INTRODUCTION

The CobbleTac® Precast range offers the natural beauty of stone in a palette of colours, textures and finishes with an emphasis on function, practicality and ease of use. This technically advanced high strength concrete based product reproduces a stone texture with structural capabilities making it ideal for pool surrounds, courtyards, terraces, paths and driveways and is available in earthy, natural colours to complement your landscaping and living environment. CobbleTac® Precast Tactile pavers will also enhance modern architectural styles, making it the perfect choice.

LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS

CobbleTac® Precast Tactile must be set out 600mm deep x the total width of the stairs and/or ramp, as follows:

- 300mm from the stair nosing at the top and bottom of stairs and
- 300mm from the change in gradient before and after ramps.
- Tactile must be installed on landings as above, unless there are continuous hand rails. On landings without doorways, the Tactile can be reduced to 300mm deep.

Some installation requirements may vary and must be installed in the manner prescribed in AS1428 – Refer to this standard or CTA’s – Tactile user’s guide.

PRODUCT STORAGE AND PACKAGING

Please ensure the product is stored level, well ventilated and well protected from the elements while waiting to be installed on site. Do not install any product that is thought to be defective. All claims must be reported to a CTA representative for an on-site inspection before they are installed.

As a hand-made product using natural raw materials CobbleTac® Precast pavers may exhibit some surface imperfections, colour variation, thickness variation up to ±3mm and some chipping. Whilst every care has been taken to package the product in accordance with industry best practice it is prudent to allow for some minimal imperfection/breakage/chips, in the same way as you should allow for all cutting extras. Chipped or damaged pavers (up to 4%) are considered to be within acceptable industry standards and will not be replaced. These should be put aside and used for cutting.

Should the order be greater than one pallet, the pallets must be blended during laying. We do not accept responsibility for normal naturally occurring variations in patina.

PREPARATION OF SUBSTRATES

CobbleTac® Precast Tactile is suitable for installing on level, clean and dry sub-floors, including: concrete, roadbase/sand, sand/cement base and bitumen. Sub-floors must be level and rigid. Uneven sub-floors may need preparation to meet the required standard. The nominated contractor is responsible for the inspection and preparation of the sub-floor prior to the installation of CobbleTac® Precast Tactile. For timber surfaces a polypropylene plastic layer, expanded mesh and cementitious base is sufficient to provide a suitable substrate.

INSTALLATION

CobbleTac® Precast Tactile must be laid level with the surrounding surface so that the tactile studs stand proud. This allows pedestrians, including the vision impaired, to feel the studs in travel.

PRODUCT HANDLING

Careful handling is required at all times; before, during and after installation. Clean gloves must be used to minimise the risk of unnecessarily marking the product. It is recommended to stack product rather than use diagonal stacking which can leave marks if left for a period of time.

CUTTING

CobbleTac® Precast pavers can be easily cut with a brick-saw or diamond blade masonry saw on a 9 inch grinder. The product can be wet or dry cut using the appropriate blade however, to reduce dust, wet cutting is preferred. Always wear a suitable dust mask. All dust and milky cutting residue must be washed off immediately before the paver dries. Whilst the cutting residue may be invisible while wet, if allowed to dry, will appear as pastel-coloured stains, cemented to the paver and be very difficult to remove.
SPACING & COMPACTION

CobbleTac® Precast Tactile should be laid with a 3 to 5mm gap filled with clean, dry white jointing sand brushed between pavers. For 20-30m² of paving, leaving 3 to 5mm gaps you will need approximately 2 bags. (20-40kg)

It is important not to leave excess jointing sand on the pavers as this could stain, especially if it becomes wet.

CobbleTac® Precast Tactile must NOT be laid into wet concrete. This process does not provide the required space between each tile and surrounding surfaces and may result in product failure

ALL COBBLETAC® PRECAST PAVERS MUST BE LAID AND LEVELLED INDIVIDUALLY AT THE TIME OF LAYING. LEVELLING WITH A COMPACTOR PLATE IS NOT RECOMMENDED.

EXPANSION JOINTS

As with all paving it is important that appropriate expansion joints are used to allow for natural movement. These should be incorporated every 4 metres, in accordance with AS2359. An expansion joint should also be incorporated between CobbleTac Precast pavers and other surrounding products or surface.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL SURROUNDING JOINTS BE SEALED USING A COMPRRESSIBLE SEALANT OR SUITABLE EPOXY GROUTING MATERIAL. Refer to the Approved Products List – Grouting materials.

DRAINAGE

Suitable drainage considerations must be taken into account before laying any pavers. Good surface, subsurface and subsoil drainage is essential for good long-term performance of the paving. Drainage needs to be considered during the design, specification and construction phases of the project. Poor or inadequate drainage will cause staining and effect paver performance.

LAYING METHOD

The project application will determine the type of laying method needed to satisfy the engineering and architectural specifications.

A. ROAD BASE AND BEDDING LAYER

In most applications CobbleTac® Precast pavers will be laid over a bed of roadbase/sand, in much the same way as standard pavers.

If you are paving a driveway or on an unstable site, it is recommended that you consult a suitably qualified engineer. Generally, road base is laid to a total depth of 100 to 150mm [10-15cm] around the entire area. For driveways, it is recommended the base is compacted in two or three layers, not in one single layer - compact for every 50mm [5cm] layer. For pathways compact for every 60mm [6cm] layer. For 10m² compacted to 100mm [10cm] you will need 1 cubic metres. Note an uneven base will result in an uneven paver surface, so it is important to achieve a smooth level surface. After the road base you will need to lay bedding sand evenly to a depth of 30mm [3cm] over the entire area.

