

HANDMADE ZELLIGE FAQ

- HOW IS ZELLIGE MADE?** Filtered clay is pressed and then cut into slabs. These are trimmed and air dried and then fired in a kiln, becoming what is called biscuit. Glaze is then applied to the biscuit and the tiles are fired a second time. Master cutters then hand cut the tiles one by one into various shapes using a chisel.
- WHERE CAN ZELLIGE TILES BE INSTALLED?** Zellige tiles, because they are glazed, are flexible and can be installed in many situations: bathroom and kitchen floors and walls, countertops, pools, fountains, patios and courtyards.
- ARE THERE PLACES WHERE ZELLIGE SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED?** Zellige tiles are not recommended for exterior installations in places that experience freeze-thaw conditions. Zellige tiles should not be installed in areas where they will be exposed to heavy loads like a garage or driveway.
- DO ZELLIGE TILES NEED TO BE SEALED?** A glazed zellige tile does not need to be sealed because the glaze makes it stain and water resistant. However, unglazed tiles are porous and do require sealing before and after installation. We recommend Miracle Sealant's Porous Plus.
- CAN ZELLIGE TILES BE INSTALLED IN WET AREAS, I.E., SHOWERS, POOLS, ETC?** Yes. Zellige tiles are glazed terra cotta and therefore resist water absorption. So, as long as the underlying installation surface is well waterproofed as well as the grout joints, zellige is perfect for showers, steam rooms, pools.
- WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN ORDERING ZELLIGE TILES?** A beautiful, handmade product with exceptional color (and color variation), wonderful surface texture and brilliance that light dances across.
- CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE COLOR VARIATION I SHOULD EXPECT WITH ZELLIGE?** The enviable variation of surface texture and color in zellige tiles is impacted by the play of light across a reflective surface, but this story of color goes far deeper. The color of zellige is impacted by a myriad of interconnected factors: the surface texture of the tiles; the glazes themselves; the way the glazes are applied; where the tiles are placed in the kiln; and temperature variations and air flow within the kiln itself. There's a magic and a mystery every time we open the kiln and see what comes out. At popham, we are proponents of deep variation and have developed signature glazes that give this hyper-varied effect. But we understand this isn't for everyone, so some of our glazes give a more subtle color nuance. To help you understand and order what's best for you, we've rated each of our colors based on the range of variation you can expect: V1 - slight variation, V2 - moderate variation, V3- bonkers variation.