INSTALLATION GUIDELINES – METAL PLUS

Please read these installation instructions carefully before beginning installation!!

**Inspection**

Open and inspect each carton of mosaic tiles to confirm shading consistency. If required, blend sheets from different cartons to minimize and assuring random shading placement during installation. Manufacturing characteristics of these products do create a degree of variation in shade and color tone.

**Substrate Preparation**

Surfaces requiring mosaic tiling should be clean, solid, flat and without cracks. If substrate does not meet these required conditions, these surfaces should be treated accordingly. If the wall substrate is not adequately plum, a preliminary render operation is required.

A good substrate preparation is of great importance to the quality of the finished mosaic tiled surface as any small imperfection will result on a magnified un-even finish. Also, at all times, follow the Adhesive Manufacture guideline for specific substrate adhesive requirements.

**Laying Operation**

First step is to mark with a carpenter pencil and a level or laser tool, the required horizontal and vertical guideline. This will assist in determining the tiling pattern and expected closure tile cutting requirements. Unpack the mosaic tiles and control shading variation, if required randomly select from different boxes. Lay the adhesive on the wall surface using firstly the smooth side of a notched trowel so that the full surface is covered. Depending on the substrate to be tiled, adhesive used and weather conditions, an area of about 1m² should not be exceeded at a time. Once adhesive fully spread, make use of the toothed side of the trowel to maintain a uniform and constant direction layer of about 3mm to 5mm grooves. Each mosaic sheet should be laid onto the adhesive while it is still fresh and enough pressure should be applied until the rear of the mosaic tile is in full contact with the adhesive. At all times, taking care in keeping a constant 2mm-3mm joint (depending on product installed) between each tile. After few tiles have been laid, use a rubber float to press further in the laid tiles so that a uniform level is achieved. Repeat all above steps until the entire area is complete. Any excessive adhesive protruding over the mosaic face should be removed immediately, prior the adhesive hardening, leaving enough room for the required grout. A hard brush soaked in alcohol may help in the cleaning.

**Grouting Operation**

To prevent damaging the tiles surfaces, the use of a non-sanded grout is highly recommended. The joint should not be filled in until 24 hours after the tile installation. The grout should be installed with the use of a rubber trowel, applied diagonally to the mosaic joint directions, making sure that the joint is fully filled. As soon as the grout starts setting, usually within 20 to 25 minutes, proceed in cleaning the surface by using a soft sponge and fresh water, taking care in not excessively removing the grout from the joint. The sponge should be rinsed regularly and cleaning should continue avoiding the grout to completely dry on the mosaic surface. Finally, a dry cloth should be used to wipe any grout residues from the tiles. Note that some Scotch-Bright sponges (green) contain metal powder which can scratch/harm the surface of the mosaic tiles.

**Cutting and Drilling**

Cutting can be performed by the use of a wet-cutting saw installed with a continuous high quality diamond blade. Cutting must be performed slowly at all time to avoid glass cracking or high temperature build up which could discolour the metal surface. For best result, the use of a GEMINI ring saw (www.geminisaw.com) is highly recommended, especially for difficult cutting shapes and notches. Stock of the Harlequin is available in half pieces. Please contact your supplier.

**Daily Maintenance – Stainless Steel**

General maintenance and cleaning of Stainless Steel tile will vary depending on the surface texture and installation location. Routine cleaning can be accomplished by using warm water and a cloth. This is the least risky option for cleaning stainless steel. Dry with a towel or cloth to prevent water spots. When possible, always wipe in the directions of the polish lines.

For additional information relating metal and glass mosaic cutting and cleaning see additional data sheets. Please contact Voguebay (www.voguebay.com) for more details.