

Monson Slate Flooring Installation Instructions

Monson Slate flooring is typically installed over a concrete slab, wood sub-floor or existing flooring.

Slate Flooring - Mortar Bed on Slab:

The slab should be clean and free of all debris. Wet down or dampen the slab, spread a bed of approximately 3/4" thickness mortar mix consisting of 1 part Portland Cement and 3 parts mason's sand (1:3 mix). When preparing the mortar we strongly recommend the use of a bonding agent. Tamp slate firmly into setting bed until the desired level is met. Remove any excess mortar. Joints should be filled and pointed with a grout mixture.

Slate Flooring - Thin-Set Mortar on Slab:

The slab should be clean, free of all debris and level. Apply cement mortar (bonding agent recommended) or latex cement mortar with a trowel over an area of which slate is to be installed. With a notched trowel, spread mortar to an even setting bed. Slate should be set by slightly twisting in place and tamping to a level finished grade. Space appropriately to allow for joints. Joints should be grouted with the specified grout after slate has been set.

Slate Flooring - Thin-Set:

The slab, sub-floor or existing floor should be clean and free of all debris. Existing sub-floor should be solid and free of any loose material. With a notched trowel, spread the specified thin-set evenly making sure not to leave any bare spots. Only apply thin-set to an area that can be comfortably reached. Slate should be pressed firmly into the thin-set. Allow space for joints if desired. Please allow thin-set 24 hours to dry before grouting joints. When grouting joints sponge the slate frequently to remove excess grout.

Thickness - Size - Monson Slate flooring is usually supplied at 1/2", 3/4" up to 1.25" thickness with either natural cleft or honed finish. Sizes range from 12x12" – 4'x4'+. When choosing a larger size slate tile, a level slab or sub-floor becomes very important.

Installation Cleaning - Slate should be sponged down during installation to prevent grout or mortar from sticking to the surface. Once slate has set for 7-10 days, it should be scrubbed with a cleaner, rinsed with clean water and wiped down with dry towel. Tough mortar and grout stains that have set can be removed with muriatic acid or a heavy duty acid cleaner and a nylon brush. Please follow manufacturer recommendations.

Sealers & Treatments – Because of its durability Monson Slate does not require sealers or treatments. You may however want seal or treat for maintenance and aesthetic reasons. **Sealers** usually darken the slate and can give a glossy or matte appearance depending on the type of sealer used. It is recommended that you test how the sealer looks on sample piece before you decide to use. **Impregnators** usually won't change the appearance of the stone. **Color Enhancers** usually darken the slate but not as drastically as with sealers. It is recommended that you test how the impregnator or color enhancer looks on sample piece before you decide to use. When selecting a treatment please search for ones that are slip resistant.

