**INSTALLATION AND CARE GUIDE**

**RIBBED ESSENTIALS**

Aluminum mosaic is a full body aluminum product that was specially designed to provide texture and dimensionality.

**MATERIAL INSPECTION**

The owner or owner's representative is responsible for determining the acceptability of the product prior to installation. Each box should be opened and inspected upon delivery of the order.

***No adjustments will be made after installation.***

# Application and Uses



Aluminum mosaics are NOT recommended in areas where water can puddle on the product.

**SUBSTRATES**

**RIBBED ESSENTIALS**

The performance of a properly installed mosaic tile application is dependent upon the durability and dimensional stability of the substrate to which it is bonded. Various substrate preparation methods are detailed in the Tile Council of North America's Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation and are general in nature (www.tileusa.com).

**INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Follow generally accepted good practices for installation of ceramic tile. Take careful note of the following instructions specific to Brushed Aluminum mosaics.

The surface needs some caution when grouting and cleaning. It is acceptable pre-coat with a grout release.

*HIGH-TEMPERATURE INSTALLATION*

High-temperature installations are those where tiled surfaces will be subject to temperatures 130°F (55°C) or greater. Common applications include: Behind kitchen cook tops not equipped with a back-guard (or back mounted control panel), fireplace surrounds and steam rooms. Follow the high temperature installation instructions to ensure proper adhesion.

*Important Note:* Tiles are not recommended in areas where the tiled surface temperature will exceed 175°F (80°C). For example, do not install tiles as a heat shield behind a wood (or gas) stove.

*Behind Cook- Tops Without a* *Back- Guard:*

**RIBBED ESSENTIALS**

To ensure proper bond, maintain a minimum distance of 4.5" inches between tiled surfaces and burner
elements. For the wall area directly behind and within 18 inches above the cooking surface, follow the high-
temperature installation instructions that follow.

*Fireplace Surrounds:*

U.S Federal Building Codes require a minimum clearance of 6" from the fireplace opening. When used above and projecting more than 1-1/2” from a fireplace face, maintain a minimum clearance of 12” above the fireplace opening. Consult state and local building codes to determine the clearance required in your area. Follow the high-temperature installation instructions that follow.

*Steam Rooms:*

To ensure proper bond, follow the high-temperature installation instructions that follow.

*High-Temperature Installation Instructions:*

* Set tile with a water-cleanable epoxy mortar confirming to ANSI A118.3.
* Grout tile with a water-cleanable grouting epoxy conforming to ANSI A118.3.
* Follow setting and grouting instructions found in the Installation Instructions section of this document.

**TYPICAL INSTALLATION**

**RIBBED ESSENTIALS**

**STEP 1 - SETTING:**

No particular precautions are needed for setting. It is suggested that the mosaic sheets be applied in a random offset pattern to avoid visible grout joint and repetition of the pattern.

A ¼” square notched trowel is suggested for applying the thin-set.

Allow for 2mm grout joint between the sheets as this is the spacing between the mosaic tiles.

Use common high-quality adhesives for ceramic tiles. For best results, we recommend the use of MAPEI-Adesilex P10 Bianco (or similar products).

**STEP 2 - CUTTING:**

*Cutting Safety:* Be sure to wear appropriate eye protection and an approved dust respirator when cutting, grinding or drilling tiles.

Please do NOT use flexible or wet rotating blades, just use an oil or water blade and, if necessary, a small metal handsaw.

To avoid rough and chipped edges, aluminum brushed mosaics should be cut by turning them upside down and in a slow manner. Cut edges should be stoned, sanded or filed smooth after cutting.

**STEP 3 - GROUTING:**

**RIBBED ESSENTIALS**

Please use NON-SAND and NON-ACID grouting materials.

Prior to grouting, please consider the following:

* Allow the mortar base to dry for 24-48 hours.
* Do NOT cover/protect with adhesive tape of any kind.
* Test an area to make sure the surface does not fade during grouting.

While grout is fresh before it hardens, excess grout should be cleaned from the surface as the work progresses . For best results, we recommend the use of MAPEI-Kerapoxy Design (compulsory for ALUSABBIA/1,5 MIX).

**STEP 4 - CLEANING:**

To clean the aluminum mosaic, please use a damp sponge together with warm, soapy water or alcohol. Do NOT use ACID-based products or harsh detergents.

**CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Aluminum mosaics will maintain their rich appearance with simple routine care.

To clean the Aluminum mosaics, use a damp sponge together with warm, soapy water or alcohol. Do NOT use ACID-based products or harsh detergents.

**LIMITED WARRANTY**

**RIBBED ESSENTIALS**

Dal-Tile provides a limited warranty on its products. The terms of this warranty may be found at [www.daltile.com/information/warranty](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csue%5CDesktop%5CINSTALL%20INSTRUCTIONS%5Cwww.daltile.com%5Cinformation%5Cwarranty)