Artisans
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Understanding Traditional Copper-Based Glazes

Some of our products, as listed below, are glazed ceramics that incorporate copper oxide in the pigmentation to achieve an emerald-green colour. This is a traditional practice and one that allows for the beautifully rich, deep-toned glazes that have made these tones so popular.

However, there are some important points to note for glazes that contain copper oxide. They are more unstable than most pigmentations, and as such will react with water. Whilst this does not change the underlying tone, often a cloudy or iridescent film will develop over the surface of the tile, which can be seen when viewed from some angles, depending on the light.
We love the authenticity of this original glaze that have been used since the Victorian times- the creation of this iridescent patina really adds character to this rich and deep colour. However, some people may see this differently, if a changeless, clean tone is expected.

The photos below show some tiles which had been left wet for a long period of time to induce this effect. Whilst the first image, taken straight on, shows the usual effect of the colour, the second which was taken at an angle with light shining strongly on the surface shows an iridescent, clouded mottling, the result of the glaze reacting with the water.

This example is an extreme case, and not necessarily all cases will display such obvious clouding. These photos do however help to illustrate that this effect is not always obvious, and areas with lower lighting will often hide this altogether.

For this reason we would recommend you consider using an alternative tile without a copper-based glaze for use in wet areas such as shower walls or bath surrounds if you find the effect unattractive.

Products affected:

- Seaton Seagrass
- Akazu Emerald
- Akazu Cobalt
- Lyme Olive Green Metro
- Lyme Olive Green Dado
- Lyme Emerald Green Metro
- Lyme Olive Green Dado
- Riverlands Scales Watercress

For any further queries, advice, or to request samples, please contact us below.

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