

# TABOO



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## APPLICATIONS

- Indoor wall applications
- Cooktop areas and fireplace surrounds (temperature must not exceed 390° F)
- Shower walls (including steam)\*
- Not suitable for floors, pools, fountains or exterior areas.

\* See wet area applications note on page 3

## PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

Taboo is a mesh backed solid body aluminum tile. **Due to the soft nature of aluminum extra care must be taken when grouting and cleaning the tiles to avoid scratching the surface.**

## MATERIAL INSTALLERS & INSPECTION

**Select installers for Taboo with great consideration and care as proper installation is critical. Make sure the installer understands the specific guidelines for cutting, grouting and cleaning Taboo aluminum.**

All Taboo should be unpacked, inspected and reviewed prior to installation. **Take extra care when unpacking and handling to prevent scratching the surface.** Any questions as to acceptability must be resolved before installation. Sonoma Tilemakers is in no way responsible for the installation of our tiles or thereafter. The responsibility for correct installation rests with the end user.

## INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

### SUBSTRATES - GENERAL

Most current Tile Council Of North America (TCNA) "Handbook For Ceramic Tile Installation" substrate preparation methods work well for Taboo combined with the use of listed bonding materials recommended for bonding Taboo.

TCNA Publication Link:

<https://www.tcnatile.com/products-and-services/publications.html>

### ADHESIVES

Due to Taboo tile's impervious nature it must have the highest quality bonding materials, such as, epoxy, polyurethane and other specialized bonding materials recommended by adhesive manufactures for bonding impervious tile with .5% or less absorption rate.

## Adhesives Interior Applications

### Custom Building Products:

- MegaFlex Crack Prevention Thin-Set
- MegaLite Crack Prevention Thin-Set
- MegaLite Rapid Set Crack Prevention Thin-Set
- Glass Tile Adhesive

### Laticrete:

- 254 Platinum Multipurpose Thin-Set Mortar

### Mapei:

- Adesilex P10 & Keraply liquid admix
- GraniRapid Thin-Set Mortar & GraniRapid admix
- Kerabond Thin-Set Mortar mixed & Keralastic add-mix

### TEC (H.B. Fuller):

- SuperFlex Premium Universal Latex Modified Thin-Set.

**NOTE: Site and climactic conditions can affect the performance of all setting systems. Special consideration shall be given when using rapid setting materials particularly in hot climates.**

Regardless of selected adhesives or grouts, movement provisions are required. Information on movement provisions can be located in ANSI A108.3.7, ASTM C1193, C1472, C920 and the current year Tile Council of North America's "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation"- Movement Joints-EJ171.

As required by all manufacturers make sure to comply with all adhesive and grout manufacturer's published use, mixing and cure times prior to placing the new installation into service.

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**INSTALLATION**

Taboo may be installed using the traditional set and grout method. Tile setting surface must be stable, dry and free of curing compounds, wax, paint and all other materials which may lower adhesion.

**Make sure to clean all materials off Taboo while installing. Never let any materials dry on tile during installation.**

**Note:** Allowing any material to set up on the tiles face greatly increases the chances of marring the tiles surface while cleaning. Chemicals such as, acetone, Goof-Off, lacquer thinner and other harsh solvents can damage the tiles finish.

1. Using the flat side of a trowel push the adhesive into the setting surface with ample pressure. Scrape excess adhesive off setting surface using the flat side of the trowel.
2. Before the initial adhesive application dries, apply additional adhesive onto the setting surface using the notch side of a 3/16" (5mm) V-notch trowel. Apply notched adhesive in one direction being careful not to use the fan (windshield wiper) technique.
3. Place back side (net) of Taboo sheets into the adhesive followed by tamping in, to render a flat, uniform surface, with a rubber grout float or rubber faced beating block.
4. While adhesive is fresh, carefully clean excess adhesive off tile face and tool grout joints of any adhesive obstructing a uniform grout application.
5. Allow adhesive to dry 24-48 hours (or as recommended by adhesive manufacture) prior to grouting.
6. Grout with epoxy or non-sanded grouts specified for your application by the adhesive manufacturer selected to bond your tile.
7. Caulk movement provisions according to ANSI A108.3.7, ASTM C1193, C1472, C920 and the current year Tile Council of North America's "Handbook For Ceramic Tile Installation"-Movement Joints-EJ171.

