



Tiles with Style

Making tiling easy

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MOVEMENT JOINTS AND THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

MAIN POINTS

AS 3958.1 - 2007 5.4.5

- Should not be wider than 10mm in width unless an approved preformed strip is used. They should be filled with permanently deformable material. They must be carried through the tile and the bedding material.
- Minimum joint size should be determined by the manufacturer of the selected joint material. 3-5mm is industry standard practice.
- Must be inserted over movement or contraction joints in the surface below.
- Intermediate movement joints should be inserted to accommodate induced strain in the tile system (expansion and contraction in the substrate and tile). These should be evenly spaced at approximately 4.5m centres as follows:
 - in external floors, where any dimensions exceed 4.5m.
 - in internal floors, not subjected to sunlight, where any dimensions exceed 9m.
 - in internal floors, subjected to sunlight, where any dimensions exceed 6m.
- In suspended slab floors, stress relieving movement joints should be installed above supporting walls or beams.
- Perimeter movement joints should be inserted in all floors larger than 10m². These perimeter joints should be inserted where tiling abuts restraining surfaces such as walls, columns, curbs, steps, and plant fixed to the floor. If perimeter joints are deleted, floor tiles should finish a minimum of 3mm from restraining surfaces.
- Expansion joint and perimeter joint placement is crucial in areas where stresses are likely to be extreme (eg. heated slab floor tile installations, clay paver or terracotta tile pool surrounds).
- Walls: the same principles apply as for floors, with movement joints installed as follows:
 - Over existing movement joints.
 - Where cladding abuts other materials.
 - At junctions between different background materials.
 - At storey height horizontally, and approximately 3m to 4.5m vertically.
 - At vertical and horizontal corners in shower enclosures.

Please refer to AS 3958.1-1991 for further and more precise information.

