



JohnsonTILES

**JOHNSON TILES | TILING AND  
FINISHING TERMS**

# Tiling and Finishing Terms

---

## Tile Finishing Terms

**Gloss/Glazed:** These tiles have a shiny reflective finish – this term can apply to ceramic walls or floors.

**Satin:** These tiles have a 'flat' or non-glossy finish. This term generally applies to Wall Tiles only.

**Matt:** This term is usually applied to a floor tile. These tile have a non-glossy finish.

**Grit/Rock:** These tiles have a rough or textured finish. More often than not, Grit is a preferred finish for outdoors as they can provide a less slippery or anti slip surface when wet.

**Semi-Polished:** this term is applied to porcelain tiles only and can also be referred to as lappato. This creates a pattern of shine on the surface of the tile without being a full polish.

**Polished Tile:** These tiles are porcelain only and have a highly polished surface. They do not have a glaze, as the tile surface is polished to achieve the high finish.

## Tiling Terms

**Anti-Slip:** Tiles that have been specifically produced to reduce slipping.

**Backsplash:** The area located between the countertop and upper cabinet in a kitchen.

**Bevelled Edge:** An edge treatment done to a tile that slopes the edges all the way around the tiles surface.

**Deco:** A decorative accent piece.

**Firing:** Final step of tile manufacturing process when raw material is 'baked' at high temperature (up to 1250 degrees C for porcelain tiles) to harden the tile body and glaze (if present).

**Format:** The size of ceramic tiles may vary from 10x10cm to 60x120cm. Format is a modern term that simply refers to size.

**Frost Resistance:** Ability of certain ceramic tiles to withstand freeze/thaw conditions with minimal effect. Frost resistance of ceramic tile is dependent on the tiles porosity and water absorption levels.

**Grout Joints:** Space left between tiles to be filled with grout. This space may be extremely narrow or wider depending on the required installation.

**Listello:** Narrow decorative border tile, often designed to complement a range of base tiles.

**Wastage:** Used to describe the excess tile that need to be factored into jobs because of cutting. Usually this is calculated as 10% of the total job. Example – If 10m<sup>2</sup> is required and extra 1m<sup>2</sup> will allow for wastage.

