TEAK TILE COLLECTION · FIELD GUIDE № 02

Teak Tile FAQ.

The 21 questions we hear most about IndoTeak Teak Tile, **answered clearly**: from showers and floors to thin-set, grout and everyday care.

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Zero Trees Harmed

01

The Material.

TEAK · FINISH · CHARACTER

Q 01

What are IndoTeak tiles made of?

Every IndoTeak tile is made from 100% FSC®-certified reclaimed Indonesian teak. It's real solid teak, not a print, laminate or veneer, so each tile carries the grain, tone and character of the original wood.

Q 02

Are they sustainable?

Yes. The teak is reclaimed, which means existing wood gets a second life instead of new trees being cut. It's FSC®-certified, and the collection carries our "Zero Trees Harmed" mark.

Q 03

Why teak and not another wood?

Teak is one of the most durable woods in the world. It's dense and naturally rich in oils, so it holds up to moisture far better than most hardwoods. That's why it has been used for centuries on boat decks and outdoor furniture, and why it works in bathrooms and showers where other woods would fail.

Q 04

What styles are available?

There are 15 designs. The Teak Tile Collection includes Hexagon, Tommy, Barrel, Taylor, Emma, Pennyround, Twister, Frank, Chevron, Gridline, Amy and Amsterdam. Awaken Wood is our sculpted, dimensional sub-collection: Oasis, Tide and Dune.

Q 05

What finishes do you offer?

There are two standard finishes: Natural Smooth, a clean, even surface that shows the grain, and Natural Patina, which has a more aged, lived-in character. Both finishes are approved for dry and wet installations. Custom colors are available on request. The Awaken Wood tiles (Oasis, Tide, Dune) come in a Smooth Natural finish.

Q 06

Will every tile look the same?

No, and that's intentional. Because the tiles are reclaimed teak, grain and tone vary from piece to piece. That variation is what gives the wall or floor its depth. We recommend mixing tiles from several boxes as you install so the variation spreads evenly across the surface.

02

Applications.

SHOWERS · FLOORS · EXTERIOR

Q 07

Where can I use IndoTeak tile?

Floors, walls, feature and accent walls, kitchen and bar backsplashes, bathrooms, restrooms and showers. The tiles work in both dry and wet interior installations.

Q 08

How does it do in showers?

Phenomenally. Teak is a natural choice for wet areas, and both finishes are approved for wet installation. The one thing to avoid is water that sits for long periods. The shower should drain properly and be able to dry between uses, so there's no permanent standing water or constantly pooling area. With proper slope, drainage and ventilation, teak tile performs beautifully in a shower.

Q 09

Can it be used on floors, including shower floors?

Yes. The tiles are rated for floors as well as walls. On a shower floor, the same rule applies: make sure the floor is sloped to the drain so water runs off and doesn't pool.

Q 10

Can I use it outdoors?

Only in fully shaded areas. Direct sun weathers teak to a silver-grey patina. That's natural and doesn't hurt the wood, but it will change the warm color you see in the catalog. For exterior spaces that get sun, expect the tile to turn grey over time.

Q 11

Will the color change over time?

Teak is a living material, so it slowly deepens and develops character with age, especially the Patina finish. Indoors that change is gradual and subtle. The dramatic change is sun exposure: direct UV turns teak grey, which is why outdoor use is limited to fully shaded areas.

03

Planning & Installation.

ORDERING · SETTING · GROUT

Q 12

How much tile should I order?

Measure the square footage of the area and divide by the coverage per box for your style (see Specifications, page 06). We recommend adding 10–15% extra for cuts, pattern layout and future repairs. Complex patterns and rooms with many corners should lean toward the higher end.

Q 13

How thick are the tiles?

It depends on the style. Most of the Teak Tile Collection is 5/16" to 3/8" thick. The Awaken Wood sculpted tiles are thicker: Oasis and Tide are 3/4" and Dune is 1". Keep the thickness in mind when you plan transitions to other flooring, trim and outlet extenders.

Q 14

Do the tiles need to acclimate before installation?

Yes. Leave the tiles on site, in the room where they'll be installed, for 4–5 days before installing. This lets the wood adjust to the local humidity and temperature so there's minimal expansion and contraction once it's installed.

Q 15

Can a regular tile installer install it? What surface does it go on?

Yes. It installs much like ceramic tile, with thin-set and grout. The substrate must be clean, level and dry. Approved substrates are cured concrete, cement backer-board or gypsum board. For showers and other wet areas, follow standard waterproofing practice for the substrate.

Q 16

What thin-set should I use?

No specific brand is required. Any good-quality thin-set mortar works. Mix it to a firm, creamy consistency, spread it evenly across the substrate, and let it dry completely before grouting. At the installer's discretion, some installations use a wood-flooring adhesive with a built-in 2-in-1 waterproofing membrane instead of thin-set.

03 Planning & Installation (cont.)

ORDERING · SETTING · GROUT

Q 17 What type of grout should be used?

Use a single-component, ready-to-use acrylic or urethane grout (for example, MAPEI Flexcolor CQ) or an epoxy grout. Avoid traditional water-mixed cement grout.

Q 18 Is grouting teak different from grouting ceramic tile?

Mostly the same, with one important difference: clean grout residue off the surface quickly. Don't let haze or residue cure on the face of the wood. Left too long, it can damage the finish. Work in small sections and wipe as you go.

Q 19 How do I cut and drill the tiles?

Cut with a tile saw fitted with a tile blade, or with a miter saw with a 60- to 80-tooth blade. For drilling holes (plumbing, outlets, fixtures), standard woodworking drill bits work well.

04 Care.

SEALING · CLEANING

Q 20 Does the tile need to be sealed?

No. IndoTeak tile comes pre-sealed from the factory, so it's ready to install. There's no sealing step on site.

Q 21 How do I clean and maintain IndoTeak tile?

Clean with a pH-neutral cleaner, such as Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner, and a soft cloth or mop. Avoid bleach, ammonia, acidic or harsh chemical cleaners, and abrasive pads, since they can strip or damage the finish. In showers, a quick squeegee or wipe-down after use helps the surface dry faster and keeps it looking its best.

05

Specifications.

15 STYLES · AT A GLANCE

STYLE	COLLECTION	THICKNESS	SQ FT / BOX
Hexagon	Teak Tile	3/8"	9.5
Tommy	Teak Tile	5/16"	7.8
Barrel	Teak Tile	3/8"	8.2
Taylor	Teak Tile	5/16"	15.48
Emma	Teak Tile	5/16"	15.48
Pennyround	Teak Tile	3/8"	8.9
Twister	Teak Tile	5/16"	15.48
Frank	Teak Tile	5/16"	15.48
Chevron	Teak Tile	3/8"	15.3
Gridline	Teak Tile	3/8"	15.48
Amy	Teak Tile	5/16"	15.48
Amsterdam	Teak Tile	3/8"	9.1
Oasis	Awaken Wood	3/4"	8
Tide	Awaken Wood	3/4"	9.15
Dune	Awaken Wood	1"	10.9

FINISHES

Teak Tile Collection: Natural Smooth or Natural Patina. Awaken Wood: Smooth Natural. Custom colors upon request. All material is 100% FSC®-certified reclaimed teak.

DISCLAIMER

This document provides product information and installation practices to assist customers in selecting, using, and installing our products. Customers' selection and usage of products are outside the direction and control of IndoTeak and are completely and solely the responsibility of the customer. IndoTeak does not warrant any product for any specific use, nor any installation procedure or maintenance practice.

Timeless Material. · Thoughtfully Crafted. · Designed to Endure.