

## Understanding Mosaic tiles



Mosaic tiles have a time-honoured tradition of beautifying houses since ancient times, popularised by the Romans and Greeks- and are experiencing huge popularity currently.

Before the advent of mesh-backed mosaics, every single piece

that makes the pattern (known as tesserae) were hand-assembled in situ, as shown below. This process was entrusted to special artisan installers who had the necessary expertise and artistic flair to assemble them.



Nowadays the need for careful installation and artistic positioning is lessened since the mosaics are pre-assembled and mesh backed, and your tiler should be able to install these- saving you time and money. We have options in marble, recycled glass, ceramic, and porcelain.

### The Tilers' Art

However, mosaics are still an artisanal product- many of our mosaics are hand assembled onto the sheets, as they are too complex for a machine to make- so it is important to ensure your tiler is used to working with this type of tile and can overcome any of the challenges.

In some cases, the chip sizes can vary slightly in size, leaving slight size differences between the sheets. Your tiler should be able to work around this by using the grout joints intelligently to conceal any variance. The sheets also have some degree of flexibility, which should help when aligning sheets and using spacers.

It is also important to note that mosaics, being small, are delicate products- and thus if any small pieces are broken in transit or when being installed, simply remove these pieces, and remove some tesserae from other sheets to fill in the gaps.

Any residue of the glue that holds the pieces onto the sheet can be removed by gently scraping away or soaking in warm water for a few hours.

### Grouting to glow

As with all stone and tiles- but mosaics in particular- grouting is like the icing on the cake, concealing any imperfections. Visually grouting will tone down any differences in grout joints and layout, giving a beautiful final result. See the images below which help to illustrate this point.



Before Grouting



After Grouting

### Other Points

Please note that we recommend 10% wastage for mosaic tiles.

When sealing natural stone mosaic tiles, please use a water-based sealant such as our Sarsen Home Stain Block Eco as this will prevent any reaction with the glue used to bond the tesserae to the mesh backing, which can occur when spirit-based sealer is applied.

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