**GROUT JOINT**

When it comes to stone and tiles for walls and flooring, a proper grout joint is an important part of the specification. While many architects and specifiers may believe the size of a thinner grout joint, it’s important to understand why a thicker grout joint may be better.

**BENEFITS OF A PROPER GROUT JOINT**

- Reduce the likelihood of thinning that softer the subfloor moves.
- Minimizes the appearance of inconsistencies in the tile.
- Minimizes the likelihood that the fill pattern will be thrown off upon installation.

**WHY 1/8” OR MORE?**

- While the strict definition of a thinner joint is often to obtain a more decorative and aesthetic appearance, thinner grout joints in the 3/32” to 1/16” range are generally more evident in thinner joints or are generally more evident in those grout joints, which can give the installation a sloppier appearance.

**THINGS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN CHOOSING THE THICKNESS OF GROUT JOINTS**

1. **Tile Size**
   - Large formed tiles create more lapping, or unevenness in the surface. Therefore, a thicker grout joint may be necessary.

2. **Grout Joint Size**
   - Grout joints must accommodate differences in thickness and tile size. Standards for tile manufacturers do not vary from one to the next, so it often depends on 3/32” difference between the largest and the smallest tiles in the box. Therefore, grout joints need to be thick enough to accommodate this variation.

3. **Planar Change and Surface**
   - Grout accommodations are the difference in the grout size. As the planar surface of the tile changes (e.g., from the floor or wall or not level), the grout will slide from one to another. When things come apart, a thick joint opens up and when things across a thin joint, the grout will crack. A thicker grout joint will accommodate these irregular edges.

4. **Aesthetic Consistency**
   - When tiles are set too close together or have a great deal of variation, there may be a noticeable change in the surface, which may be visible. This is especially noticeable in a thinner grout joint.

A note about preferred material movement can affect and produce movement across joints. This may not always be dependent on the same grout line, which can accommodate this in a sealant. However, it’s important to understand that movement can affect the appearance of the grout line and the movement of the stone or tile.

**CLIENT’S PREFERENCE**

Once the client understands the benefits of a proper grout joint, it’s up to them to make a decision.