

# Installation Instructions

Please read this information before installing our tiles

## LINEAGE®

Stainless Steel & Bronze

For general installation practices we recommend the guidelines set by the Tile Council of America. The following is information specific to our tiles. If you have any questions please call us at (773) 883-2030

### Variation

Our manufacturing techniques purposefully encourage variations in our tiles. Please lay out and inspect all tiles before installation. With the exception of our 1¼x1¼, 1x1 and 5/8x5/8 inch tiles, the size of our tiles may vary up to 1/8 inch.

### Cutting

Lineage tiles can be cut with any saw suitable for cutting metal. Abrasive cutoff wheels are available at most hardware stores for use with circular saws and grinders. When cutting tiles with a cutoff wheel, start by scoring the front of the tile and slowly work your way through the tile. Mitered corners, finished ends and specialty cuts are available upon request from our studio.



*Note: When cutting Lineage tiles with a cutoff wheel or grinder the heat of the cutting action will create a heat patina or discoloration. This can be easily buffed off using a soft fine grit abrasive pad like Scotchbrite or GatorGrit synthetic steel wool. Do not use regular steel wool.*

### Substrate

The performance of any tile installation depends on the durability and stability of the substrate. We recommend following the substrate guidelines set by the Tile Council of America.

### Adhesive

Lineage tiles can be installed with latex modified thin-set mortar, epoxy based mortar, urethane adhesive, and any other adhesives suitable for metals. (For wet and high traffic applications we recommend an epoxy based mortar such as Hydroment 1900 epoxy grout and mortar admixture.) For high temperature applications such as directly behind a commercial range or fireplace box, we recommend using a high temperature epoxy.

*When using thinset, always check your thinset mix to ensure a good adhesive bond. If thinset dries on the face of the tiles during installation be sure to remove it gently so as not to scratch the surface of the tiles.*

**For large format floor tiles moisture cured urethane adhesive is recommended**



*Note: When setting our molding liners fill the back of the tile with mortar. "Like peanut butter on celery."*

*Flux Studios products supplied on netted sheets are netted by hand. Some adjustment of tile spacing may be necessary. Simply cut through the netting using a utility knife when setting the tile to make any adjustments necessary. Staggering the sheets when setting is recommended.*

### Grout

Sanded or unsanded grout may be used. (For wet or high traffic applications we recommend a high quality epoxy based grout such as Hydroment 1900 epoxy grout and mortar admixture.)

*For a quality installation, be sure all grout residue is cleaned from the recesses of the relief tiles.*

*Be sure all grout floats, sponges and cloths are free from dried thinset and grout so as not to scratch the surface of the tiles.*

### Sealing

We recommend applying a light coat of paste or conservators wax to our bronze tiles after installation to even-out and slow the natural patina process. No sealing is necessary on our stainless steel tiles. If using a sealer on surrounding materials, do not let the sealer pool on our bronze tiles for extended periods of time as a patina may develop.

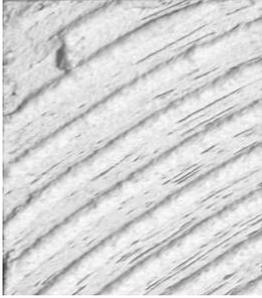
## Netted Sheets

If your order has been netted on paper mesh, proceed with the installation as previously described. Keep in mind that our tiles are hand made and vary slightly in size. The paper mesh is meant to act as a guide for installation and may need to be adjusted as the tiles are set in the adhesive. The paper mesh backing can be easily manipulated in several ways. A utility knife or other thin object can be inserted between tiles to push the tiles apart. Similarly the netted sheets can be gently bent towards the face of the tiles stretching the paper mesh to create a larger gap between tiles. A utility knife can also be used to quickly cut and reposition tiles from the paper backing.

Tiles in face taped sheets can be repositioned by cutting around the adhesive face tape.

## Below is information specific to setting our tiles as a field and as an inset

### As a field



#### Adhesive

When setting Lineage tiles as a field we recommend using a  $\frac{3}{32}$ " U notched or  $\frac{1}{8}$ " V notched trowel.



#### Setting

When our tiles are installed as a field we think a very thin grout joint looks best.

You can use spacers, although we prefer to hand pack the tiles together, letting the slight variations in tile size determine the grout width.

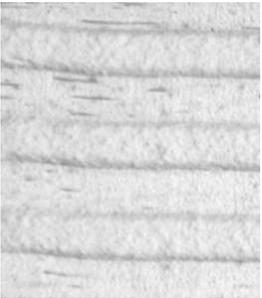


#### Grout

When our tiles are installed as a field we think unsanded grout of a similar and darker tone looks best. (For wet or high traffic applications we recommend epoxy based grout.)

