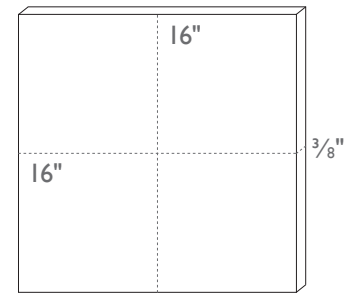
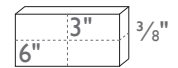
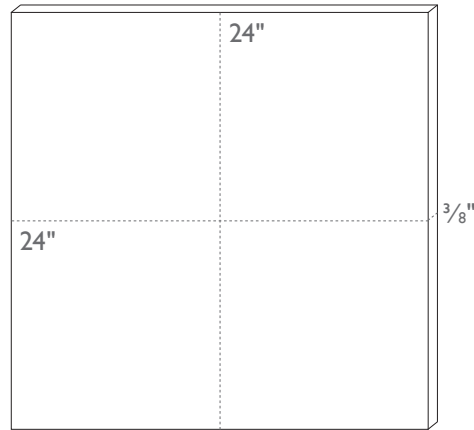
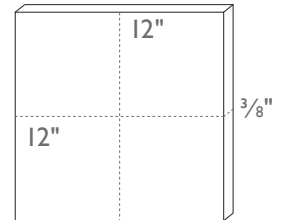


# clé BASICS SLATE

USAGE	Y/N
interior floor	Y*
interior wall	Y*
exterior floor	Y*
exterior wall	Y*
residential heavy traffic	Y
commercial light traffic	Y
radiant heating compatible	Y
fireplace surround	Y
shower	Y*
steam shower	Y*
fountain	N
freeze thaw	Y
pool	N
heat resistant	Y
sink backsplash	Y*
stove backsplash	Y*
grout type	flexcolor cq
grout joint size	1/8"
UV resistant	Y



Standard thickness for slate is 3/8". Please note all dimensions are nominal and can vary plus or minus 1/8".

\* There are specific installation requirements for this usage, read more information under the installation, sealing, and grout sections of this document

# clé BASICS SLATE INSTALLATION

---

What's in our tile: Elemental, tactile and endlessly variable, slate is the product of the geologic forces that build mountains. As the tectonic plates buckle and fold, heat and pressure beneath the earth's crust turn mineral clay and volcanic dust into solid stone. It forms in broad, strong, layered sheets that allow it to be cut in a range of shapes and thicknesses. Because it's not very porous, it sheds water and resists damage from freezing, and in its unpolished state, it has a naturally slip-resistant texture.

clé has worked with our studios to provide the finest quality natural stone tiles available. However, for the best installation, it is important that you hire the highest qualified and experienced natural stone tile contractor for your project.

## YOUR TILE INSTALLATION IS ONLY AS GOOD AS YOUR INSTALLER.

---

### INSPECTING YOUR SHIPMENT

- With the clé basic slate collection you will find a textured surface rich with color and shade variation that come from the natural layering that makes up slate.
- Color variation and inconsistency are absolutely normal for a natural product like slate.
- Shades of black and grey are to be expected. There may be darker sections that look as if a portion of a layer was removed—this is called shaling and is a natural process of slate.
- Initially, bits of loose shale will wear away, leaving a durable surface that catches light differently from tile to tile. Not only is this to be expected, it's considered part of the beauty of this layered stone.
- **IMPORTANT:** Due to the noticeable color and shade variations, it is very important to blend the tiles from all boxes once they arrive and place them in their installation area to ensure you have the layout you want before installing.
- Industry standard suggests adding at least 15% overage due to tile cuts, potential breakage, or future repairs.
- Dust and residue from shipping should be cleaned prior to installing.

### FOR INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

- clé's guides are only to help direct you in the right path for a proper installation. Each project is unique and therefore requires a professional natural stone installer who can provide the exact specifications for your project.
- Please refer to the current edition of the TCNA Handbook for detailed natural stone installation methods for your project's needs.
- Tile is merely the surface of your construction. Installation problems will arise from substrate or construction engineering and/or installation issues. Please refer to your project architect, structural engineer and/or installer to have the best results for your tile finish.
- As is standard in the tile industry, installation deems acceptance of materials. Do not install if there are visible issues. If you have any doubts or are unsure of what qualifies as a visible issue for the tile you are installing, please reach out to us prior to installation. Our tiles are subject to variations in color, texture, size and finish. Do not install if you have any doubts about visible issues. Misuse by contractor or end-user including but not limited to negligence, physical and/or chemical abuse is not covered by clé's warranty.

