaning use a mild dish washing soap with water or a ph neutral cleaner made for tile
- Avoid harsh chemicals (such as phosphoric acid, vinegar, lemon juice etc.)
- Use a non-abrasive cloth/sponge for cleaning
- For any cleaning products, always test a small inconspicuous area first to make sure it doesn't affect the tile's glaze
- Clean up any spills or stains immediately not allowing them to dry
- Grout lines can be cleaned with warm water and soft bristle cleaning brush
- Vacuum floor tiles regularly to remove dirt and other gritty particles
- Periodic resealing every 6 months based on usage and application is highly recommended

SUBMERGED APPLICATIONS

Note: Ravello field sizes are suitable for submerged applications where the surface is flat and thin set can be applied evenly. Sonoma Tilemakers does NOT recommend the use of Ravello for submerged water applications where the curve of a radius prevents thin set from being applied evenly. When installing around a curved radius larger tiles, such as 3x12, 8-3/4x8-3/4 or 6-1/2 Hex, may fail due to shrinkage of excessively built up modified thin-set mortar. Only experienced, professional tile installers familiar with porcelain tile products and installation procedures should perform the work. If guidelines are not followed your installation may fail.

- Sonoma Tilemakers recommends following tile industry installation standard P602 swimming pool tile found in Tile Council Of North America's (TCNA) Handbook For Ceramic Tile Installation (current year).
- Pools or water features should be protected from direct sunlight, excessive heat, wind, precipitation and freezing during substrate preparation, installation and curing. Follow guidelines set forth in TCNA P-602.
- All surfaces to receive tile shall be sound, smooth, flat, clean and free of dust, oil, grease, paint, tar, wax, curing agents, primers, sealers, adhesive residue, release agents or any other deleterious substances or debris which may prevent or reduce adhesion to the substrate.
- The following cure times are industry specified minimums. However, several materials manufacturers provide products that will reduce these requirements. Contact your setting materials manufacturer for information.
    - Shotcrete cure time: 28 days
    - Mortar bed cure time: 7 days
    - Post Grout (before filling pool with water): 21 days
- Waterproofing/Anti-fracture Membranes: Waterproofing and Anti-fracture provisions are critical to the success of tile installation in pools. The acceptable systems available are continuously revised as new technologies become available. Contact the department of your preferred materials manufacturer for current products and application procedures in submerged applications.
- Minimum 95% bond coverage is required when installing tile in submerged environments.
- Movement/Expansion Joints: Refer to TCNA – EJ171
    - A soft joint between tile installation and coping is CRITICAL to the success of tile installation in pools.
    - A soft joint is required between any change of material within the tile installation (tile-tile, tile-metal, tile-coping).
    - Additional movement provisions may be required based on the conditions of the project.
- After final grout, allow installation to cure 21 days prior to filling the pool (unless materials manufacturer approve otherwise).
- Protect the installation during the cure time.
- Test water chemistry at fill source (tap or hose bib), and once the tank is full to verify water is balanced. Properly balance the water as defined in ANSI/APSP-5 or National Plasterer's Council's startup procedure.
- Proper water chemistry is essential for maintaining Ravello's finish in a submerged environment, if the water becomes too acidic it may affect the tiles finish.