

Zellige, definition

Zellige are Moroccan tiles, crafted one by one from non-refined natural clay extracted in the region of Fez (Morocco). This clay is mixed and kneaded with water, moulded by hand, dried naturally and kiln-baked. The glazing (vitreous compounds and mineral pigments) is applied on the tiles, then melted/vitrified, resulting in multiple semi-transparent, metallic, pearlescent or opaque shades.

The essence of Zellige is the irregularity of surface appearance, tone, flatness, thickness, shine, depth and colour. Each Zellige tile is unique.

Zellige tile installation

- Open several boxes and randomly mix different Zellige tiles with multiple tones and textures to create a set that reflects all the Zellige colour shades.
- The wall should be well prepared and levelled before placing the Zellige.
- Evenly apply flexible adhesive for ceramics on the surface to be tiled as well as on the back of the tile. Alternatively fix the Zellige with silicone.
- Position the tiles by hand, leaving no joint (edge to edge) without using tile spacers, looking for the harmony of the whole.
- Once the adhesive is dry and the Zellige tiles are well fixed, spread very liquid grout cement over the surface, with a rubber spatula, making sure that the spaces between the tiles are completely filled.
- Wipe off the excess grout cement with a damp sponge or cloth. Manually rectify any possible defects on areas that have been left without grout.
- Zellige tiles can be easily cut or bevelled by using a diamond disk. Tile cutters can also be used but the results are less precise.
- When laid in direct contact with water: pools, showers (floors and walls), water features, worktops; please ensure that the sub-surface is waterproofed. Like other enamelled ceramics, covering a surface with Zellige tiles does not guarantee waterproofing. Humidity can filter through the grout or any surface irregularities.

Outdoor installation

- Zellige tiles, like other enamelled ceramics, are not affected by sun or UV exposure. Quality of the subsurface and installation (using suitable grout and adhesive for outdoor use) will help the tiles deal with thermal shocks.
- Resistance to frost will depend on the impermeability of the grout and stability of the bonding between tiles and subsurface, to prevent water from infiltrating.

Zellige maintenance

- Glazed Zellige tiles are of easy maintenance, cleaned like any other glazed clay tile.
- Please note that our Metallic Zellige range requires special installation and maintenance. Contact our customer service team for more information.