

## Help With Installation of Artisan Tiles

Tiles made entirely by hand are extremely difficult to install because of their irregular edges and surface. The clay shrinks 20% from beginning to end, but not the same amount in any one direction, which makes fitting the tiles in limited spaces tricky and unpredictable. Here is some information to help you from installers I work with.

- ✓ **ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME** for the installation—this will take 2-3x longer than a manufactured product of the same size would (sorry J ).
- ✓ Always use **MORTAR *never mastic***
- ✓ **DO NOT USE QUICK-DRYING MORTAR.** You will need the time to manipulate the tiles once they are on the wall, so that all of your joints are as even as possible with the uneven-edged tile
- ✓ **DO NOT DRY STACK** the tiles. The irregular edges require grout joints of at least 1/8 – 1/4 inches
- ✓ **IF YOU HAVE A MEDALLION**, or large tiles with small tiles and/or frame molding tiles to go with it:
  - **LAY OUT THE ENTIRE COMPOSITION** on a flat surface before installing using the MAP and numbers on the back of the tiles
  - **MEASURE** the composition to make sure it will fit in your area and to decide how large to make the grout lines. **VARIATIONS UP TO AN INCH** in either direction will occur with handmade tiles.
- ✓ **TRIM** plain tiles or manufactured field tiles to make the composition fit using a **HIGH QUALITY SAW** with a **VERY NEW** or **SHARP BLADE**. These tiles are extremely dense/hard and will chip if you try to use a low-to-medium quality saw or blade that hasn't been sharpened recently.
- ✓ **USE A THICK MORTAR BED** to make tiles as even as possible, as many times there will be slight curls on the corners of the tiles or waves in the tile itself.
- ✓ **Call the store**, who will call the artist, if you have any questions at all.