nero
SICILIA

LAYING

WARNINGS

All materials must be stored under cover, protected from sun, rain and moisture until used on site.

IMPORTANT: *Check that there is sufficient material to complete the job. If not, order material from the same batch (same or similar production block).*

Open the packaging and check the good condition of the product. Do not install the stones if any damage is found or if the material does not comply. Notify your dealer in good time.

No claims will be accepted once the product is installed.

RULES AND TRICKS

All our products, *whether floors, coverings, tables, kitchen tops, bathroom tops, washbasins, or shower trays* **receive three coats of acid-proof sealing treatment** *which delays the absorption of liquid.*
This will give a couple of extra hours to clean up a stain from wine, coffee or whatever else is spilt. If the liquid is left too long, it will penetrate beyond the sealant and may leave a mark, which is why it is always best to remove it as quickly as possible.

Avoid abrasive cleaners, ammonia, bleach, acid and descaling agents, including 'home remedies' based on lemon, baking soda and the like. All you need is a neutral detergent, e.g., Marseille soap or similar.

If the stone is constantly exposed to hard water, it is necessary to clean the surfaces frequently so that soap scum, limescale, etc. do not have a chance to spread and solidify.

It is strongly recommended not to place hot objects such as kettles or pots directly on the stone as they may cause staining or alter the surface.

LAYING

Subfloor preparation:
The stone should be laid on a cured, dry, clean, well-leveled and crack-free rigid screed substrate. Any cracks in the screed should be sealed with suitable products available on the market. If the screed does not lay flat, use a self-levelling compound.

Sanitize any residual moisture with vapor barriers, using specific primers.
Rising damp can cause staining on the stone surface.
For cement subfloors, moisture values less than 2% are acceptable; for anhydrite-based subfloors, moisture should be less than 0.5%.

Position the product according to the installation pattern decided. As natural stones, the individual tiles do not have a uniform colour, so we suggest at this stage to position them to obtain an optimal final result.
If a full field decoration has been chosen, the laying should start from the central part of it and close outward; only in this way, in fact, will the necessary cuts not ruin the design.

Use a flexible cement-based adhesive for stone materials.
Recommended adhesive: **Kerakoll H40 No Limits** *or equivalent.*

Spread a layer of adhesive using the smooth trowel over the entire rough face of the tile.
Apply the adhesive evenly, both on the screed, using a wide-tooth trowel (10 mm), and on the back of the tile (double spreading). For the back of the tile, use the smooth part of the trowel.
Do not leave any glue gaps to avoid breaking the edges of the various pieces.
If a self-wetting adhesive is used, double spreading is not needed (spatula with rounded teeth at least 10 mm high).

Glue the stone to the surface.

Proper installation requires perfect flatness between the tiles laid in place, whether the tiles are small or large in size.
Use self-levelling spacers to make the surface perfectly flat.

Place the stone by hand - without hammering it - leaving a 2 mm joint, just enough to put grout in with a trowel (wider joints could mark any decorations).

CUT STONES

To cut stones perfectly:
(a) for non-visible cuts (e.g., room perimeter), use a tile cutter;
(b) for visible cuts, use the hose with a 1.0-1.4 mm thick marble diamond blade, or a water cutter.
When using the water cutter, it is recommended to let the stone dry before laying it.

GLUE CLEANING

Immediately remove any excess glue spills from the joints with a wet sponge and clean up any glue left in the joint. This would in fact be visible from the outside and would not allow the grout to penetrate between the stones.

GROUTING

Begin the grouting step only when the glue used for installation is completely dry. Refer to the data sheet of the product used for drying times.

Before grouting, clean the stone thoroughly.

CAUTION: test the entire grouting stage on 4 pieces beforehand.

RECOMMENDED GROUT

The grout colour affects the final aesthetic appearance of the installed product; we suggest a tone on tone colour.
Refer to the recommended grouts for each collection in the “Technical Data” in the general catalogue.

Recommended joint: 2 mm

IMPORTANT: *Spread the joint evenly over the entire surface, to avoid haloing at joints.*

Cleaning grout: *Remove grout from tile surface as soon as it starts to dry.*

CLEANING AFTER LAYING

Wash the installed surface with a specific neutral detergent (see recommended product sheet).

Floors can be treated with a wet vacuum, mop, and cloth. After thoroughly cleaning and wetting the surface, distribute the solution evenly.

Using a mop with a cloth, clean vigorously. In the latter case, it is recommended to rinse the mop frequently in the washing solution. Rinse thoroughly with clean water, using a vacuum cleaner if necessary.

A

Allow drying 24-48 hours (timeframe to be evaluated and possibly expanded according to actual site conditions).

In some cases, it may be necessary to carry out a more thorough cleaning, it is advisable to consult and/or request information from Nerosicilia Group customer service.

ATTENTION: *Do not use a single disc machine equipped with an abrasive disc.*

Final treatment:
Once the installation is complete, apply a water-based oil-repellent product to protect both the stone and the joint (see recommended products). Follow the instructions on the packaging. To avoid possible dripping of the product to stain the material, it is recommended to always apply from the bottom upwards for vertical surfaces.

B

Allow drying 24-48 hours before use.

When the treatment is complete, **cover the area with non-woven fabric and cardboard** *so that the surface remains protected during the remaining stages of the construction site. It is particularly important to use several layers of fabric for paving so that any possible breakage of the fabric due to workers' continuous passage does not expose the stone to stains or damage.*

DAILY CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

For routine maintenance of the surfaces always use neutral detergents (see recommended products sheet). Under no circumstances should aggressive products be used that can irreparably damage the surface of the stone (such as acids or anti-limescale products).

Pay attention to the hardness of your water: the harder it is, the more the soaps' cleansing power will decrease. Therefore, it is important to clean the surfaces more frequently to prevent limescale and mould formation.

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