

**Seneca Tiles, Inc.**  
**Reflections Series Tiles Installation, Grouting &  
Sealing Recommendations**

A copy of these instructions should be left for the owner.

Specifications for installation techniques can be found in the "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation", published annually by the Tile Council of North America (TCNA). The details outlined in the TCNA Handbook cover most installation methods and conditions. A copy of this publication may be obtained from your local Seneca distributor or from the TCNA.

**General Instructions**

Because of Seneca tile's natural variation in color, size, and texture, we recommend that prior to installation, all tile be laid out and mixed to give the most balanced appearance. Seneca tile cannot be installed with the perfection or precision of machine made tile and is designed to be nonuniform in color and texture. We recommend between a 1/4" & 1/2" grout joint.

On floors, we recommend a latex modified portland cement mortar (thin-set) when installing Seneca tile over acceptable concrete, cementitious backer board, or plywood sub-floors. Apply mortar with a 1/4" x 3/8" square notched trowel following recognized installation methods. We advise you to review your setting material instructions carefully prior to beginning installation. Seneca recommends only those setting materials manufactured by licensed manufacturers tested and approved by the TCNA.

It may be necessary to back-butter each tile, depending on trowel and tile size as well as type of installation. Assure 100% coverage of mortar to tile.

For wall installations an approved, organic wall tile adhesive may work best, following the TCNA's and the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines.

**Grouting**

**Always do a test area first as some grout colors may be difficult to remove.** Work in small areas, 10 to 20 square feet. **Completely clean an area before proceeding.** Use a rubber grout float and pack grout joints full (this provides a more attractive finished installation). Working in sections will shorten your overall time in final cleanup. Cleanup may be done with a damp (not wet) sponge, then polish with a rough material such as burlap or cheese cloth. After the floor has been grouted and the grout is dry to foot traffic, clean with water, or mild, non acidic grout haze remover, and a 3M Doodlebug or a fine, fiber scrub pad. Rinse with clean water. Do not use acid on any Seneca tile product.

**Sealing**

The unique nature of the Reflections Series colors are such that we recommend a **minimum** of two, thorough coats of Aqua Mix, Sealers Choice Gold, or its equivalent, be applied to the tile & grout joints as soon as practical **after** grouting. This will help prevent liquids from penetrating the glaze or body of the tile.

**Please Note:** In regularly wet areas, such as a shower, it is common for some tiles to darken and lighten as they become wet and then dry. In cooking areas, around a stove on counters and backsplashes, cooking oil splatters should be cleaned as soon as possible, as oils may permanently darken some tiles. Extra sealing and care should be used in these areas. It is suggested that you reseal these areas periodically to help maintain their resistance to liquid penetration. Still, some spotting from liquid penetration is possible.

When dry, mop with a concentrated solution of Concentrated Tile Cleaner from Aqua Mix and cover during the remainder of construction. Do not rinse.

When ready to use, wash and rinse the floor to remove any remaining construction dirt and excessive cleaning solution.

**Maintenance**

Vacuum or sweep with a treated dust mop regularly to remove loose material from floors that might act as an abrasive under foot or prior to wet cleaning.

Remove spills and tracking as soon as possible with a damp mop or sponge. Especially tough soils (such as asphalt tracking) may require a more chemically aggressive cleaner.

For damp mopping or scrubbing mix a solution of Concentrated Tile Cleaner or other neutral cleaner per label instructions. A double bucket system is best, one for fresh cleaning solution and one to receive dirty solution removed from floor. Apply a liberal amount of clean solution to floor and scrub with rayon wet mop or sponge mop. For stubborn spots or grout joints use a stiff natural bristle brush. Do not allow solution to dry on the floor.

Remove dirty cleaning solution from floor with wet vacuum or mop. Rinse thoroughly to be sure all dirty cleaning solution has been removed. Failure to rinse the floor may affect slip resistance.

Let floor dry before allowing traffic.

Most sealing or cleaning products in the aforementioned procedures may be purchased through your local Seneca distributor. Alternative products are available, but we have found these to provide excellent results. As always, we recommend carefully following all label directions.

**Please inspect your tile carefully prior to installation.**  
**Installation constitutes acceptance of material by purchaser.**

Please call us toll free at 800-426-4335 with questions.

**Seneca Tiles, Inc.**  
**7100 South County Road 23**  
**Attica, OH 44807**

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