

# ARTEDOMUS

STONE • TILE • MOSAIC • BATHWARE • TIMBER FLOORING

## **FIXING NOTES FOR VIXEL GLASS VIXEL MOSAICS – PAPER FACED**

- **Please note that this product is paper-faced and has an anticated edge.**
- **A white substrate is absolutely essential for the light coloured vixels to give a uniform base. This can be achieved by priming the substrate with white primer.**
- **For the light coloured vixels a white adhesive is also necessary. The use of grey mortar or any coloured grout will affect the final colour appearance.**
- **Otherwise, for best results we recommend the grout colour should match as close to the tile colour as is possible.**
- **For swimming pool installations – we recommend Mapei “Granirapid” as an adhesive**
- **Mapei “Ultracolour Plus” grout is said to stop grout ‘bleeding’ in swimming pool and showers**
- **If you require any technical assistance with the Mapei range of adhesives and grouts, please call for technical support on (09) 921 1994**

### **Surface Preparation**

Prior to installation, ensure that the substrate is perfectly level and plumb. The mosaics will show up any imperfections if the substrate is uneven. The substrate must be free of grease, dust or any other contamination. A topping can be prepared if needed.

The screed should consist of 1 part normal Portland cement and 3 parts clean sand. Mix with clean water to the required consistency that holds mosaic sheets in place.

Prepare a slurry of Mapei “Planicrete” (or similar) liquid and neat cement prior to spreading the screed. Broom into the concrete substrate. Spread the sand and cement mixture over the slurry and screed to the required levels.

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## **Adhesive Fixing (see special notes for swimming pool installation)**

Ensure that surfaces to be adhered to are clean and free from dust. This may be achieved by wiping the base of the tile and the surface to be covered with a damp cloth.

The choice of which type of adhesive to use is dependent on the substrate the tiles are to be applied to and the required drying time.

- Concrete substrate: Mapei “Granirapid” (this can be applied directly on to the concrete and is fast setting)
- All other substrates: Mapei “White Kerabond Plus” and “Isolastic” neat  
or  
“Keraquick” and “Latex Plus” (this is a fast setting combination – good for on a vertical surface)

Apply with a notched trowel, using a scraping motion to work the material into good contact with the substrate surface to be covered. A 4x4mm notch trowel is recommended. Apply only as much adhesive as will cover a maximum 9 sheets at one time. We do not recommend “back buttering” the sheets of mosaics in order to fix them.

## **Allow to Set Firm**

Set the mosaic sheets in place with the **face mounted paper facing the installer**. Align mosaic sheets to show uniform joints with the grout joints on the sheets. Rap or beat with a float or rubber mallet. Ensure 100% full bedding and a plumb and true surface.

Allow to set firm; approximately 20 – 40 minutes.

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Make sure the paper on the front of the tiles is removed before the mortar dries completely. This will facilitate making corrections and adjustments to mosaics. Warm water is required to soak the paper for removal – or a wallpaper steamer could also be used.

## **Cutting**

The best cutting results are achieved with a wet saw. Cut with the paper face uppermost. To prevent the paper falling off during cutting apply strips of masking tape on either side of the cut.

## **Remove Face Paper and Clean**

Use a wet sponge or brush to dampen the mounting paper with warm water or a wallpaper steamer unit.

Starting from the top corner downwards, remove damp paper by carefully pulling diagonally across the sheet.

Using a small trowel, make the necessary adjustments to the sheets. Allow the setting material to cure 24 hours before grouting.

## **Grouting**

Clean any residual glue left from mounting paper using a mild detergent and water. Make sure the surface is clean and not sticky before grouting.

Spread Mapei “Ultracolor Plus” grout with a float, coating in horizontal and vertical directions. Remove excess grout using the float in diagonal directions and clean with a damp sponge.

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## Final Cleaning

Final cleaning should be done 24 hours after grouting using 1 part muriatic acid to 5 parts of water (local fillers suggest 1 part sea salt to 10 parts water). Finally, rinse with clean water. Use a nylon Scotchbrite pad to remove stubborn grout haze, should that be necessary. Vinegar can also be used to remove stubborn grout haze.

## Maintenance

The mosaics are easily maintained by using non-harsh cleaning products, sold through supermarkets or such outlets.

Cleaners used for natural stone which are PH neutral are ideal.

(Further notes from a trusted tiler FYI)

As discussed yesterday, the attached Product sheet for the glue I use for glass mosaic and other mosaic. It is advisable to add 50% Isolastic to the mix to make it stand up to water well.

This glue is excellent for skim coating of the walls and floor the day before the tile installation, to prevent colour differences in the finished area.

This can happen if the waterproofing is darker than rest of the wall lining or is a coloured waterproofing system. I know some people say to paint the walls before installing a light coloured glass mosaic but this can cause a warranty problem with the glue manufacturer because the paint is a separation layer between the waterproofing and adhesive.

That is the reason that a skim coat is a much better idea.

This glue is super white, it is thixotropic so not much slip and has an extended open time so the tiles can be adjusted for a longer time period.

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