*Be sure all grout residue is cleaned from the recesses of our relief tiles.*

### As an inset



#### Adhesive

We recommend using a notched trowel appropriate for the field material and back-buttering all Lineage tiles to ensure a proper adhesive bond.



#### Setting

You can use cement backerboard to shim Lineage tiles up to the height of the surrounding field material. ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch backerboard creates a standard  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch thickness.)

A few plastic  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch tile spacers placed under our tiles can be used to create a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch height.



#### Grout

Sanded or unsanded grout may be used. (For wet or high traffic applications we recommend epoxy based grout.)

*Be sure all grout residue is cleaned from the recesses of our relief tiles.*

*When using Lineage tiles as an inset, set the tiles a hairs width higher than the surrounding material so footsteps and use will shine the surface of the tiles.*

# LINEAGE®

Stainless Steel & Bronze

## materials

Lineage tiles are made from solid stainless steel and bronze. They have a living finish, with no coatings or chemical patinas applied over the metal. Unlike most polished metal finishes and stainless steel finishes that have a grain, where even the smallest scratch can blemish the surface, the surface of Lineage tiles has been designed to mature with wear. Lineage tiles will actually become more beautiful with the scratches and abrasions that occur with everyday use.

## variation

Our tiles are cut and tooled by hand, undergoing several finishing steps. These techniques purposefully encourage variation.

## patina

Metals develop a patina over time. Technically the process is called oxidation because the surface of the metal is responding to oxygen in air or water.

**stainless steel:** Our stainless steel tiles are made using the highest quality stainless steel and will not rust or oxidize.

**bronze:** Bronze will change over time developing a beautiful rich patina. Under most conditions it progresses from a light brown to a deep brown color. (If left outdoors or in a continuously wet environment, eventually an opaque verdigris will develop.) During the first few days after your tiles are installed they will begin to darken. Over the next months and years, they will develop a deep brown color.

To even-out and slow the natural patina process on Lineage bronze tiles, a light coat of paste or conservators wax can be applied after the tiles are installed. We think our bronze tiles look best with a natural patina. However, if you do not want your bronze tiles to patina at all, they can be sealed after installation using a clear lacquer or epoxy depending on whether they are in a wet or dry location. (We can recommend a suitable product.)

## use

Lineage tiles can be used in virtually any application: wet and dry, indoors and out, in walls and floors, countertops and fireplaces, pools and fountains and even the most high traffic areas.

### in wet or outdoor applications:

**stainless steel:** Our stainless steel tiles are made using the highest quality stainless steel and will not oxidize even when used outdoors and in wet applications.

**bronze:** When our bronze tiles are used outdoors or in constantly wet applications they will develop a deep patina. If left exposed to the elements or water, the patina will ultimately develop from a deep brown into an opaque verdigris. (If used under constantly running water in a fountain, the patina may run.) When used in a shower, occasional cleaning will keep the bronze tiles bright indefinitely.

### in floors:

**stainless steel:** When your stainless steel tiles are used in a floor they will polish slightly with footsteps.

**bronze:** When your bronze tiles are used in a floor, footsteps will polish the surface of the tiles while the recesses of the designs will develop a patina and darken, bringing out a striking contrast.

Bright pathways appear in high traffic floors as the tiles that are walked on the most become polished by footsteps while tiles outside traffic areas become darker with age.

#### **in countertops:**

**stainless steel:** When our stainless steel tiles are used in a countertop some highly acidic foods like lemon juice may clean off the surface temporarily, creating a slightly lighter area.

**bronze:** When Lineage bronze tiles are used in a countertop the surface patina that develops will change with exposure to acids in different foods that contact it.

#### **maintenance and cleaning**

No special maintenance is required for Lineage tiles. You can clean your tiles with any common household cleansers. Surface cleaners containing ammonia or vinegar like Windex work well on our stainless steel tiles, but may alter the patina of our bronze tiles. Similarly, if your bronze tiles have developed a desirable patina any abrasive or acid based cleansers may strip or alter the patina.

#### **bringing back the brightness of your tiles**

**stainless steel:** Your stainless steel tiles may darken slightly but will not change significantly with time. They can however be brightened by cleaning with a mild abrasive cleanser like Comet or a fine abrasive pad like scotchbrite.

**bronze:** You can bring back the original brightness and color of your bronze tiles at any time by cleaning them with a mild abrasive cleanser like Comet or a fine abrasive pad like scotchbrite. In the case of heavy oxidation, you can also use brass polish. (Protect any porous surfaces around the tiles from staining when using brass polish.)

*Do not clean Lineage Tiles with steel wool. Fine particles of steel can become imbedded in the surface of the tile and cause discoloration or rusting.*

#### **thank you**

Thank you for choosing Lineage tiles. We hope they bring you many years of enjoyment.