

A photograph showing a display of terracotta tiles in a shop. The tiles are laid out on a wooden surface, and some are in a glass display case. The background shows a window and a counter.

## TERRACOTTA TILES- PRATO

Prato is a hand made terracotta from Mexico. Characteristic and full of charm, no two pieces are alike making Prato a truly unique product. Imperfections, chips and colour variation are an inherent quality which only add to their beauty. Available in a soft burnt orange colour in a variety of sizes and shapes.

### CHARACTERISTICS

- They have paper backs (this is caused by dumping the wet clay on old newspapers)
- As terracotta is made from naturally occurring clay deposits, colour variation is common from piece to piece as well as batch to batch
- Even within individual tiles, colour variation is common
- Sizes can vary
- They can vary in thickness and are not always square
- Surface is not always flat
- Terracotta tiles can be rejuvenated after a period of time by using a buffing machine

Please note the above characteristics are not defects and once installed, grouted and sealed they offer a very natural terracotta look. Once properly sealed they are easy to maintain and are long lasting. **Prato can also be subject to kiln flashing, where the terracotta varies in colour due to the firing process.**

### SEALING

- While terracotta is hard wearing and able to withstand heavy foot traffic, it is still porous therefore sealing is highly recommended to protect from stains and absorption
- It is a good idea to seal tiles prior to installation so as to protect from staining from glues and grout.
- Sealing is also recommended after tiles have been installed and grouted
- Ensure tiles are perfectly clean and dry before sealing

### INSTALLATION & GROUT

- Consider your grout colour carefully. We recommend using Mapei cement grouts for terracotta tiles.
- Ensure your tiler has experience installing terracotta and blends tiles before installing
- After installation, tiles must be completely clean and dry prior to sealing again

### CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

- For cleaning and long term maintenance of your terracotta tiles we recommend using Lithofin cleaning products
- Do not use bleach, vinegar or any harsh or acidic chemicals or cleaners
- All-purpose cleaners that contain crystallizing salts, alkali or acids should be avoided
- Avoid harsh or abrasive cleaning pads
- The right care system from the onset will ensure your Prato tiles maintain their beautiful appearance for many years.