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GLOSSARY
of commonly used terms
TILE INSTALLATION - edition

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Things you might hear us say — and what we mean

- **Zellige:** Handcrafted Moroccan clay tiles known for beautiful, "perfectly imperfect" variations in color and texture.
- **Large-Format Tile (LFT):** Oversized tiles (often 24x48 or larger) that create a seamless, high-end look with fewer grout lines.
- **Self-Leveling Underlayment:** A fluid cement compound used to create a perfectly flat, level floor before tiling.
- **DensShield:** A mold-resistant tile substrate with a built-in moisture barrier, ideal for high-humidity Florida bathrooms.
- **WhisperMat CS:** A specialized underlayment used in condos to reduce noise and prevent floor cracks from transferring to the tile.
- **Curbless Entry:** A modern "zero-entry" shower design where the bathroom floor continues seamlessly into the shower.
- **Envelope Cut:** Precision diagonal cuts in floor tile that allow water to drain perfectly in a curbless shower.
- **Rectified Tile:** Tiles with edges ground to exact size, allowing for extremely thin, high-end grout lines.
- **Mitered Edge:** Cutting the edge of two tiles at 45 degrees to join them in a clean, "wrapped" corner without using metal trim.
- **Thin-set:** A specialized cement-based adhesive used to bond tile to the substrate.
- **Epoxy Grout:** A premium, stain-proof, and waterproof grout that never needs sealing.
- **Lippage:** A condition where the edge of one tile is higher than the next; we avoid through professional leveling systems.
- **Niche:** A recessed shelf built into the shower wall to hold soaps and shampoos elegantly.
- **Linear Drain:** A long, narrow shower drain that allows for large-format tile to be used on the shower floor.
- **Glass Mosaics:** Small, reflective tiles often used for accents or backsplashes to add depth and light.
- **Penny Tiles:** Classic, small round tiles that provide excellent grip for shower floors.
- **Sealer:** A liquid treatment applied to natural stone to protect it from water and stains.
- **Checkerboard:** A classic layout using two alternating colors, often seen in high-end transitional designs.
- **Cure Time:** The necessary "waiting period" for mortar or grout to fully harden before the shower can be used.
- **EcoPrim Grip:** a gritty polymer liquid primer product rolled on surfaces to prepare them (primer) for tile installation.
- **Slope, plumb, level:** refers to the direction a surface leans - we may add or remove slope or level - depending on our goal.
- **Thinset, or Mortar:** a mix that gets troweled on walls or floors - a mud bed we stick the tile to and apply on the back of LFT.