

SOMERSET™

INSTALLATION, USE & CARE INSTRUCTIONS

*Thank you for your purchase, please enjoy your new tile. Surface markings and natural color variations are inherent qualities of Somerset Cast Stone and Cast Metal; adding to the beauty of all Somerset products. **Please inspect your product prior to installation.***

Q-SEAL™ PERMANENT PROTECTION

Tile surfaces are protected by Q-Seal, a permanent sealer that is water and stain resistant, protects against abrasion, and features Ultra-Fresh® anti-microbial protection, which inhibits the growth of stain and odor-causing mold and mildew. Q-Seal is factory-applied and never needs re-sealing.

Q-SEAL WARRANTY

Q-Seal is guaranteed to be water and stain resistant for as long as you own your home.

APPLICATIONS

- **WALL:** All tiles are recommended for use as a wall covering in interior applications.
- **FLOOR:** Tiles designated as “floor” are recommended for use as a wall or floor covering.
- **COUNTERTOPS:** Tiles are NOT recommended for use as a surface for countertops.
- **WET AREAS:** The tiles can be installed in wet areas such as backsplashes, bathroom walls and shower enclosures (including steam showers), but are NOT

recommended in wet areas where pool chemicals are present (swimming pools, hot tubs, etc.)

- **EXTERIOR:** Tiles are NOT recommended for exterior applications.
- **RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL:** Tiles are recommended for residential and light commercial applications.

INSTALLATIONS INSTRUCTIONS

Follow generally accepted good practices for installation of ceramic tile.

SETTING MATERIALS

Use the following setting materials for proper adhesion:

- **Thin-Set:** A liquid latex (polymer) fortified premium thin-set Portland cement mortar conforming to ANSI A118.4.
- **Epoxy Adhesives:** A water-cleanable epoxy mortar conforming to ANSI A118.3.
- **Mastics & Adhesives:** A Type 1 organic adhesive conforming to ANSI A136.1 (examples: latex mastic adhesive; acrylic latex adhesive).

SETTING METHODS

- Follow adhesive manufacturer’s instructions for preparation, mixing, application, and cleanup.
- Trowel a layer of adhesive on the back of each tile prior to placing on the combed adhesive bed to obtain 100% coverage.
- Do NOT beat in with the butt-end of the trowel.

GROUTING MATERIALS

Use the following grouting materials:

- **Cement:** A liquid latex (polymer) fortified premium Portland cement grout conforming to ANSI A118.6.
- **Epoxy:** A water-cleanable grouting epoxy conforming to ANSI A118.3.

GROUTING METHODS

- Follow grout manufacturer’s instructions for preparation, mixing, application, and cleanup.
- To help with cleanup, we recommend covering the tile surface with a high quality painter’s tape.
- Clean-up residue as soon as possible after grouting. Grout that is allowed to harden may be difficult to remove.
- Do NOT use scouring pads, steel wool, sandpaper, or other abrasive implements to remove grout haze, or damage to the tile surface may result.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS AND SAFETY

Be sure to wear appropriate eye protection and an approved dust respirator when cutting, grinding or drilling tiles.

- The tiles are best cut or mitered with a diamond abrasive wet-saw.
- Tiles can be drilled with a high-speed drill or a hole saw.
- Tiles can also be cut or drilled with a rotary saw (ex. Roto Zip, Dremel).
- Do NOT use tile cutters designed to score and break tiles.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- To clean, use an ordinary household cleaner. For best results, we recommend a liquid, non-abrasive cleaner.
- Liquid abrasive household cleaners should be used only after being tested in a small inconspicuous area to ensure that no damage will result.
- Do NOT clean with scouring pads, steel wool, or other abrasive implements or damage to the tile surface may result.
- Cleaners containing ammonia, bleach or other harsh chemicals should be wiped up shortly after application or damage to the tile surface may result.

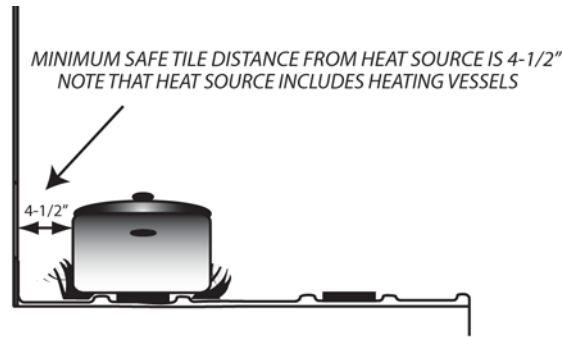
HIGH-TEMPERATURE INSTALLATION

High-temperature installations are those where tiled surfaces will be subject to temperatures 130°F (55°C) or greater. Common applications include: Certain kitchen cook tops, fireplace surrounds and steam rooms. Follow the high temperature installation instructions to ensure proper adhesion.

Important Note: Tiles are not recommended in areas where the tiled surface temperature will exceed 212°F (100°C). For example, do not install tiles as a heat shield behind a wood (or gas) stove.

Behind Cook-Tops without a Back-Guard (or back mount control panel)

To ensure proper bond, maintain a minimum distance of 4.5" inches between tiled surfaces and heat source. For the wall area directly behind and within 18 inches above the cooking surface, follow the high-temperature installation instructions.



Fireplace Surrounds

To ensure proper bond, maintain a minimum clearance of 6" from the fireplace opening. When used above and projecting more than 1½" from a fireplace face, maintain a minimum clearance of 12" above the fireplace opening. Consult state and local building codes to determine if more clearance is required in your area. Follow the high-temperature installation instructions.

Steam Rooms

To ensure proper bond, follow the high-temperature installation instructions.

HIGH-TEMPERATURE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Set tile with a water-cleanable epoxy mortar conforming to ANSI A118.3.
- Grout tile with a water-cleanable grouting epoxy conforming to ANSI A118.3.
- Follow setting and grouting instructions found in the Installation Instructions section of this document.