- **IMPORTANT:** Before installing, make sure to lay out your tile and blend so that variations in color and veining are where you would like them to be and are evenly distributed throughout the installation. Do not install without blending tiles from all boxes.
- We do not offer trim for our slate tiles. Slate is a natural stone and therefore only requires a “honing” of the cut surface with a sander to finish the edge.
- Exterior wall installations require flashing the top of a vertical installation to prevent moisture from dripping behind the installation and application of a waterproof, penetrating sealant.
- Exterior floor installations must be installed above grade with application of a waterproof, penetrating sealant.
- Not all steam shower companies can accommodate stone surfaces so be sure to check with your plumber for an appropriate steam shower supplier.
- Be sure to have 95% or more adhesive on the back of the tile to ensure the best bond when setting.

---

#### GROUT GUIDELINES

- clé ONLY recommends [Mapei Flexcolor CQ](#) grout for slate installations.
- Use of any other grout types can result in installation issues.
- For natural stone, a wide grout joint is not recommended as it will disrupt the variation and flow of tile color, veining and patterns.
- clé recommends a 1/8" grout joint.
- Grout color selection is always up to our client and/or their design professional. However, clé is often asked for our opinion on best grout selections for our tiles. And due to the large array of grout colors that are now available, clé would like to offer this general guideline on a foolproof grout color selection for any of your clé tiles.
  - First, have your professional tile contractor complete your tile installation, except for the grout portion.
  - Next, when ready to grout, ask your contractor to bring ALL grout color charts from his preferred grout manufacturers, for your review.
  - Lastly, choose a time of day when you are most pleased with the lighting in your space (either natural lighting, installed lighting or a blend of both). During that lighting and time of day, select the grout color that best matches your tile selection.
- Note that the full Mapei Flexcolor CQ color catalogue contains 40 colors to choose from. Visit the [Mapei website](#) to view.
- If your contractor selects brands other than Mapei grout or Miracle sealant, please have them reach out to the respected representatives of those manufactures for advice and support on failures.
- **IMPORTANT:** During grout application, immediately remove any excess grout off the face of the tile with a clean, damp cloth/sponge. If grout is allowed to cure on the face of the tile it could cause grout haze and staining due to the porous nature of the tile.
- Any grout haze left by Mapei Flexcolor CQ can be removed with [Mapei Ultracare Heavy-Duty Stone, Tile & Grout Cleaner](#).
- If your contractor is having any issues or questions regarding this grout, please reach out to Mapei tech support directly at 1-800-992-6273 as they are the best and fastest line of resolution.

---

MAINTENANCE &  
SEALING GUIDELINES

- clé only recommends the use of [Miracle 511 Porous Plus](#) for an invisible sealant finish.
- Like most natural stone, slate requires sealing (before & after grouting) to prevent staining and help with repelling water. Sealing slate will also enhance the deep dark grey tones found in this natural stone.
- Please consult with your natural stone installer on what sealing methods are best for your installation.
- Applying sealant or using a grout release prior to grouting will minimize the risk of grout haze and will allow for easy clean up.
- We recommended sealing the grout lines and tile surface in all applications of slate (dry and wet) as the final step of installation.
- Sealing floors further protects the tiles in moderate traffic areas.
- Always test sealers in a small area to ensure it provides the finish you prefer.
- For applications in wet areas, specific waterproofing precautions need to be taken such as using a waterproof membrane under the tile and use of Miracle 511 Porous Plus.
- Yearly resealing is required for steam shower applications.
- Single coat reapplication of the penetrating sealant is required once a year in shower applications due to the continuous exposure to water.
- For superior water repellency in showers, we recommend applying Miracle 511 Impregnator in addition to Miracle 511 Porous Plus.
- For showers, opening windows/doors to help some of the moisture dissipate faster after use will help rid extra moisture.
- If your contractor is having any issues or questions regarding this sealant, please have them reach out to Miracle tech support directly at 1-877-385-8155 as they are the best and fastest line of resolution.
- PLEASE FOLLOW ALL MIRACLE SEALANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEST RESULTS as well as MAINTENANCE UPKEEP RECOMMENDATIONS.\*

\* **HINT:** if water or oil does not bead up on the surface of your tiles then the sealant was not applied properly.

