



*Encaustic cement tiles*



## **SECOIN ENCAUSTIC CEMENT TILES - F.A.Q.**

### **1. What is encaustic cement tile?**

Secoin encaustic cement tiles are hand-made, aesthetic tiles with many colored patterns used for floor and wall coverings. Our tiles are made with two layers: The first layer (about 2-3mm thick) is a mixture of white cement, pigment, stone powder and additives which is hand-poured into divider mould to create desired patterned. The second layer is made of grey cement and sand to ensure the strength of tiles.

### **2. What is encaustic terrazzo?**

Encaustic terrazzo tiles are made as the combination of traditional encaustic cement tile and terrazzo tile. In encaustic terrazzo, small natural stone chips are used on the surface to create a special look. Other type of decorative chips, such as mother-of-pearl, glass chips,... can be used to enhance the beauty for tile products.

In encaustic terrazzo tiles, as there are decorative chips in the patterns, the lines of patterns are not as sharp and smooth as in encaustic cement tiles.

Another difference between encaustic terrazzo tiles and encaustic cement tiles is that encaustic terrazzo tiles have to go through grinding-polishing process which makes the decorative chips to be exposed on the surface.

### **3. Should I expect shade variations or imperfections in this product?**

Yes. Please be aware that cement tile is a handmade product. Cement tiles will not be identical from piece to piece. Slight variations such as size, shade, slight imperfections, irregular edges are inherent to this product and can vary from piece to piece. This adds to the natural appeal and does not compromise the performance. Secoin does not give warranty against shade variations.

### **4. Are the patterns on Secoin encaustic tiles painted?**

No, the patterns are neither painted nor printed. Liquid colored materials (consisting of white cement, pigment, fillers, additives which are friendly to the environment) are hand-poured into divider molds to create these patterns. They are actually a layer of approx. 2-3mm. Therefore, the patterns will last very long and never go away. There are many ancient buildings in which cement tile floors have been existing for more than 100 years but still very beautiful.

### **5. How thick are your cement tiles?**

Our standard thickness for cement tiles is 1.6cm for most of sizes.

### **6. Are Secoin encaustic cement tiles friendly to the environment?**

Secoin encaustic cement tiles are considered "green" products. They are manufactured from natural materials (cement, sand, stone powder, pigment) under hydraulic pressing process. Unlike ceramic or clay-burnt tiles, no heat is involved, so there is no consumption of fuel; no clay is used, so there is no consumption of agricultural land.

### **7. Do your cement tiles have exactly the same thickness?**

As a characteristic of cement tiles, our products do not have exactly the same thickness. There is certain allowed tolerance, which is about +/- 1mm for thickness of tiles.

Due to the tolerance, it is recommended to use mortar instead of glue when laying tiles so as to easily adjust tiles to a flat surface.



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## **8. I sometimes see white marks on the surface of normal cement tiles. What are those white marks?**

The white mark you see is efflorescence. Secoin Encaustic Cement Tile have very few problems with efflorescence as we are using a special environmentally friendly additive which has the function of reducing efflorescence. However efflorescence is an inherit problem for all cementitious products and does no harm to the products. It is a natural occurring phenomenon and cannot be totally controlled. If you see white marks on tile surface - that is efflorescence which will gradually go away.

Considerably reduced efflorescence is one of the outstanding features in Secoin encaustic cement tiles as compared to other similar products.

## **DESIGN AND COLOUR**

### **1. Can you make custom design?**

Yes, we can make custom cement tile designs. This requires making a custom "new divider mold". We have the best artisans for making custom divider mold in-house and can create divider molds for almost any designs from our customers. Getting a custom cement tile design will take a bit longer and there is an additional cost.

### **2. Can you make custom colours?**

Yes, besides Secoin's 75 standard colors, we can match almost any colors. Getting a custom color will take a bit of time and an additional cost.

### **3. How many colours can be made in one tile?**

We do not have limited number of colors in one design. We have some patterns with up to 10 colors or checker-board tiles with up to 25 colors. The more colors the higher cost. However, specific designs and colors will be quoted by case.

## **APPLICATION**

### **1. Where can encaustic cement tiles be used?**

Thanks to their durability and aesthetic appearance, encaustic cement tiles can be used for various applications, such as hotels, restaurants, kitchen, bathroom, living room, walling, terrace & staircase, commercial projects, corridor and other furniture decoration (tables, chairs,...). Nowadays, encaustic cement tiles are not only used in ancient buildings but also used in many modern and stylish projects with contemporary designs.

### **2. Are there any places where encaustic cement tile cannot be used?**

So far, we do not recommend using encaustic cement tiles in the following applications:

- + Outdoor in places that freeze in winter
- + Outdoor with vehicle traffic or driveways
- + Inside swimming pool or similar applications
- + Floors which are in frequent contact with acids, alkaline or other attacking chemicals

### **3. Can encaustic cement tiles be used in bathroom or places with water?**

Cement tiles can be used for floors in bathrooms and showers. Please note that in these cases, cement tiles and grout have to be sealed with a very good penetrating sealer to protect the floors from attack of body wash or shower gel.

### **4. Can encaustic cement tiles be used on the walls?**

Encaustic cement tiles can be used on walls, such as wall decoration in living room, dining room, kitchen backsplash, bathroom wall,... Depending on the type of walls, cement tiles should be protected with suitable penetrating sealer to be protected from stain or oil or other substances.