**Tips on Cutting Taboo Video:**

Visit [sonomatilemakers.com/Taboo/#downloads](http://sonomatilemakers.com/Taboo/#downloads) for a video demonstrating how to cut Taboo.

**CUTTING/DRILLING:**

**Warning** - The use of safety guards, eye protection and face masks are required when working with power tools to cut, drill or mechanically modify Taboo products.

**Cutting Method #1 - Wet Saw:**

The use of a wet saw fitted with a 10" continuous rim diamond blade for porcelain is recommended for cutting Taboo. Make sure your saw has clean, adequate water flow as this is essential to keep the tile cool while cutting. If the tile overheats discoloration will occur. The sheet you're cutting should intersect as high up on the tile saw's blade as possible (without diminishing water flow or coming in contact with blade mounting hardware). (See picture below)



We recommend using a piece of plywood or 2x12 with a thin channel cut through it to allow the tile saw's blade to pass through but to prevent the pieces bending while cutting.

Mark cuts using a straight edge/square and a sharpie. Lay the tile face up on the wood surface and line up the tile saw blade to pass through the channel you cut. Make sure to cut slowly to avoid binding the blade.

**Warning** - The back of the cut tile will develop burrs, a fine file can be used to smooth the cut edge and remove the burrs from the back. Be careful not to file the tile's face as this will damage the tile.

**Cutting Method #2 - Bench Shear:**

Line the cut up with the bench shear blade and pull down completely until the desired cut has been made.

**Note** - The use of a bench shear works well, but the cut off pieces may bend when cut. If these pieces are to be used, you can cover the piece with a clean rag and lightly tamp them back into shape with the use of a rubber mallet.

**Drilling:**

Taboo may be drilled using a high quality carbide steel drill bits. Take care to clamp the tile to a stable surface, using a non-marring clamp, prior to drilling. Always allow tile to cool prior to touching.

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## GROUTING:

**We recommend epoxy grouts or unsanded grouts to install Taboo. Sanded grouts are not recommended. Do not let grout set up prior to lightly sponging clean with a lightly damp sponge and clean water.**

Grout releases, recommended by grout manufacturer's for use with their products, are beneficial to insure grout clean up. Never leave products on the tile's face for extended periods of time.

After initial cleaning, allow grout to set up until grout is slightly firm, then repeat cleaning. Allow grout to dry, then clean using a neutral based stone and tile cleaner diluted to a manufacturer's recommended dilution with warm potable water. A light towel drying using a soft clean micro-fiber cloth after cleaning will reveal the true beauty of Taboo.

## CLEANING:

Use neutral based natural stone and tile cleaners mixed to manufacturer's recommended dilution to clean tile. Never use abrasive pads or previously used sponges to clean, as the Taboo surface will scratch. Always use a light touch to make sure your Taboo tile retains its original beauty and luster.

Custom Building Products Aqua Mix and Ocean Care brand products are good sources of tile safe cleaners for most tile applications.

**NOTE ON SEALING:** Taboo comes pre sealed, so no sealing is necessary. Some tile/grout sealers can harm metal surfaces, please be sure to read all manufacturers, recommendations for use.

### Tips on Cleaning Taboo Video:

Visit [sonomatilemakers.com/Taboo/#downloads](https://sonomatilemakers.com/Taboo/#downloads) for a video demonstrating how to clean Taboo.

## WET AREA APPLICATIONS NOTE:

Taboo is suitable to use in a shower/steam shower but will have limitations when it comes to cleaning. No abrasives or harsh chemicals should be used to clean it, it's up to the end user to maintain water quality and limit water spotting by cleaning/drying tile after use. Using softened water can help reduce tile and grout staining due to iron and/or hard water.

Tile developing water spots, calcium deposits and other issues are primarily due to poor maintenance and/or water quality. The occurrence of these water-related issues is not an indication of poorly manufactured tile. It is up to the end user to maintain tile, based on their water quality, use and environment.

For wet area applications we recommend water quality of, or equal to, a Langelier Index of 0 (this is a rating of mineral saturation, primarily calcium) and scheduled cleaning sufficient to mediate water issues in the end user's environment. Consult local well/water treatment companies for options on determining the LSI of your water.

Temperature, water quality, bather load/use and climate all contribute to maintenance and water issues affecting tile.

## IMPORTANT!

We recommend using an wet cutting tile saw, equipped with a diamond blade made for cutting porcelain to cut Taboo. Always make sure to wear personal protection equipment while operating power tools.