---

CLEANING  
GUIDELINES

- Slate is chemically sensitive so only mild pH neutral cleaners should be used.
- As with any stone product, clé discourages the use of any surface cleansers or scrubbing pads. Cleaning stone requires only mild soap, water and soft cloths.
- Soapless cleaners are preferred because they minimize streaks and film.
- Mild, phosphate-free, biodegradable liquid dishwashing soaps or powders or stone soaps are acceptable if rinsing is thorough.
- Always avoid harsh chemicals and acidic or alkaline cleaning products.
- Showers and baths: soap scum can be minimized by using a squeegee after each use and using liquid as opposed to bar soaps.
- clé recommends the use of Miracle Porcelain & Ceramic Tile Cleaner to remove stubborn stains, grease build up, soap scum, hard water deposits and everyday grime.
- Miracle Tile & Stone Cleaner is effective as an ongoing maintenance cleaner and is gentle for everyday use.
- Vacuum or sweep regularly—abrasive dirt and materials can scratch the surface.
- Non-slip mats or area rugs should be placed inside and outside entrance ways to remove abrasive materials that can scratch and dirty the tile surface. Sand, dirt, and grit do the most damage to natural stone surfaces due to their abrasiveness.
- Dust mop interior floors frequently using a clean, non-treated dry dust mop.
- Interior wall installations can be cleaned with warm water and damp microfiber cloth.
- Grout lines can be cleaned with warm water and a nonmetal bristled cleaning brush.

---

COLOR AND TEXTURE  
VARIATION

clé basic slate is rated V3, T3

Due to the handmade craftsmanship of many of our tiles and the variety of materials used, there are degrees of variation in our tiles color, shade and texture. These differences are more pronounced in certain types of tiles than others, especially in tiles from separate production lots, or “batches”.

The following is a guide for the different degrees of variation that we have assigned our tiles:

COLOR VARIATION

- V1** low variation
- V2** slight variation
- V3** medium variation
- V4** heavy variation
- V5** extreme variation

TEXTURE VARIATION

- T1** smooth
- T2** light texture
- T3** medium texture
- T4** heavy texture

---

FLOOR RATING

clé slate is rated III (can be used for light residential to light commercial foot traffic)

- I** light residential  
for residential areas with light foot traffic. examples can include bathroom, bedroom, formal dining and living rooms. please note the following:
  - not suitable for shoes with hard sole profiles (cleats, stilettos, etc.)
  - the floor must be kept clean from abrasive debris (gravel, mud, salt, etc.)
  - immediately clean all stains (food, personal and household care products, oils, paints, chemicals etc.)
- II** heavy residential  
for residential areas with continuous foot traffic. examples can include entry, hallway, kitchen, foyer, laundry and mud rooms. please note the following:
  - the floor must be kept clean from abrasive debris (sand, gravel, mud, salt, etc.)
  - immediately clean all stains (food, personal and household care products, oils, paints, chemicals etc.)
- III** light commercial  
for commercial areas with light foot traffic. examples can include commercial office, doctor’s office and boutique. please note the following:
  - the floor must be kept clean from abrasive debris (sand, gravel, mud, salt, etc.)
  - immediately clean all stains (food, personal and household care products, oils, paints, chemicals etc.)

**IV** heavy commercial

for commercial areas with continuous foot traffic. examples can include hotel lobby, retail, corridors in an office building, shopping mall and restaurant. please note the following:

- the floor must be kept clean from abrasive debris (sand, gravel, mud, salt, etc.)
- immediately clean all stains (food, personal and household care products, oils, paints, chemicals etc.)

**V** industrial

standard industrial floor use with no extreme, heavy breakage or spillage. examples can include restaurant kitchen, bar work area, winery production, exterior hotel entry, airport, car showroom, driveway. please note the following:

- the floor must be kept clean from abrasive debris (sand, gravel, mud, salt, etc.)
- immediately clean all stains (food, personal and household care products, oils, paints, chemicals etc.)