

## UNDERSTANDING

# STONE GLAZE

Where craftsmanship meets character.

### Crafted by Hand

Each Stone Glaze tile is created using a time-honoured stoneware process.

Local clay is carefully sourced and shaped by hand, with the support of simple tools. This traditional approach preserves the unique, natural qualities of the material and allows each piece to carry the artisan's personal touch.



The enamel glaze colours are created from formulas that have been refined and passed down through generations. These glazes make use of natural metal oxides to develop rich, nuanced glazes that transition naturally in tone. These special glazes blend creating striking and harmonious effects. The transparent glaze layer allows the natural colour of the clay to remain visible, along with imperfections and marks that celebrate the handmade nature of each piece.

During the firing process, the tile becomes partially vitrified, increasing its strength and lending it that distinctive, hollow ring.

Unlike regular ceramics, stoneware is made from a purer clay and undergoes partial vitrification – giving it added resilience while retaining its natural, organic feel. However it does not achieve full vitrification, as seen with porcelain.

### A Surface with Soul

What sets Stone Glaze apart is its beautiful imperfection – no two tiles are ever the same. Some imperfections to expect include:

- Raised speckles where glaze and minerals in the clay react during firing
- Chips and blemishes in the glaze
- Gentle bowing and movement
- Size variations
- Gloss levels that range from satiny to glassy
- Tonal shifts and pooling where the glaze naturally gathers

These details must be seen as features, not flaws. They bring life, tactility and depth to a space in a way that machine-produced tiles simply cannot achieve.



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### A Note on Batching & Blending Prior to Installation

Stone Glaze is a hand-made product, so variation in tone and size is not only expected but is part of the charm. This variation can occur not just between batches, but from box to box within the same batch.

While it is acceptable to use tiles from different batches, it is essential to blend them thoroughly before installation. Lay out tiles from all boxes and mix them together to ensure a balanced, even result across the surface.

This extra step makes all the difference – allowing the natural variation to feel intentional, considered and full of character.

### Installation Guidance for Stone Glaze

Stone Glaze tiles are beautifully irregular by nature, which is part of their charm. Due to natural variations in size and thickness, some laying patterns – like herringbone or basketweave – may not be achievable. Even layouts such as stack bond or brick bond will benefit from a looser, more relaxed approach than you might expect with standard ceramic tiles.

This is a product that calls for an experienced and sympathetic tiler, as installing Stone Glaze is as much an art as it is a trade. Some tiles may need to be lightly rectified with a diamond saw to achieve the best possible fit and finish.

We recommend avoiding levelling clips and fixed tile spacers, as their rigid structure doesn't account for the individuality of each tile. Instead, vary grout joint spacing in response to each piece, allowing for subtle shifts that enhance the organic, handmade effect.

A softly undulating surface, with some tile lipping, and occasional chips in the glaze are to be embraced- these perfectly imperfect details bring authenticity and character to the design. Once the tiles are grouted, the final result is nothing short of extraordinary, rich with texture, movement and warmth - well worth the journey!