Place the pavers gently on the sand bed leaving a gap (see SPACING & COMPACTION) between each unit. Disturb the bed of sand as little as possible, you may stand on the centre of the pavers already laid but be careful not to stand on the leading row of pavers as they may tilt and shift the flat sand.

Select the pavers down the side of the pallets and randomly from different pallets to ensure an all over blend. After laying all full-size pavers, the part-size pieces can be measured and cut (see CUTTING)

After laying pavers a sand/cement edge restraint may be needed to keep the pavers from shifting. This can be easily made with a mixture of sand and cement which is troweled around the periphery of the job. For 200 lineal metres of restraint you will need approximately 1 cubic metre of sand and cement mix.

Once the pavers are laid, sweep dry fine graded sand over the paved area ensuring that all joints are full. [See SPACING AND COMPACTION]. Do not mix cement with the jointing sand or pavers may be stained.

B. RETROFIT RECESSING

In some cases CobbleTac® Precast pavers must be laid into an existing substrate such as concrete or bitumen. If this is the case an appropriate recess must be prepared, this is achieved by:

i. saw cutting the periphery of the tactile pad and then across the width of the pad every 30 to 50mm to an approximate depth (same as paver plus 10mm). The overall length and width of the saw cut recess must be suitable for the installation, making sure to allow for appropriate spacing.

ii. Once the saw cuts have been complete, remove the substrate by chiselling across each saw cut. Note the closer the saw cuts the easier it is to chisel away the substrate.

iii. Once the substrate has been removed and the recess cleaned, use a screed compound of sand/cement to repair the bottom surface of the recess. The resulting depth of the recess should be adequate to install the pavers flush with the surrounding substrate.

Where the depth of substrate does not allow for discrete removal of the top surface, it will be necessary to cut through the entire thickness, remove material and cast a 75 to 100mm concrete slab. If this is the case, the concrete slab must be dowelled correctly into the surrounding substrate to ensure the relative heights are maintained.

CobbleTac® Precast pavers are then laid into this recess using a recommended adhesive (see ADHESIVES AND ADHESIVE TRANSFER).

C. RECESSING

Pre-recessing of the substrate can be achieved by using a suitable template at the concrete/bitumen pouring stage. Refer to your CTA representative if you require standard recessing templates. Again once the recess is formed CobbleTac® Precast pavers are laid using a recommended adhesive (see ADHESIVES AND ADHESIVE TRANSFER).
SEALING
As with many other masonry products we recommend sealing prior to use, particularly in areas known to cause unsightly stains, such as: BBQ areas, driveways, leafy or muddy areas, etc. There are many suitable masonry sealers. Please contact your CTA representative for a full list of suitable sealers.

ADHESIVES
In areas where the pavers are retrofitted or recessed, CobbleTac® Precast pavers must be installed with an approved adhesive. The adhesive must be mixed and applied in strict accordance with the manufacturer’s recommended instructions.

THE ADHESIVE MUST BE SPREAD WITH A SUITABLE SQUARE NOTCHED TROWEL AND THE PAVERS LAID INTO THE WET FILM OF ADHESIVE. Refer to the Approved Products List - Adhesives.

ADHESIVE TRANSFER
When retro-fitting or recessing CobbleTac® Precast pavers it is critical to use the correct amount of adhesive and achieve 100% transfer to the back of the tile. Grid sticking or adhering of the corners only must be avoided as this will reduce the overall load bearing strength and lead to product failure.

REMOVING EXCESSIVE ADHESIVE
Excess adhesive must be removed immediately from the surface before curing, using a clean damp cloth (water only). Trying to remove adhesive, once cured, is likely to cause damage to the surface of the Tactile. If adhesive has been left to cure on the surface, aggressive rubbing must be avoided. Use a damp cloth and try to peel the adhesive away from the surface.

EFFLORESCENCE
CobbleTac® Precast pavers have an additive mixed in during the manufacturing process however, as with all concrete based products, efflorescence’s cannot be completely eliminated. If efflorescence appears it is visible as a uniform powder on the surface and is sometimes mistaken as fading. To reduce this phenomena, we recommend sealing all 6 sides of the paver prior to installation or alternatively, using a suitable efflorescence remover, see your CTA representative for a suitable, highly effective, eco-friendly, water based remover.

CURE TIME
Floor traffic should be avoided ideally for 48 hours or at least FOR 24 HOURS after installation.

APPROVED PRODUCTS
A list of approved adhesives is available from your CTA distributor. Please contact our head office for a list of authorized representatives

Product Data sheets and Material Safety Data Sheets are available upon request. CTA Group - 1300 282 282

IMPORTANT NOTES
Due to natural materials used in the manufacture of CobbleTac® Precast Tactile, some slight variation in shade and texture between tiles may occur. The manufacturer recommends that possible shade variation and texture match is checked before bonding more than one tile in an adjacent area.

EXPERIENCED CONTRACTORS & RELEVANT STANDARDS
Installation should be carried out by a fully experienced contractor. The installer should be familiar with: the preparation and treatment of sub-floors and the application and storage of adhesives. A working knowledge of the adhesive manufacturer’s application instructions and the Australian Standard AS1428.4:2002 is also desirable.