

INSTALLATION OF SONITE MOSAIC TILE

SONITE Mosaic Tiles are crafted from high-quality resins, thinner and lighter weight than conventional ceramic or glass mosaics. They are used in wall, countertop and ceiling applications, and can be applied to many surfaces, such as glass, gypsum boards, wood, cement backerboard and other masonry surfaces. The mosaic tiles are available in sizes from 5 mm x 5 mm to 40 mm x 40 mm, and up to 6" x 9" (15 x 23 cm) larger tiles. The relative thinness (2 - 3 mm) of SONITE Mosaics tile also allows it to be neatly and easily applied to corners, curved areas, and edges.

These tiles are unique, and care should be used in their installation. Due to their thickness and resin composition, considerations should be made in selecting the proper thin-set mortar and grout. We at Custom® Building Products recognize the uniqueness of these tiles and offer these recommendations for successful installation:

1. It is important that the surface for the tile installation is flat. Subsurface tolerances should not exceed 1/4" (6 mm) in 10' (3 M) and no more than 1/16" (3 mm) in 12" (3.7 M).
2. Concrete surfaces should be cured for a minimum of 28 days. All wall surfaces should be true, sound and clean of any contaminants. Gypsum surfaces should be primed with RedGard® Waterproofing and Anti-Fracture Membrane before installation of tile with cement mortar.
3. The face of these tiles can be scratched and care should be exercised to avoid coarse sand particles coming in contact with the face of these tiles during installation.
4. Once the surface has been properly prepared and cured, it is ready for tile installation. CUSTOM® recommends the use of a highly polymer-modified mortar such as MegaFlex® or MegaLite® Crack Prevention Mortar for installing the SONITE resin-based tile. Because of the translucent characteristic of the tile, CUSTOM® recommends the use of a white thin-set mortar. For installations in wet areas, the tile manufacturer recommends an epoxy mortar like EBM-Lite™ epoxy bonding mortar. Follow package directions for application of the thin-set mortar, unless noted differently here. The mortar should be spread on the surface with a 3/16" x 5/32" (5 x 4 mm)V-notch or 1/4" x 3/16" (6 x 5 mm) V-notch trowel, depending on the flatness of the surface to be tiled. The tile should be immediately placed in the wet mortar. Periodically remove tiles to check mortar coverage; there should be a minimum of 80% coverage on the back of the tile. Tiles should be installed with narrow [less than 1/8" (6 mm)] grout joints. Grout joints must be kept clear; too much mortar can ooze up through the grout joints. If this occurs carefully remove excess mortar immediately.
5. The thin-set mortar and tile assembly should be allowed to cure 24 hours before grouting. CUSTOM® recommends using Polyblend® Non-sanded Grout for filling the joints between the tiles. Package instructions should be followed for installing grout.
6. SONITE Mosaic Tiles should be maintained by periodic cleaning with a soft, damp cloth or with mild soapy water if necessary. Avoid the use of dry or gritty cloth that can scratch the surface. Avoid heavy cleaning solvents or agents, especially ones containing abrasives. Never use kitchen scouring compounds, acetone (finger nail polish remover), alcohol, gasoline, lighter fluid, chlorine bleach, lacquer thinner, window cleaner or waxes to clean the surface of the SONITE tiles. Light scratches can easily be polished out with polishing compounds that are used for removing scratches in a car finish. Be sure to test on a small area to test results before polishing the entire surface.

The information in this bulletin is presented in good faith, but no warranty, express or implied, is given nor is freedom from any patent in as much as any assistance furnished by CUSTOM® with reference to the safe use and disposal of its products provided without charge. Custom® Building Products assumes no obligation or liability therefore, except to the extent that any such assistance shall be given in good faith.



Technical Bulletin
 Technical Services 800-282-8786
 custombuildingproducts.com