

Installation Guidelines

This information is general guide to most standard installations within average conditions. Please read all details prior to installation. Refer to the TCNA guidelines for more specific information.

Crystal glass is a transparent glass where the back of each tile is color coated and fired onto the glass. When working with these tiles, it is imperative that the tile, thinset, grout, and substrate are all at a consistent temperature (above 60°F) which needs to be maintained throughout the installation.

APPLICATIONS

Crystal Glass can be used for interior and exterior wall applications, in wet or dry locations. Acceptable substrates include cement backer board and/or concrete masonry block. Gypsum wallboard can be used for dry interior walls only. Cement mortar beds are acceptable after a minimum 10-day cure time.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Inspect all tile PRIOR to installation for any visible defects, etc. Installation of products claimed to be defective or not meeting the expectations of the end user constitutes acceptance of the product. No claims will be honored after installation.

As with all tile installations, expansion joints are necessary. Follow Tile Council of America guideline EJ 171-06 or current year.

Glass tile expands and contracts more than ceramic or porcelain tile. This movement needs to be accommodated for, particularly where high and low temperature changes may occur. Be sure to use flexible sealant/caulk joints anywhere tile work abuts restraining surfaces such as perimeter walls, inside corners, dissimilar floors, curbs, counters, backsplashes, columns, pipes, ceilings, cabinets or any projection through the tiled surface and in compliance with Tile Council of America guidelines. While this recommendation is standard installation procedure, it is frequently ignored with ceramic tile. It is critical to follow these guidelines with glass tile installation.

Mosaic Tile also recommends the use of a crack isolation for tiles larger than 4x4.

For setting the tiles/mosaic sheets it is recommended that you use only a consistently white thin-set mortar, modified with polymer or latex, and compliant with ANSI 118.4. A 1/4" x 1/4" square-notched trowel should be used. Due to the nature of Crystal Glass tile, tiles should be back buttered to remove potential "streakage" appearance, or the ability to see trowel marks through the tile after installation. All trowel ridges in the thin-set must be smoothed out using the flat edge of the trowel before setting the tile. When back-buttering glass tiles, do not overbuild the mortar. As the mortar cures, shrinkage may occur that can crack the glass tile. Work small areas of 4 to 6 square feet that can be accomplished in 15 to 20 minutes. This will ensure bonding mortar remains fresh.

Any thin-set mortar that has pushed up into the joints must be removed. Scraping the joint with a wooden pin (as wide as the grout joint) will work best and won't scratch the glass.

Mosaic Tile DOES NOT recommend the use of:

- Organic Adhesives (mastic) – It may become yellow and bonding strength is generally weaker -or-
- Epoxy – It is not flexible enough and may degrade and change color in sunlight

GROUTING

When selecting the grout color, consider that the glass tiles are made of transparent glass and the color of grouting materials will be visible from the edges of each tile. This may affect the final appearance of the tile. Mosaic recommends a lighter color whenever possible, with white being an optimal choice. Use only non-sanded grout that is compliant with ANSI 118.6. Use a soft rubber wall float to minimize the possibility of scratches.

AquaMix Grout Haze Clean-Up or TEC Banish Grout Haze Remover are excellent choices for cleaning Crystal Glass after installation. Wipe off the heavy grout residue with a clean, white nylon scrub pad or cheese cloth. Finish with a clean grout sponge or damp terry cloth towel. Always use clean cloths, preferably white, as some fabric dyes can stain the grout joint.

DRILLING AND CUTTING

Always wear eye protection when cutting, drilling or grinding glass tile.

Cutting: Use a glass cutter (score and snap) with a new scoring wheel, or a wet saw with a new diamond rimmed blade designed to cut glass. Mosaic Tile DOES NOT recommend any blades designed for cutting ceramic tile.

All edges should be smoothed and dulled with a rub stone, diamond hand pad or similar abrasive tools.

Drilling Holes: If possible, drill holes before installing the tile and drill from both sides. This will help reduce chips and cracks. A new diamond-tipped core bit with a low speed drill (200 to 300 rpm) will give the best results. Continuously spray water on the drill bit and the glass surface that is being drilled.

If you drill holes for anchoring bolts, keep the hole at least 1/8" larger than needed to avoid stress transfer from the anchor and/or bolt to the tile; otherwise this stress may cause cracks and/or chips.

Crystal Glass II



For your convenience, this product is stocked in our Central Service Center
(Available within 24 hours for MD and Northern VA locations, Southern VA and NC destinations may take up to 48 hours)

v.6-15

mosaic tile



3x6 Feather
53CRYFEA36



3x6 Beluga
53CRYBEL36



3x6 Angora
53CRYANG36



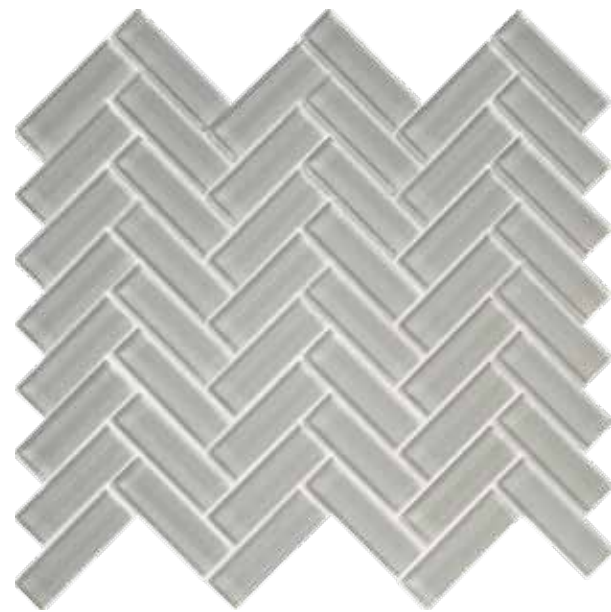
3x12 Feather
53CRYFEA312



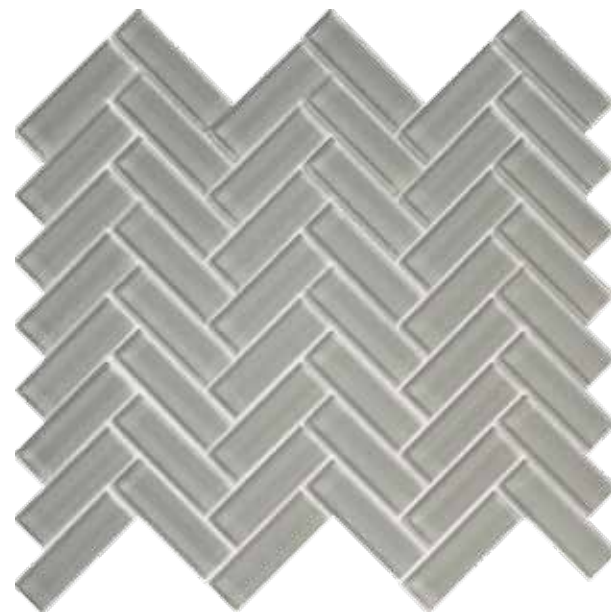
3x12 Beluga
53CRYBEL312



3x12 Angora
53CRYANG312



1x3 Feather Herringbone Mosaic
53CRYFEA13H



1x3 Beluga Herringbone Mosaic
53CRYBEL13H



1x3 Angora Herringbone Mosaic
53CRYBEL13H

Sizes Available:
3" x 6" Tile • 3" x 12" Tile
1" x 3" Herringbone Mosaic (Sold by 12x12 Sheets)

