

1. INTRODUCTION

A ceramic tiling finish is a system comprising no less than substrate, bedding, ceramic tiles, grout and movement joints. All components are equally important and intimately related to one another. Adequate compatibility must exist among the components as they could only function collectively. The system could only be as strong as the weakest component, if not worse.

Therefore, design, preparation works, installation, protection and maintenance must take into consideration the performance characteristics of each individual component as well as the in-situ environmental conditions that prevail during the installation process.

Due to the volume constraint, this guide will concentrate on interior installation of ceramic tiling.

2. DESIGN

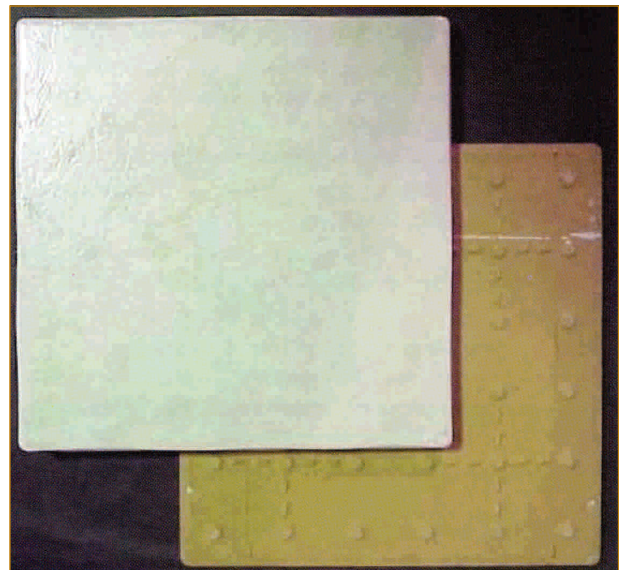
To achieve good tiling works, it is critical to take into account the material selection besides proper installation and quality control. Although materials for tiling are usually selected by the designer, it is in the interest of the contractor to understand the characteristics of these materials. The contractor should ensure that both the ceramic tiles and the bedding materials selected are compatible for the receiving substrate. If in doubt, the contractor should check with the tile and the adhesive suppliers on suitability of the materials and feedback any suspected incompatibility to the designer.

Generally, there is a wide range of tiles and adhesives available in the market. This guide book shall focus on those which are commonly used.

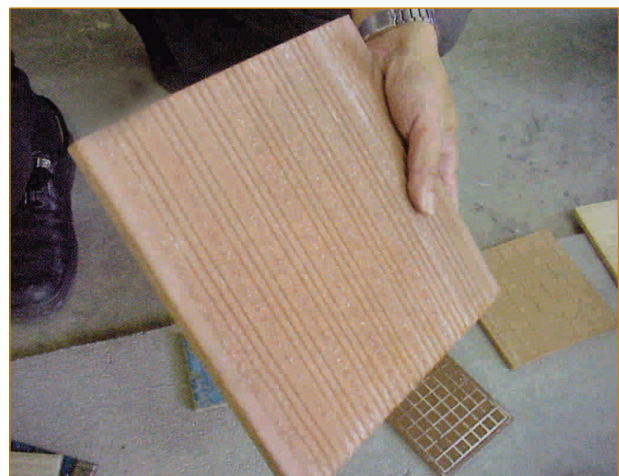
2.1. TILES SELECTION

Ceramic tile is made from clays and/or other inorganic raw materials and comes in modular units. It is usually manufactured by extruding or pressing at room temperature but may be formed by other processes, then dried and subsequently fired at very high temperature. Tiles can be glazed or unglazed.

Table 1 of SS 483 shows the classification of ceramic tiles with respect to water absorption and shaping. Dry pressed and extruded tiles can be distinguished from the mechanical keys at the tile back as shown in Figure 2-1.



Dry pressed tiles



Extruded tiles

Figure 2-1 Dry-pressed and extruded tiles