

TILE WARPAGE

Odds are, the tile is NOT defective. All ceramic tile have warpage.

Tiles are like a cake; they are BAKED. Even when you have the most precise equipment and recipe the cake is never the exact size of the pan it was made in. Neither is tile. It has a recipe and an oven also, and when it is fired (BAKED) it is not a perfect shape either. Over the years the equipment and formulas have gotten better, and the tile have gotten more precise, but there are still inconsistencies. The industry recognizes this and helps us determine if there are manufactured defects. ANSI describes this in their 137.1 manual. As the tiles have gotten larger the inconsistencies are more evident. Most designers and architects want tile to be uber flat tile with hairline grout joints. This is not achievable with a fired product. In my 20+ years as a contractor, I have tested a hundred or more tiles. ANSI and TCNA give us help in dealing with these situation.

In short:

- Pattern can determine the aesthetic of the installation
- Lighting is critical
- The larger the grout joint the less evident the differences in tile size.

Use the attached TWP to help educate our clients.

**QUESTIONS TO ASK**

- Is the tile longer than 15”?
- What is the grout joint size?
- Have you laid out the tile in the desired pattern and joint size to review?
- Are you using a 30% offset pattern?