

## **WORKING WITH TERRACOTTA**

NOTE: Apply first sealing before grouting to stop staining of tiles (video below)

NOTE: Make sure adhesive has fully dried before sealing (unless pre sealing tiles)

### **FIXING AND GROUTING TERRACOTTA**

You can use a lime mortar for fixing and for the joints, when fixing to a surface that has no damp proof course because it remains malleable and breathable.

<https://www.lime-green.co.uk/products/lime-mortar>

OR

You can use BAL Single Part Flexible adhesive (make sure to seal the terracotta on the sides and front before laying to stop staining).

Grouting can be done using the BAL Micromax 2 range - large colour range available.

### **SEALING TERRACOTTA FOR OUTDOOR USE:**

When sealing Terracotta outside it is important to ensure the the tile is fully saturated with sealer. Hand made or reclaimed terracotta after intensive cleaning or from new are incredibly absorbent. Using a sealer such as ECOPROTEC Natural Finish Stone Sealer will not always provide the best protection when used as the primary sealer, unless you apply litres and litres per sq.m, which is not very economical. This is because of the larger pores within the baked clay.

When asked we always advise LTP Boiled Linseed Oil to fill the larger more open pores of the tile first. This is a very traditional and organic way of sealing and it does make the terracotta a little darker, but there are two big advantages when using this as a primary sealing solution.

1. It only absorbs into the larger more open pores to help prevent deep staining. 2. Once cured boiled linseed oil will offer mechanical strength which improves the durability and hardness of the terracotta.

Once the larger pores have been filled and the oil has cured (24 hours following the final coat) the smaller pores of the tile can be filled with ECOPROTEC Natural Finish Stone Sealer. This further helps to repel spillages and makes it easier to wipe up or remove stains when they occur.

### **SEALING TERRACOTTA INTERNAL:**

For a darker antique aged appearance use LTP boiled linseed oil and finish the surface with LTP antique wax.

<http://www.ltp-online.co.uk/prod/ltp-boiled-linseed-oil>

<http://www.ltp-online.co.uk/prod/ltp-antique-wax>

For a darker, but lighter finish to the surface use LTP boiled linseed Oil and finish the surface with LTP clear wax.

<http://www.ltp-online.co.uk/prod/ltp-boiled-linseed-oil>

<http://www.ltp-online.co.uk/prod/ltp-clear-wax>

**For a virtually unchanged from natural appearance** use ECOPROTEC Natural Finish Stone Sealer and finish the surface with ECOPROTEC satin finish surface wax.

<https://ecoprotec.co.uk/product/natural-finish-stone-sealer/>

<https://ecoprotec.co.uk/product/satin-finish-surface-wax/>

LTP Guide for the process of sealing during installation of terracotta.

[http://upload2.evocdn.co.uk/ltp/uploads/download/2\\_9\\_ltp-instruction-guide-9-terracotta-traditional-method-manual-application-nov-2017.pdf](http://upload2.evocdn.co.uk/ltp/uploads/download/2_9_ltp-instruction-guide-9-terracotta-traditional-method-manual-application-nov-2017.pdf)

The number of coats applied will determine the depth of colour. The more coats you apply the darker it will become, however it is also important not to allow the sealer to dry on the surface...It need to fully absorb.

If one coat provides the right depth of colour then the remaining porosity can be filled up using a natural finish impregnating sealer before waxing with a clear or antique wax.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4MCx7DUpAQ>