

Important tips on how to
use terracotta floors (“cotto”)
from Fornace Brioni

1. Before laying, ensure that the screed is **completely** dry to avoid moisture stains or oxidation.
2. Lay the terracotta tiles with glue (type FLEX cat. S1) trying to keep the joints as close as possible compatible with the natural irregularity of handmade cotto.
3. **Never** use SCOTCH PAPER or ADHESIVE TAPE on cotto and **do not cover** the floor with plastic sheeting. Use cardboard (always without Scotch tape) only for the time strictly necessary for the work (never for more than four to five consecutive days).
4. Immediately before grouting the floor, wet the cotto with clean water and then spread the grout on the floor, allowing it to penetrate the joints. A few minutes after grouting, before the grout solidifies, clean the terracotta surface well with a sponge and clean water, removing any residues especially from the edges. After about FOUR weeks of drying, **sanding (important)** and acid washing with a monobrush (solution of muriatic or hydrochloric acid diluted in 10% to 20% water) can be carried out. Then rinse well immediately with pure water. **The use of pre-treatments is recommended if done by experienced professionals unless they are applied by our craftsman.**
5. If, after acid washing, dark marks, oxidation, fingerprints or other marks are present, these must be removed with appropriate products, otherwise no further action can be taken after treatment.
6. After acid washing (to be dried in about 4 days) do not walk on the floor directly with shoes anymore and when the floor is well dried continue with the treatment.
7. The surface treatment should be done by experienced personnel only with natural products (avoid solvents and resins), which usually consist of waxes dispersed in water.
8. It is good practice to carry out routine cleaning of cotto with the products we supply or with neutral soaps well diluted in water so as not to alter the treatment. Extraordinary maintenance consists of a wipe with a suitable product about 6 months after the first treatment, to be repeated thereafter about once a year for the first few years. This extraordinary maintenance, however, depends on the level of footfall. The more the floor is walked on, the more frequently a wax coat must be applied.
9. Terracotta tiles laid outside **are not guaranteed** and any treatment with oil-hydro repellents is not recommended.