TOWN & COUNTRY COLLECTION

Reclaimed bricks and handcrafted pavers | General information and installation instructions

What to expect from this product

All materials are artisan, handmade, salvaged and reclaimed, so they present different characteristics than industrially produced pavers and bricks. All sizes and shapes are approximate and nominal. No two pieces are alike, or equal in size, measure or appearance.

Work with grout joints at least 3/8" wide (the range is 3/8" to 1/2"), as shown on our display boards and images. Our showroom boards, loose samples and images are indicative of colour range only and are for representation purposes.

Because production is recycled and artisan, selections vary within the same box, bundle, pallet, lot and shipment to shipment. Blending pavers and bricks from different boxes or bundles is highly recommended. Ask us for images of the current lot and for actual samples — we recommend **1 sq. ft** to assess the colour range.

Delivery and handling

All boxes, bundles and pallets leave our warehouse dry and properly packed. When the pallet arrives, remove all shrink wrap immediately so the product can air out and moisture does not develop, and inspect the material at once. If light surface mould has developed in transit or at destination, Ceramica Etc Studio declines any responsibility. It can usually be cleaned with soap and water, but consult the professional contractor or installer who will be handling the cleaning and sealing of the product.

The product is sold as is. No claim, partial or full return, credit or refund will be accepted for bricks and pavers.

Before you start

- **Seal twice.** Seal the product with a penetrating water-based sealer before grouting and again after grouting.
- **Allow 20% waste.** Order at least 20% more material than the measured area to allow for cuts and the natural variation between pieces.

Application

Our thin pavers and bricks can be installed indoors and outdoors. We do not recommend horizontal outdoor paving, or installation in areas subject to freezing temperatures. For all outdoor installations we also recommend a UV penetrating sealer.

Installation

1. **Prepare the substrate**
   Prepare the substrate as you would for a tile installation, and level the sub-floor as needed. The best substrates are a concrete slab, tile backer board, or an anti-fracture membrane such as Ditra or Protecto-wrap.

2. **Set the mortar bed**
   Install with a latex-modified thin-set mortar using a 1/4" x 1/4" notch trowel. This creates a bed that makes it easier to even up the top of the bricks and pavers where there are slight thickness variances.

3. **Lay the right face up**
   Set the bricks and pavers face up — the face carrying the colour, texture and character. See our website images for the TOWN & COUNTRY collection if you need a reference.

4. **Set the pattern and joint**
   Set the tiles in the pattern and grout joint you want. The joint will widen visually because of the irregular edges of the bricks and pavers.

5. **Cut as needed**
   Use a diamond blade wet saw for any cuts required at the edges.

6. **Let it cure — minimum 72 hours**
   Wait at least 72 hours for the installation to dry and cure before grouting.

7. **Apply the first sealer coat**
   Apply the first coat of penetrating water-based sealer, using as much as necessary to ensure the product is fully sealed.

8. **Grout**
   Grout with sanded grout or an equivalent grout for wider joints; mason's mortar may be used. For the whitewashed paver and brick selections (Greece, Manor, Bungalow) we recommend the whitest grout.

9. **Clean the grout**
   Clean the grout and residue with water and other cleaners as necessary, then allow 72 hours to dry.

10. **Apply the second sealer coat**
    Repeat the sealing process with a second coat of the same penetrating sealer, sealing the grout as necessary for a fully sealed product. Use a water-based, non-gloss penetrating sealer for a more natural, matte finish.

11. **Final cure — minimum 72 hours**
    Let the sealed installation dry and cure for at least 72 hours before use.

Cleaning

Use	Avoid
Water and soap, or an industry-recommended or household cleaner that is non-abrasive, non-acidic and non-harsh. Read the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions first.	Abrasive, harsh or acidic cleaners such as vinegar and baking soda. Do not use sandpaper, nylon mesh, or hard plastic or steel-wool brushes.

Maintenance

- Re-seal the surface from time to time using the same sealer as before. Traffic, water exposure and soiling will determine how often and what kind of maintenance is needed.
- Follow the sealer manufacturer's instructions for product use, application and frequency, and consult your professional installer or contractor.
- If you want to reuse broken pieces, follow the guidance images in the general installation instructions below.

Pavers front and back

Pavers are laid face up, with the structured, antiqued side showing. Each pair below shows the same sample: front face on the left, back face on the right.



Front: structured, antiqued



Back: less structure, dull



Front: structured, antiqued



Back: less structure, dull



Front: structured, antiqued



Back: less structure, dull

Bricks before and after installation



Cracked and chipped bricks: before



After installation