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## Commonly used Terms used in the **TILING INDUSTRY**

### **Bicotura**

This is the process of first firing the biscuit, then glazing & re firing the tile. These tiles are suitable for wall applications & some floors only.

### **Ceramic Tiles**

Ceramic tiles are produced by obtaining raw materials such as clays & sands & then working the mixture into the desired form. They can be either dry pressed or extruded. They are then dried & fired at temperatures between 1000 & 1250°C. These tiles can be glazed or unglazed.

### **Clinker**

Unglazed or single fired glazed tiles very compact & obtained by extrusion.

### **Cotto**

Unglazed tiles usually with a red or cream porous bodies obtained by extrusion.

### **Efflorescence**

Efflorescence is a white powdery substance left as a result of salt travelling via capillary action. Salt can be found in soil, concrete, grout, adhesives & various tiles such as terracotta.

### **Glazed Porcelain**

Porcelain biscuits that have been glazed for aesthetic purposes & generally do not require sealing. They can have clear or vitrified bodies & there glazes can be polished, semi polished or sanded (for slip resistance purposes).

## MOHs

This is the scale for measuring the hardness of a tile by determining the resistance to scratching by minerals.

## Monocotura

This is the process of firing both the biscuit & glaze at the same time. These tiles are suitable for both floor & wall installation.

## PEI (Porcelain Enamel Institute)

This is the scale used to determine the deterioration of a floor tile, not by the reduction of the thickness of the tile but by its appearance between the worn surface & unworn surface. This test involves the rotation of steel ball bearings & corundum on the surface of the tile for a given number of rotations.

PEI 1: Soft foot ware areas i.e.: Ensuites

PEI 2: Light Traffic i.e.: Bathrooms

PEI 3: Medium Traffic i.e.: Internal Living Areas

PEI 4: Heavy Traffic i.e.: Internal & External Living Areas, Light Commercial

PEI 5: Heavy Duty Traffic i.e.: Commercial, Factory Application

## Porcelain

Unglazed tiles with a clear (white) body or a body that has been coloured with pigments. These tiles are extremely compact & are obtained by pressing, drying & firing at temperatures that exceed 1200°C. With a water absorption level of 0.5% or less, Porcelain tiles were created to be used in commercial situations due to there vitrification & mechanical properties.

Most porcelain tiles require sealing however products are now being produced to treat the tile during the manufacturing process to avoid sealing.

## Vitrification

This is the act of converting clay into glass as a result of firing. Throughout the process the proportion of glassy bond increases & the water absorption decreases.

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