

DekTek's Installation Key Points

We first want to thank you for your purchase of DekTek Tiles! We would like to share a few points that will be helpful with your deck installation.

- **Don't worry about the tiles looking a little dusty or milky before they are sealed.** The sealer will really bring out the color.
- We recommend using a good solvent-based sealer that is for acid stained or stamped concrete. We do not recommend any specific brand. There are many brands of concrete sealers on the market that are high quality. Please feel free to consult your local concrete expert. One brand that we have used with success is Gator Seal, made by Alliance. **Do not use water-based sealer** as it will probably peel, also **do not use penetrating sealers** as our tiles are too dense. Please see Sealer Brochure for more details. You may receive a few tiles that have already been sealed. Reseal along with the rest of the tiles to freshen them up. You can add your sand grit to this as well.
- Before you start setting the tile it is important to spread the tiles over a large area so you can choose from the different colors and patterns. **Even color variance is a very important part of the installation.** Do not expect to unpack your pallet of tiles and start installing them on the deck without laying them out first. You need to make sure you mix up the colors and patterns so you get a consistent variety as you set the tiles on your deck. This will prevent you from running out of some colors when you get towards the end and also avoid having repeating patterns next to each other. In other words, if you use up all the green colored tiles right away, then you will run out at the end; or if you didn't use enough green in your deck, then you would end up with too much green at the end of your installation.
- When you are setting tile on the joists with adhesive, it works better to first set the tile in place dry (without the construction adhesive), to make sure tile height is level. Sometimes small shims are needed to elevate the tile to match surrounding tile height. We have found plastic tile spacers work well for shims. If you have set the tile with adhesive and notice the tile is too low, be sure to lift the tile off the deck before it dries. You can then add the appropriate sized shims to one or both sides of joists, as needed, then reapply adhesive to the joists to make up for shim height.
- **On tile pieces cut to 10" or less, you must add additional deck bracing underneath the cut tile for added support. (Preferably a 2x4 spanning under the middle of the tile.)**
- Once your deck is installed we recommend adding 2 small dabs (approximately 3/8") of a clear silicone or acrylic caulk on each side of the tile. Space the dabs roughly 2" from the corner of the tile and make sure you keep the caulk from getting all the way down on the joist, as this would interfere with water drainage. Wipe excess caulk with a rag to keep it below the top of the tile. The reason we recommend the silicone or acrylic caulk is because the polyurethane adhesive will not bond permanently to the joist. The main purpose for the adhesive is to bed the tile and keep it from rocking. The little dabs will lock the tile deck together like sand locks pavers on the ground.
- **For Tuscan Medley orders only,** we have sent you a small amount of acid stain for touching up the edges of the cut tiles. It is easier to do this after the deck is completely installed. You can then go around to the cut edges and use a small brush to apply the stain to those edges that need it. Leave the stain on for 20 minutes or longer, then rinse and scrub with a soft brush. After tiles are dry, you can then apply sealer on stained edge, making sure you don't get stain or sealer on your edge trims. If you want the edge darker, you can reapply stain a second time before sealer is applied, if needed.

Please feel free to call us with any questions. Thank you for your business!

DekTek ♦ Tile

The New Generation of Decking

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