



## Wall & Floor Tiles Installation, Use & Care Instructions

Congratulations on your purchase of beautiful, real premium metal tiles that are *Cast in Questech!* These tiles are made in a new, patented material that integrates premium metal with ceramics and special polymers.

All tiles are individually cast and polished. Surface variations are inherent to the process and add to the natural beauty of the product.

The following information is provided to assist you in installing your new premium metal tile and keeping it looking its best.

### APPLICATIONS

- WALL tiles are recommended for use as a wall covering in interior, vertical applications. They are not suitable for flooring, countertops or exterior installations.
- FLOOR tiles are recommended for use as a floor covering in interior, residential and light commercial applications. Floor tiles can also be used as a wall covering. They are not suitable for countertops or exterior installations.
- WET AREAS: The tiles can be installed in wet areas such as backsplashes, bathroom walls and shower enclosures, but are not recommended in swimming pools or hot tubs because pool

chemicals may harm the protective coating.

- RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL: The tiles are appropriate in any residential structure and for commercial applications in structures with approved sprinkler systems.

### THE PROTECTIVE COATING

The tiles have a durable coating that prevents scratching and oxidation. However, there are certain precautions that should be taken to protect the tile surface (see Installation Instructions; also see Care and Maintenance).

### INSTALLATIONS INSTRUCTIONS

Follow generally accepted good practices for installation of ceramic tile. Take careful note of the following instructions specific to Questech tiles.

#### Setting Materials

We recommend using the following setting materials for proper adhesion:

- Thin-Set: A liquid latex (polymer) fortified premium thin-set Portland cement mortar conforming to ANSI A118.4.
- Epoxy Adhesives: A water-cleanable epoxy mortar conforming to ANSI A118.3.
- Mastics & Adhesives: A Type 1 organic adhesive conforming to ANSI A136.1 (examples: latex mastic adhesive; acrylic latex adhesive).

#### Setting Methods

- Follow adhesive manufacturer's instructions for preparation, mixing, application, and cleanup.
- Trowel a layer of adhesive on the back of each tile prior to placing on the combed adhesive bed to obtain 100% coverage.
- Do NOT beat in with the butt-end of the trowel.
- Do NOT lay tiles face down.

#### Grouting Materials

Use the following grouting materials:

- Cement: A liquid latex (polymer) fortified premium portland cement grout conforming to ANSI A118.6.
- Epoxy: A water-cleanable grouting epoxy conforming to ANSI A118.3.

#### Grouting Methods

- Follow grout manufacturer's instructions for preparation, mixing, application, and cleanup.
- Use a clean, foam rubber float with sanded Portland cement grout. Do NOT use a hard rubber float with sanded portland cement grout or damage to the tile surface may result.
- Do NOT use scouring pads, steel wool, sandpaper, or other abrasive implements to remove grout haze, or damage to the tile surface may result.
- Important Note: Clean-up residue as soon as possible after grouting. Grout that is allowed to harden may be difficult to remove.
- For tiles that have textured or sculptured relief, we recommend covering the surface with a high quality painter's tape such as Scotch Safe Release.

### HIGH-TEMPERATURE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

High-temperature installations are those where tiled surfaces will be subject to temperatures 130°F (55°C) or greater. Common applications include: Behind kitchen cook tops not equipped with a back-guard (or back mounted control panel), fireplace surrounds and steam rooms. Follow the high temperature installation instructions to ensure proper adhesion.

Important Note: Tiles are not recommended in areas where the tiled surface temperature will exceed 175°F (80°C). For example, do not install tiles as a heat shield behind a wood (or gas) stove.

### Behind Cook-Tops Without a Back-Guard

To ensure proper bond, maintain a minimum distance of 4.5" inches between tiled surfaces and burner elements. For the wall area directly behind and within 18 inches above the cooking surface, follow the high-temperature installation instructions that follow.

### Fireplace Surrounds

US Federal Building Codes require a minimum clearance of 6" from the fireplace opening. When used above and projecting more than 1 1/2" from a fireplace face, maintain a minimum clearance of 12" above the fireplace opening. Consult state and local building codes to determine the clearance required in your area. Follow the high-temperature installation instructions that follow.

### Steam Rooms

To ensure proper bond, follow the high-temperature installation instructions that follow.

### High-Temperature Installation Instructions

- Set tile with a water-cleanable epoxy mortar conforming to ANSI A118.3.
- Grout tile with a water-cleanable grouting epoxy conforming to ANSI A118.3.
- Follow setting and grouting instructions found in the Installation Instructions section of this document.

### **CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS**

- The tiles are best cut or mitered with a diamond abrasive wet-saw.
- Tiles can be drilled with a high-speed drill or a hole saw.
- Tiles can also be cut or drilled with a rotary saw (ex. Roto Zip, Dremel).
- Precautions:
  - Always cut and drill tiles metal-side-up.
  - Do NOT use tile cutters designed to score and break tiles.

### Cutting Safety

Be sure to wear appropriate eye protection and an approved dust respirator when cutting, grinding or drilling tiles.

### **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Tiles that are *Cast in Questech* will maintain their rich appearance with simple routine care.

- To clean, use an ordinary household cleaner. For best results, we recommend a liquid, non-abrasive cleaner.
- Powdered or abrasive household cleaners should be tested in a small inconspicuous area to ensure that no damage will result.
- Do not clean with scouring pads, steel wool, sandpaper, or other abrasive implements.
- Cleaners containing ammonia, bleach or other harsh chemicals should be wiped up shortly after application.

### General Use Precautions for Floor Tiles

- Use floor protectors under furniture.
- Do NOT drag or slide furniture or appliances across the tile or permanent damage may result.

### **WARRANTY**

Please contact your distributor or dealer for complete warranty information.