

# HABITUS *Super Tuscan* TILE

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THE HABITUS COLLECTION

Habitus has created something new and exclusive, "SUPER TUSCAN" CORK MOSAIC TILE is produced using remnants of the cork bottle stop industry in Spain and Portugal. Irregular shards of virgin cork are shaped by hand and fashioned on sheets. Suitable for wall applications using mortar & sanded grout, just like a typical stone veneer installation. Use for feature wall applications in commercial or residential spaces; use also on wet wall areas such as a shower or backsplash. Available in 2" high cork and supplied on nominal sheets measuring 11-1/2" x 11-1/2" . Currently the material is only suitable for wall applications.



It insulates, its warm, sound abating, and most of all unique! Provided in the natural finish of cork, it can be stained in many different colors or simply varnished to enhance the natural color of cork. RENEWABLE, RECYCLED, this innovation furthers the commitment made by Habitus to finding new ways to create sustainable decorative living materials.

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## **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR HABITUS SUPER TUSCAN CORK MOSAIC TILE**

Habitus Super Tuscan Cork Mosaic Tile is installed in a manner very similar to marble or glass mosaic tiles, glue then grout method. Please note that the existing substrate should be level and clean. It is necessary to remove any old tiles, old adhesives, loose or weak concrete, dirt, debris and any other contaminant that could impact the bonding of Super Tuscan Mosaic Tile.

1. **APPLYING ADHESIVE**: Apply a uniform layer of thin-set mortar adhesive to the substrate using a 1/4" v-notch trowel. Note: most common tile mortar adhesives are suitable for Super Tuscan Mosaic Tile. (i.e. Mapei, Laticrete, Custom Building Products, Ardex).
2. **"BACK BUTTERING"**: The plastic film side of the mosaic sheet is the face of the material. Therefore using a technique referred to as "back buttering" apply a thin layer of mortar adhesive using the straight edge of the trowel to the backside of the mosaic sheet. This will ensure near complete bonding to the substrate, especially since the materials thickness varies slightly.
3. **SETTING**: Begin to set the sheets (plastic film side facing upwards) onto the layer of adhesive already applied to the substrate. It is recommended to lay the sheets in a "brick-style" or offset manner, this way the sheets perimeter jointing will be less noticeable or resemble picture framing. Use a rubber trowel to firmly press against all areas of the sheets to ensure bonding of the material.
4. **FACE FILM REMOVAL**: Once the mortar adhesive has dried, proceed to remove the plastic film from the face of the mosaic tile. Feel free to use a heat blower gun or hair dryer (at low temperature) to heat the plastic film in order to remove the film. Note: once the film is removed, please take the opportunity to remove any adhesive that may have pushed through the joints of the mosaic, this is common when backing buttering the sheets or can be a result from excess adhesive material.
5. **FINISH/COLOR STAIN APPLICATION**: Once all the plastic facing has been removed, proceed to check for any loose pieces of mosaic tile and re-affix them. Then using a high quality foam roller, proceed to apply a color stain and/or polyurethane finish product. For color staining: please note that most typical water-based wood stain products can be used to stain Super Tuscan Mosaic Tile. For polyurethane: it is recommended the use of a high quality two component water-based polyurethane finish. Habitus also supplies both color stain and polyurethane finish products, please consult with a salesperson.

**NOTE**: YOU MUST APPLY A FINISH (POLYURETHANE / VARNISH) TO NATURAL FINISH TO HABITUS SUPER TUSCAN CORK MOSAIC TILE PRIOR TO GROUTING. IT IS RECOMMENDED TO APPLY AT LEAST **3 COATS** OF A HIGH QUALITY POLYURETHANE PRODUCT.

## **CONTINUED.....INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR HABITUS SUPER TUSCAN**

6. **GROUTING**: Once the polyurethane finish is fully dried, proceed to apply a polymer-modified sanded tile grout product or urethane tile grout product (i.e. Quartz Lock or StarGlass) using a high quality rubber trowel. Follow grout manufacturer's indications. Use a high quality grouting sponge to wipe away excess. Note: it is important to not leave a heavy layer of grout on the surface of the mosaic tile to dry, as it may be difficult to clean away the grout once it is dried.
7. **GROUT HAZE**: Grout haze is a very thin layer of grout which has been allowed to dry on the surface of the tile. There will be some grout that sticks in the natural indentations of the cork which may not be easily removed. This is part of the aesthetic when using this natural material.

FINAL NOTE: HABITUS SUPER TUSCAN CORK MOSAIC TILE IS **SUITABLE FOR INSTALLATION TO WALLS ONLY**. WE CURRENTLY ARE NOT RECOMMENDING ITS USE FOR FLOORS.

## **MAINTENANCE INFORMATION**

- Never use an abrasive, oil or ammonia-based cleaning product!
- Vacuum, wipe with a clean dry cloth or damp cloth regularly.
- The use of a ph-balanced detergent such as Liquid Joy or another mild soap to clean and keep the surface free of grit or debris.
- Steam cleaning is not recommended for Habitus Super Tuscan Cork Mosaic Tile.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR REQUIRE ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT A HABITUS CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE AT 1.800.729.5120.**