



Purchasing

- Ruggiero Artisan Tile sells tile by the whole-square foot (i.e. doesn't sell fractions of a square foot), so rounding up to the nearest square foot is recommended.
- The general practice is to purchase 10-15 percent additional tile beyond what is calculated. This is for several reasons, including the fact that exact color matching between orders cannot be guaranteed; cuts required for your particular installation style may lead to a need for additional pieces; if you end up needing more down the line, making an add-on order could delay your project; having a few tiles available for an unforeseeable reason, can prove very handy. In case it is helpful, here are a few tile-calculators found online:

<https://www.calculator.net/tile-calculator.html>

<https://besttile.com/tile-calculator>

- The tiles made by Ruggiero Artisan Tile generally a little smaller than the listed size, usually by about 1/16th of an inch to an 1/8 of an inch. This is a natural result of how the clay dries and how it responds to its placement in the kiln during the bisque and the glaze firing. Ruggiero Artisan Tile will always make sure you have the amount of tile you order and pay for, which will include a few extra tiles in your box. But in general, given the spacing needed for grout lines, a slightly smaller tile is indeed ideal.
- A signature and a non-refundable deposit of 50 percent of the total is required upon the placement of order. The balance of the amount due is to be paid at the time of shipping or pick-up.

Installation Tips

- Upon receiving your tiles, to avoid chipping of any kind, continue to handle them carefully until applied to the wall. Once on the wall, they are far less susceptible to chipping.
- The natural result of the hand-made tile process is slight variation in tile length, shape (flatness and straightness) and color tone. These unique variations are part of the beauty of hand-made tiles. The variations in the tiles are not flaws nor defects, but are the true signature that they are made by hand and not made by a machine. The tiles you see

represented on the website include tiles that are varied in these ways.

- If you haven't had the opportunity to develop solid experience installing tile, it is highly recommended you hire a professional tile installer that is licensed and bonded to install these handmade tiles. Professional tile installers will know the best substrate material and adhesive to use, the most effective cutting and grouting methods and the recommended grout and tile protection/sealing methods.
- Professional tile installers will likely know that it is highly recommended that with hand-made tiles, the tiles be sorted and laid out on a flat surface ahead of time, taking time to assemble the pieces to create an arrangement chosen to be the most cohesive. They will also have experience creating visual balance and resolution in the lines and spaces between tiles when using tiles that are not precisely the same.
- The application of these tiles, including both the staggered and grid applications, require a bit more planning and careful placement, than do machine-made commercial tiles. When staggering tiles, there is a degree more flexibility with regards to the spacing between the tiles, although both applications can be suitable.

- Some of the tile sizes are modular with other sizes, while others are not. If you are planning to install in a grid-type fashion with a combination of sizes, confirm ahead of time that the sizes you are selecting will work well together.
- These tiles are suitable for indoor environments such as kitchen walls, shower walls, and fireplace surrounds. They have not been tested for durability outside, particularly where there are freeze/thaw cycles*. They also are not recommended for application on high-traffic floors, primarily because of their contours, but also because of the use of glaze glosses (which chairs and shoes can scratch) as well as varying levels of complete flatness, which make them more susceptible to cracking from heavy weight.
- Grout Spacing: The grout spacing used in the displays you see on this website is generally between 1/16th and 1/8th of an inch.
- Grout Color: These tiles are very well matched with browns, creams and tans, as opposed to greys and whites. You will note these are the primary grout colors used in the samples on shown on this website.
- **Grout is truly magical.** Grout is the great unifier. Those that have grouted before, know that it is post grouting that the applied tiles become truly unified, with the beauty of the tiles, and the tile arrangement, becoming boldly revealed with the final wipe of the grout haze.

*While Ruggiero Artisan Tile has not yet conducted trials to determine the long-term suitability of their tiles exposed to the outdoor freeze/thaw cycles, the local Minnesota vendor of the clay bodies that are used for Ruggiero Artisan Tiles states that tiles made from these clays are suitable for outdoor use. Additionally, it is recommended that outdoor tiles have an absorption rate of 3 percent or less, which Ruggiero Artisan Tiles generally do.