

3.0 DELIVERY, HANDLING AND STORAGE

3.1. CERAMIC TILES

The quality of tiles delivered should be similar to the approved samples selected by the owner or the designer. It is important to confirm the country of origin of the tile and to check on the surface appearance of tiles upon delivery to site. No cracks or chip should be found. Dimensions of tiles should be as per project's specifications. To prevent staining during storage, the tiles should be wrapped and stored in their original packages in a dry, firm and level ground. They should be stacked on pallets to prevent damages arising from dampness.

Good site management practice to demarcate material storage areas can improve material management as well as prevent obstruction of access. It is crucial to comply with safety requirement when it comes to stacking of pallets.

The photos below (Figure 3.1.a to 3.1.d) demonstrate good practices for the transportation and storage of materials.



Transporting materials to site
Figure 3.1.a



Offloading materials from lorry crane
Figure 3.1.b



Sending materials for storage
Figure 3.1.c



Storage of ceramic tiles
Figure 3.1.d

It is a good practice to place large format tiles / panels on A-frame to prevent warping (Figure 3.1.e).



Handling and transport using A frame

Figure 3.1.e

The use of frame (Figure 3.1.e and 3.1.f) may be required for the handling and installation of large format tiles.



Handling of large format tile using frame

Figure 3.1.f

3.2. BEDDING, ADHESIVE AND GROUTING MATERIALS

Extra care should be taken to ensure that the bedding materials used are compatible with the tile and substrate. In addition, grout used should be compatible with the tile and tile-bed material. Where necessary, checks should be conducted with the supplier on the suitability of these materials.

Bedding, adhesive and grouting materials should be delivered and stored in the original packaging to ensure that seals and labels are kept intact until time of use. The materials should be protected from damage or contamination by water, moisture, excessive heat, foreign matter or other causes. The package or pallets must not be allowed to rest directly on the concrete or earth surface and should be well elevated from the resting surface to avoid contamination or staining from any foreign objects that may be around the packaging/pallets (Figure 3.2).

Dry and ventilated storage facilities should be provided on site to maintain the temperature range within appropriate levels recommended by the manufacturers.



Proper storage of adhesives

Figure 3.2