



Irish Blue Limestone Fixing Guide No. 5

Traditional Blue Limestone Tiles

For all natural marbles and limestone, it is essential that a minimal amount of water is trapped underneath the tile surface. Therefore it is recommended that:

- ▶ Concrete or substrate is fully dry before fixing tiles
- ▶ Fixing mortar contains a minimal amount of water
- ▶ In the initial weeks after fixing ensure the area is ventilated but avoid drafts, direct sunlight or heating
- ▶ Joints are left open after fixing to allow water to evaporate:

Recommended: 1 week per 10 mm of fixing bed (including stabilised sand layer)

- ▶ Tiles are fixed on a rough concrete surface or hard substrate in a 2- layer system. The first layer consists of 20-50mm stabilised sand, followed by the actual fixing mortar of 15-30mm.
- ▶ In order to avoid water becoming trapped beneath the tiles, Kilkenny Limestone recommends fixing tiles in two stages, allowing the stabilised sand layer to fully dry out before fixing tiles in the mortar bed.

1. Stabilised sand mixture:

10 parts Washed sand (0-5mm grain) + 1 part cement

2. Bedding mortar:

4 parts white sand, free from impurities (0-2 mm grain) + 1 part white cement

SUGGESTION: During fixing, tiles from different pallets and different packing should be used simultaneously. Ensure a mixture of lighter and darker, less and more fossils, etc. to form a rich and diverse floor surface.

- ▶ For floor surfaces over +/- 40m, or floor lengths over 8 m, it may be necessary to include a flexible joint. In this case, Kilkenny Limestone recommends seeking the advice of a qualified fixer.
- ▶ After allowing sufficient time for the fixing mortar to dry (see above), joints can be grouted.

Removing excess cement

- ▶ Use a humid cloth to remove the excess cement and to clean the tile surface:
 - › Start removing excess cement soon after filling the joints
 - › Divide the floor in areas of +/- 10 m² for filling of the joint followed by removal of excess cement, to avoid cement drying on top of the tile surface
 - › Clean the cloth on a regular basis using clean water to avoid a cement veil on the surface
 - › Avoid rubbing in the direction of the joint as this would open the joints again. Instead, use a round movement and to cover a bigger surface with the cloth.
 - › Finish off with a dry cloth to polish up the tile surfaces
 - › Close doors and windows to avoid draft during the drying out period

IMPORTANT: Never use cement veil removers. These products can permanently damage your tile floor. Make sure that excess cement is adequately removed soon after the filling of joints. Continue cleaning thoroughly until the floor is completely clean.