

# SOLI

A R C H I T E C T U R A L   S U R F A C E S

## INFORMATION & GUIDELINES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MIRROR FREEFORM MOSAICS

### RECOMMENDED INSTALLTION

SOLI Mirror Freeform Mosaic tiles are not recommended for areas that may be subject to heavy impact, heavy abrasion, most exterior applications, areas where temperatures can exceed 130 degrees Fahrenheit. This collection is designed for almost any commercial and residential interior application, including walls, ceilings, water features, backsplashes and more.

### CURVED SURFACES

The Mirror Freeform Mosaic tiles can be installed around gently curved surfaces. Some manipulation of the tiles may be required in order to create uniformity between each sheet.

### SUBSTRATES

All substrates should be firmly fixed, flat, clean, dry and free of contaminants such as dust, oil, paint, sealers etc. to ensure proper adhesion. Painted surfaces must be scuffed or sanded for the product and adhesive to bond correctly. Wet areas need special attention and require appropriate substrates, e.g. concrete, cement boards (compressed sheet), and/or treated plywood. The use of reinforced waterproof membranes is suggested.

### WATERPROOF MEMBRANES

Waterproof membranes prevent leakage of water through to the sub-floor framing and/or habitable spaces below. Particular attention must be paid to: carrying the membrane up the wall, outside shower boxes, installation of bond breakers, and sealing around penetrations. It is strongly recommended that membrane systems be used in all wet areas. Some systems may involve the use of a primer.

### CUTTING

Cuts may not be necessary during installation due to the freeform pattern and nature of the product. When approaching the edge of a surface, the final row of mirror can be removed from the mesh and adjusted by hand. If a straight line is desired, the glass can easily be cut with a curved splitting clamp or a glass cutter. The mesh back can easily be cut with a utility knife. To create a more seamless look in between sheets the ellipse-shaped mirrors may need to be adjusted by hand as well.

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## ADHESIVE

Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions carefully. We do not recommend one brand of adhesive over another. Please check with your local tile supply store for alternative and comparable products.

The manufacturer's literature will explain if the adhesive product is suitable for interiors and/or exteriors, as well as walls and floors. Most thinset mortars with a latex additive (multipurpose and polymer modified thinsets) are adequate for installing mirror pebbles. A cement-based adhesive is generally suitable on masonry substrates where no movement is anticipated. Where slight movement could occur through thermal or pedestrian loads, a modified cement adhesive should be used as a minimum. A 1/4" – 1/8" notch trowel is recommended for most applications. Set the tile in place gently tapping it in with a grout float to ensure 100% adhesive coverage. Suggested adhesives include but are not limited to:

**Mapei:** Adesilex P10 (bright white) non-sag mortar for glass tile. Mix with water or Keraply.

**Mapei:** Kerabond Premium Dry-Set Mortar (Ker 102) mixed with Keralistic Mortar Admix (Ker 310).

**Custom Building Products:** Premium Plus Thin-Set Mortar (white) mixed with Custom Flex Ultra-Strength Thin-Set Additive.

**Custom Building Products:** MegaFlex Ultimate Thin-Set Mortar (white). No admixture is necessary.

**Hydroment:** ReFlex Ultra-Premium Latex-Modified Thin-Set Mortar. No admixture is necessary.

**Laticrete:** 254 Platinum Multipurpose Thin-Set Mortar. No admixture is necessary.

**TEC (H.B. Fuller):** Super Flex Premium Performance Universal Latex-Modified Thin-Set Mortar. No admixture is necessary.

## GROUTING

Grout should be suitable for joints up to 3/4" in width and designed for external or internal conditions whichever may be the case. Sanded grout is generally recommended for any grout joint larger than 1/8". Grouts are ordinarily a water mix but where some flexibility may be needed, a latex additive or similar product should be used. It is important to wait the interval recommended by the adhesive manufacturer before grouting to minimize dirt ingress between the mirror pebbles and avoid the opportunity for dislodging.

A sanded grout if applied harshly can scratch certain tiles; carefully float in the grout to avoid abrasion.

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## **SEALANTS**

The mirror tiles do not have to be sealed but we strongly recommend sealing the grout after installation to help prevent it from absorbing stains.

## **CARE & CLEANING**

SOLI Mirror Freeform Mosaic tiles must be regularly cleaned and maintained to extend the life and beauty of the tile. The tile can be cleaned with a neutral mild detergent, or glass cleaner. Any spills should be cleaned quickly to lessen the degree of the stain to the grout. Do not use abrasive cleaners, powders, scouring pads, steel wool or sandpaper.