



# International Wholesale Tile, LLC

## DECORATED (DIGITALLY PRINTED) CRYSTAL GLASS SERIES

CASINO / FABRIC GLASS / GLAMOUR/ GLIMMER / GLITZ / TERRA BELLA / WOOD GLASS

### Glass Tile Installation Instructions

These instructions are meant to be a general guide for installations under normal conditions. Please read and understand this information before installation. These instructions reference industry standards ANSI A108.16, ANSI A137.2, ANSI A108 AN-2, ANSI A118.15, and TCNA EJ-171. Please review these standards for more detailed instruction. If you have no experience with the installation of glass products obtain professional advice or use their services for the installation. Decorated Crystal Glass mosaics are made of clear glass which is back mounted with a fiberglass mesh. These products are decorated using a digital print cold application process.

Decorated Crystal Glass tiles can be used for interior limited water exposure wall applications in primarily dry locations. Correctly installed decorated glass mosaics can be used in backsplash and non-submerged applications. Shower applications require the bottom row of glass be isolated from the shower floor, preferably with a waterproof movement / expansion joint of 100% Silicone Caulking (Failure to isolate the bottom row will allow moisture to wick up the glass and stain decorative areas).

**This type of glass requires specific installation setting materials.**

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**THINSET MUST BE ANSI A118.15 SPECIFICATION FOR GLASS, APPROVED FOR USE WITH GLASS TILE WITH A DECORATIVE COATING ON THE TILE BACKING. IF IN DOUBT, CONTACT THE MORTAR MANUFACTURER FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO PROCEEDING.**

Gypsum wallboard can be used, Cement backer units and/or concrete masonry block are acceptable substrates for interior walls only. Do not install these products with membranes between the glass and the substrate (moisture will damage the decoration)!

**Installation Instructions:** Verify product characteristics BEFORE installation for any visible defect and/or other aspects of the product that may be questionable, such as, but not limited to: shade variation, chipped edges, and scratched surfaces, variations between ordered and supplied products as; Installation, where a claim to be defective is not caught or the material is not corresponding to customer's expectations, constitutes acceptance of the product "as is" and no claims will be accepted after installation. Never use products from different lots. Every box is labeled showing production lot #'s, never mix these as part of the same installation.

The installation of Crystal Glass tile requires proper surface preparation, a careful installation using a **quality glass thinset specified as ANSI A118.15**. Decorated Crystal Glass Tile is moisture sensitive. Non A118.15 thin set will shrink too much and damage the decoration.

**Surface Preparation:** All surfaces must be between 40°F (4°C) to 95°F (35°C) and structurally sound, dry, clean free of paint, old adhesives, sealers and curing compounds. Any contaminants which inhibit proper bond must be removed. Substrate preparation should be completed following ANSI A108 AN-2 "General Requirements for Sub-surfaces". All substrates should be plumb and true, surface deviation should not exceed ¼" in 10'.

**Applying Thinset Mortar:** Apply a quality glass thinset specified as **ANSI A118.15** approved for use with glass or vitreous tile. IWT Recommends Laticrete 254 White or Laticrete GTA. Apply mortar to the substrate with the flat side of the trowel, with enough pressure to firmly work into the surface. With a notched trowel, immediately follow with a heavier coat of material using the appropriate trowel and enough mortar to provide necessary coverage to the back of the tile. Do not spread more mortar than can be covered in 20 minutes or before the mortar skins over. It is advised that during the installation, remove a tile to ensure the mortar has not skinned over and check the tile and substrate mortar coverage. Coverage of the thin set mortar is critical to the success of the installation of the tile. Comb the mortar using an appropriate notched trowel in one direction, using the back of the trowel; flatten any notches of the mortar before placing the mosaic glass tile. Place tiles in mortar; beat in to insure proper coverage. Do not adjust tiles set in mortar after 15 minutes.

**Back Butter:** Next, spread a thin layer of thinset on the back of the glass mosaic tile sheet with the flat edge of your trowel. This back-buttering step is best used for all glass mosaic tiles, to keep any remaining trowel lines on the substrate from showing through on the edges.

**Setting:** Set your sheets into the thinset layer spread on your substrate, taking care to square the sheets as you go. Sheets should be placed onto the newly troweled thinset on your surface immediately. DO NOT delay this step, or your thinset will begin to dry and the tiles will not fully adhere to the surface. The thin-set mortar MUST cover the back of each glass piece pushing up slightly into the joints. You can remove excess thin set from the joints, before grouting later.

**Leveling:** Square the sheet and apply to your surface, then "beat in"; gently with a rubber float or a beating block and a hammer to insure 100% adhesion and a level surface. Beating in with your float or beating block across the joint between adjacent sheets will achieve a level field across the entire area. Properly beating in and leveling will also prevent air bubbles from being trapped between the thinset and tile.

**Align Grout Joints:** Align each sheet carefully as it is installed to create uniform grout joints from sheet to sheet. A joint between adjacent sheets should measure the same distance as the joint between the rows of tile within a single sheet. If the joint between the sheets is wider, you will see a series of individual sheets outlined on your surface, instead of a smooth, continuous field of tiles that covers the entire area. Within 15 minutes of applying each section of your area, examine and straighten any joints that are not aligned and move as desired. Adjustments must be done immediately after or during the installation process before the setting material has dried. Do not adjust tiles set in mortar after 15 minutes.

**Grout Preparation:** After 24-48 hours (dependent on climate and relative humidity), the thinset will be cured, and the tile will be ready for grouting. Movement (Expansion) joints should be provided to comply with TCA method EJ 171. It is imperative to not grout in the corners where the Glass changes plane. Use a soft acrylic or silicone caulking,