

iStone Porcelain Panels General Installation Guide

Packaging and Storage

iStone panels will be packaged on timber crates and covered in plastic shrink wrap. Upon arrival on site, panels should be kept indoors in a dry area - especially after the removal of the plastic protection.

Condition of Substrate

Inspection of the concrete substrate should be undertaken prior to installation, noting the substrate complies with all conditions within the Australian Standard for ceramic tiling.

Particular care must be given to the following:

- Concrete should be fully cured (minimum 6 weeks). It is prudent to get instructions from your preferred adhesive manufacturer in regards to moisture content requirements of structural concrete. A moisture meter may be required in this instance.
- Concrete should be free of curing agents.
- Pour breaks and saw cuts should be reflected in the surface of the finished floor by means of expansion joints.

Screed

Screed floors must be to required levels in conjunction with Australian Standards.

Particular care must be given to the following:

- Use of bonding slurry.
- Minimum screed thickness 20mm.
- Allow screed to cure in accordance with adhesive manufacturers requirements.

Installation

Installation of iStone panels should be done in accordance with the Australian Standard.

Particular care must be given to the following:

- Consult with preferred adhesive manufacturer in regards to the specification of an adhesive. Give clear instructions as to the composition of the panel.
- 100% coverage of adhesive to panel is required. Back buttering of panels may be required to achieve 100% coverage.
- Install neoprene control joints as per manufacturers recommendations. Generally, for internal installations slab on ground not more than 6m x 6m bays are required. Saw cuts and joints in the concrete must be brought through the panels installation with a neoprene joint. Major construction joints require the installation of mechanical construction joints.
- Install angles to any floor junction as required
- Joint width as per Australian Standards.

Grouting

Grouting of iStone panels should be done in accordance with the Australian Standard.

Particular care must be given to the following:

- Following tiling sweep and mop floor clean. Apply 2 coats of pre-seal or penetrating sealer to panels to ensure that grout does not stain surfaces.
- Grouting should be undertaken after a minimum of 24 hours. Ensure surface is clean and that joints are free from dust and adhesive prior to grouting.
- Grout with proprietary grout (MAPEI Ultra Colour Plus or equivalent). For wet areas and commercial kitchens we recommend epoxy grout.
- Clean excess grout off the surface of the panels thoroughly.



Sealing

Sealing of iStone panels should be done in accordance with the Australian Standard. Please note that as a minimum requirement the below process should be followed:

- Allow surface to completely dry. We recommend the application of a premium solvent based sealant such as Aquamix Ultraseal or Dry Treat Stainproof. Apply a minimum of 2 coats as per the manufacturers recommendations - however if it is seen that the sealer is quickly drawn into the panels on application, further coats are recommended until it is noticed that some sealer is still on the surface after 5 minutes (this should be wiped off). The aim is to "fill" the panels with sealer.
- Important: Wash surface with a PH neutral detergent to remove any sealer residue prior to undertaking any required slip test. (minimum 48 hours after sealing)

General Maintenance

- Always use neutral detergents when cleaning iStone panels.
- Use only soft nylon brushes under any scrubbing equipment in order to maintain slip rating.
- Grit and sand can scratch panels. Ensure removal by vacuum or sweep as often as required.
- Ensure furniture legs have pads installed so as not to scratch panels.
- All spills should be wiped up as soon as possible. Sealer helps but will not stop staining.
- If spills are left to sit on the surface, they may stain the panel.
- In the event of damage or wear, iStone panels can easily be refinished. Apply Elica pads from Klindex Australia, Twister pads or equivalent.
- Resealing is recommended every 5-7 years in most areas. Shower recesses and kitchen work areas will benefit from resealing every 2 years to aid in cleaning.
- For full cleaning and maintenance tips, visit our website immense.net.au

