



**MIDDLE  
EARTH  
TILES**

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## **Terracotta Tiles - Sealing, Glue, Grout, Cleaning Information Sheet**

### **Sealing**

Terracotta Tiles are a porous material and do need sealing before laying and then again as part of the laying process to perform at the top of their game.

We normally put an initial seal on the tiles before they leave Warkworth. This is done so that the tiler can wipe away any glue, cement or grout without leaving a mark during the laying process.

As part of the laying process your tiler must seal the tiles again. This is a normal part of installing terracotta and the tiler will probably be well used to it.

We tend to leave the final decision on which grout and sealer to the you and the tiler. Often the tiler will have a strong preference for a product they have used in the past and have had success with.

If we were sealing tiles in our own home we would use one of these options.

### **Solvent Based**

<https://www.filasolutions.com/eng/products/full-range/protectors/stain-protectors/filamp90>

The solvent is very effective at carrying the sealing molecules into the tiles and evaporates quite quickly leaving the sealer present throughout the tile. If you need to use the floor again quickly solvent based sealers are ready in the shortest amount of time.

### **Water Based**

<https://www.filasolutions.com/eng/products/full-range/protectors/stain-protectors/w68>

<https://www.tilersmate.co.nz/product/aquamix-sealers-choice-gold/>

For a more "Gloss" look we would use

<https://www.filasolutions.com/eng/products/terracotta/protectors/colour-enhancing-stain-protectors/filaweteco?linea=professional>

With water based sealers the water carries the molecules into place and then evaporates. It can take a little longer for the water to evaporate than a solvent based sealer.

### **"Natural" Products**

<https://www.naturalhouse.co.nz>

With regard to the Natural House Company we would use their Java Oil product. Their website does not mention Terracotta but it has been used extensively and the owner, Duncan, is happy to talk about its use.

The Java Oil is the sealer.

For a more polished look after the Java Oil has been applied the Natural House Companies Microwax product can be used.

For a busy space I'd lean towards a solvent based solution but all of the above can work well.

### **Grout Haze Remover**

We also recommend a grout haze remover is used prior to sealing the tiles. Tilers are very familiar with this process. We recommend products from Fila or from Aqua Mix.

Whichever product(s) is/are chosen it is very important that the tiler has read and understood the instructions supplied by the manufacturer.

### **Installation Adhesive**

We recommend Kiwiflex Extra from Bostick.

[https://www.bostik.com/newzealand/en\\_NZ/catalog/product/construction/apac/new-zealand/product-bostik-asa-kiwiflex-xtra/](https://www.bostik.com/newzealand/en_NZ/catalog/product/construction/apac/new-zealand/product-bostik-asa-kiwiflex-xtra/)

### **Grout**

There are a lot of Grout products available from the big shed retailers. Best to discuss with the tiler if they have a preferred option.

Grout can be mixed on site using

- 3 parts East Coast Sand
- 1 part Portland Cement

We recommend the grout be sealed at the same time as the Terracotta and with the same product.

### **Cleaning Products**

Neutral based cleaners should be used for regular cleaning.

We use

[https://surtec.co.nz/products/fila-cleaner-pro?pr\\_prod\\_strat=e5\\_desc&pr\\_rec\\_id=8ce7c2967&pr\\_rec\\_pid=6824346026058&pr\\_ref\\_pid=7152371695690&pr\\_seq=uniform](https://surtec.co.nz/products/fila-cleaner-pro?pr_prod_strat=e5_desc&pr_rec_id=8ce7c2967&pr_rec_pid=6824346026058&pr_ref_pid=7152371695690&pr_seq=uniform)

Mild detergent can be used.

With all other cleaning products we recommend using on a small area before applying to the whole area.