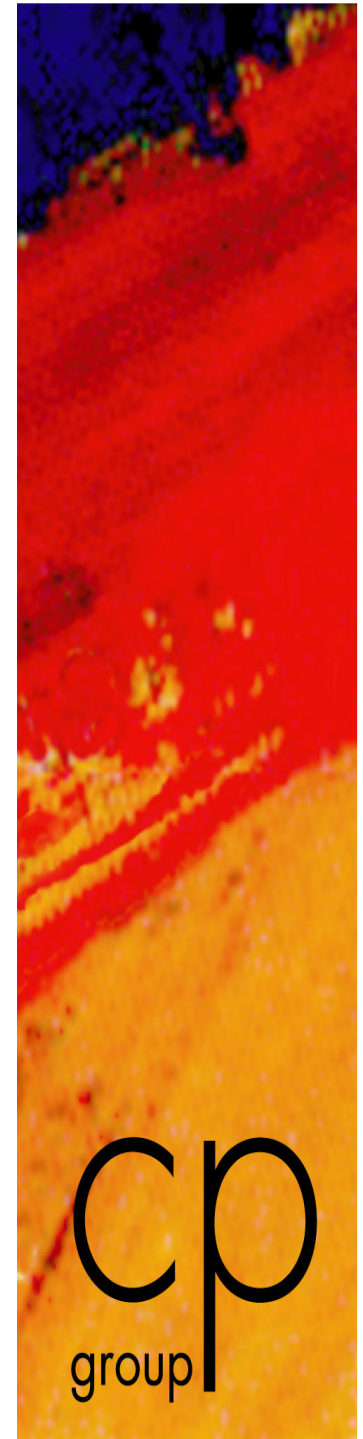


# What is a Tile?

- The word 'tile' comes from the Latin word 'tegula' which is derived from 'tegere' meaning 'to cover'.
- **Ceramic** tiles can be glazed or unglazed. Made from mixtures of clays, sands and other natural substances, the body of the tile is moulded into shape and then fired at extremely high temperatures in a kiln. To give tiles colour and design a coating, known as a glaze, consisting of ground glass and colour pigments are fused onto the clay surface through intense heat in a kiln. Glazed tiles are available plain or decorated and can be used on walls and floors.
- **Unglazed** ceramic floor tiles are more suited to commercial and industrial settings, but can be used in laundries and utility rooms. They are available with a non-slip profile.
- **Quarry** tiles are a traditional product made in the UK for hundreds of year. They are made from natural clay, squeezed through an extruding machine, and then fired. They are mostly available in terracotta, black and white colours.



# What is a Tile?

- **Porcelain** tiles are ceramic tiles, but with a very low absorbency. Fired at about 1200°C, porcelain tiles are extremely hard wearing and can be used on walls or floors. Glazed Porcelain is glazed in the same way as a ceramic tile (see above) while Full Bodied Porcelain is made from the same clay but with colouring oxides added to eliminate the need for glazing.
- **Mosaics** are very small tiles, usually less than 35cm<sup>2</sup>. Mosaics can be glazed or unglazed and made from porcelain, ceramic, glass or natural stone mounted on mesh backing.
- **Natural Stone Products**; limestone, marble, granite and slate are quarried from the earth. Some are extremely hard, and some quite soft. Some may need sealing.
- **Terracotta** tiles are also made from local clays. Terracotta means "cooked earth" and these products tend to be very absorbent, so need sealing when used on the floor.

