



Common Types of Tiles

Ceramic Tiles

Ceramic tiles are made from a mixture of different clays which can either be of reddish or light pale (white) colour. This clay is generally extruded or pressed into bodies which are fired through a kiln at over 1000 degrees celcius. These are generally finished with a durable glaze which can be coloured or patterned. They are a popular choice for wall and floor applications and are softer and easier to cut than other kinds. Ceramic tiles are only suitable for very light to moderate traffic areas on floor installations as they can be prone to wear.



Porcelain Tiles

Porcelain tiles are generally made by a heavy pressed method (approx 3000 kg psi) from refined kaolin clay. This is then fired at temperatures of around 1400 degrees celcius which vitrifies (turns glass like) the pressed clay forming a rigid body. This process creates a tile which carries the colour right through the body and once cooled, results in a final product which has much higher density and durability than its ceramic counterpart. The refinement and development of this process has seen the manufacture of amazing porcelain products available today which can now imitate the look of many different types of preferred building materials such as stone, wood and concrete. These products are excellent for light traffic to heavy traffic areas in both domestic and commercial situations.



Quarry + Terracotta Tiles

Terracotta tiles are a rustic looking, earthy product manufactured from basic clay mixtures fired at low temperatures to create a hard but porous flooring material. Terracotta is the forefather of the modern day ceramics / porcelains and up until the 14th century terracotta was the only flooring material made in this way until the Europeans introduced a higher temperature firing method. Generally used for its rustic or Mediterranean look and low slip feel, terracotta has been a timeless part of the industry and would be a great installation for any new project. Terracotta is a hard wearing surface which is available in many earthy tones and is suitable for all exterior areas and pool surrounds in both domestic and commercial situations.



Mosaics

Modern day mosaics are made from a variety of materials combined to create many different looks and styles. These are commonly used to accentuate an installation, whether in part or in a whole section of a project. The different amounts of styles, colours and finishes manufactured today is staggering with new materials being introduced into the mix all the time.



*** Information disclosed is a general guide only. For more detailed information regarding your specific situation please contact your closest Tile Power location.**