

# A grate selection for a grate match.



## Your design. The right grate selection, with Stormtech.

Match the perfect drain to your requirements with Stormtech's superb range of linear, designer drainage systems.

Manufactured in Australia from marine grade stainless steel, Stormtech systems bring the perfect balance of style, durability and sustainability to both indoor and outdoor environments.

View our complete selection of drainage systems and product applications on the Stormtech website, or call for more details.

Phone 1300 653 403  
Website [stormtech.com.au](http://stormtech.com.au)

ARCHITECTURAL  
GRATES + DRAINS

**Bathrooms + Showers**  
**Pools + Surrounds**  
**Thresholds + Doortracks**  
**Special Needs Access**



# Inside

For thousands of years tiles have been used as an interior and exterior surface treatment, proving their durability and enduring aesthetic appeal.

## From ancient to new

Tiles are made from various materials such as composite and natural stone, porcelain, glass, ceramic clay, metal and concrete. Porcelain tiles use a more refined clay than ceramic tiles, meaning they are denser and more impervious to liquid so they can be used without glazing. They may have the colour right through the tile, thus chipping is not so obvious. Terrazzo tiles are made of mixed stone chips in a concrete base, and glass ceramic and porcelain tiles are commonly used in mosaics. Innovative Japanese company Inax has created the eco-carat range of tiles using 40% recycled content. They can regulate humidity, absorb pollutants and inhibit the spread of mould, creating healthy interior environments.

[artedomus.com/products](http://artedomus.com/products)

## The cost of making tiles

Tiles have environmental impacts associated with the extraction of raw material, production (including glazing and firing) and transport. Some tile producers have been working to reduce the energy and resources used in their production. Look for companies that have employed high environmental standards by using recycled content, waste-water recycling, thermal recycling (reusing the lost heat from kilns), on-site ceramic waste recycling, reduction of toxic by-products and recycled pellets, paper and plastic packaging. Mosa is the world's first ceramic tile factory to receive Cradle to Cradle certification. They carefully consider the whole manufacturing process and use natural, raw materials that enable recycling. Mosa tiles are distributed by Design Republic.

[designrepublic.net.au](http://designrepublic.net.au)

## Local and little

One option to consider is choosing locally produced and handmade tiles. By sourcing nearby you are reducing the embodied energy associated with transport. Handmade tiles can also allow you to have direct dialogue with the maker in order to customise glazes and sizes for a bespoke outcome. Handcrafted products tend to have a high degree of variation in colours and textures, which can add to the aesthetic appeal and make each installation unique.

[anchorceramics.com](http://anchorceramics.com)  
[middleearthtiles.co.nz](http://middleearthtiles.co.nz)

## Slip and wear

Tiles are rated according to wear and slip resistance. Some tiles are not suitable for general floors or wet areas. Tiles rated PEI1 and PEI2 may only be suitable for walls or light use foot traffic. Slip resistance can be important in wet areas, especially when being used by children and the elderly. Grout will provide some counteraction so smaller tiles are likely to be less unsafe than the larger format.

## Lay them right

It is not enough to just choose a tile, they must be installed correctly to look great and to last. At a design level tiled areas can be sized to minimise cuts and tiles of an appropriate scale chosen to allow for the use of full tiles. Intersecting corners where edges meet another surface must be resolved with care and consideration. In some cases you can order a glazed edge strip to match your tile. Others have glazing on the sides as well as the top, or you can use a vitrified tile, where the colour runs right through. Both of these options can be butt-joined around corners without edge stripping for a neater finish. When you need edge stripping it comes in chrome, stainless steel, PVC, brass or powder-coated to match your tile.

## About grout

Grout comes in a huge array of colours and tones and will form a large part of the visual impact of your tile. Grout creates a graphic geometric pattern and adds surface texture that you can enhance or reduce by using a contrasting or matching colour. Considering and specifying grout types, colours and thicknesses will have a significant visual impact on your tiles.

[mapei.com.au](http://mapei.com.au)

## Invest the best

Tiles are a durable long-lasting choice and they should be treated as such. Therefore choosing tiles you love is important. The interest and appeal in tiles can come from the colour, shape, pattern, texture or all of the above. Tiles have the potential to last for over 50 years so select something that you will admire long term. Asking yourself if you would have liked the same tile five or ten years ago is a good way to test this idea. Remember to specify and order tiles early to allow for lead times. Selecting them at the last minute may narrow the choices to only those off-the-shelf varieties.

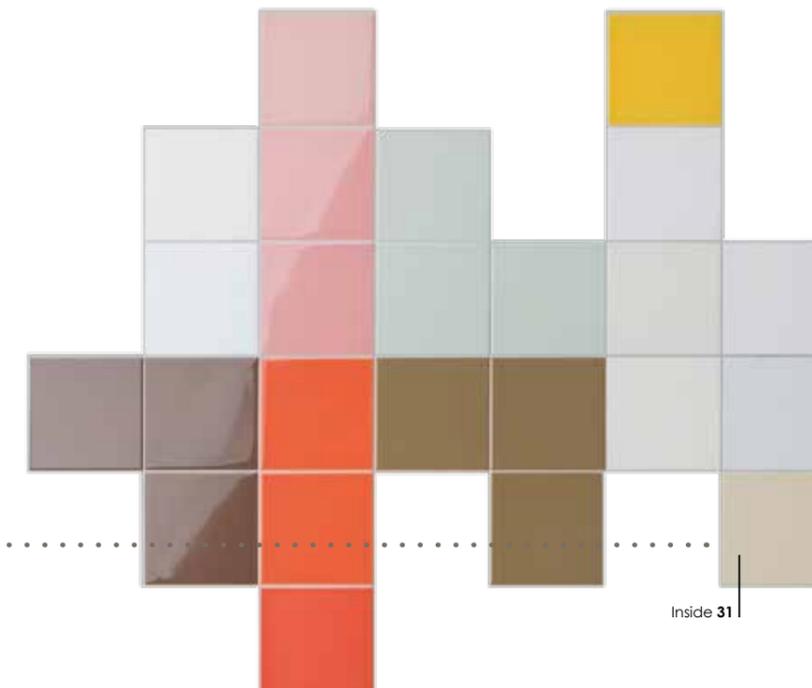


Image of Mosa tiles courtesy of Design Republic

Megan Norgate is a sustainable design consultant at Brave New Eco.  
[braveneweco.com.au](http://braveneweco.com.au)