

## PRESS RELEASE

### Tac-Tile

*Available in a wide variety of styles and shapes, tiles are one of the most versatile and popular materials to use for floor or wall coverings. Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading tile and sanitaryware supplier, Bathroom Bizarre, offers her expert advice on tiles – from the latest tile trends, through to tips on installation.*

07 August 2015, Johannesburg: “Tiles are becoming more and more prominent as a style feature in nearly every room of the home. Available in a wide variety of styles, textures, shapes and colours, their popularity is largely due to their many benefits,” says Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading tile and sanitaryware supplier, Bathroom Bizarre. With such a wide variety of tiles to choose from, making your purchase decision on which tiles to buy is not always that easy. Jasmin provides some information that will help you make the best decision possible:

### Trendy tiles

“Over the past few years, white and minimal tiles have been very popular. However, today, tile trends are evolving to include a variety of finishes, textures, colours, shapes and sizes,” says Jasmin. She says that four of the most popular tiling trends for this year include:

1. **Mosaic:** “Mosaic tiles are making a huge comeback this year, specifically monochromatic mosaics and geometric patterned mosaics,” says Jasmin. Mosaic tiles are both functional and aesthetically pleasing, making them an ideal alternative for upping the appeal of an otherwise drab space.
2. **Dark and dramatic:** While white tiles have long since been the most popular choice, tile trends are now leaning towards the darker tile tones. “Greys and black tiles are the latest colour trend for tiles. While darker tiles aren’t ideal for full room coverage, they are perfect for splashbacks and feature walls,” says Jasmin.
3. **Subway tiles:** Subway tiles are small rectangular tiles, with either a beveled or straight edge, that come in a wide variety of colours and finishes. They are a big trend for this year. “As their name implies, subway tiles stem from the tiles that were used to tile the subway stations. Subway tiles are usually made from glazed ceramic, however, the more modern types are made from glass. They are making a huge appearance on the interior design scene, specifically in kitchens and bathrooms. Subway tiles can add a great texture and a retro style to any space, while still maintaining with the monochromatic look that everyone loves,” explains Jasmin.
4. **Natural and neutral:** “Tiles that emulate natural stone or wood grain are increasingly sought after,” says Jasmin. Modern faux stone or wood tiles really look like the real thing – allowing you to enjoy the beauty of natural materials, with the benefits exclusive to tiles. With these tiles, you can enjoy “timber” floors in the bathroom, or “timber” wall cladding on your garden walls without the need to sand and seal it every year.

### Pick and choose

One of the best things about tiles is the fact that they are incredibly versatile. “Tiles can be installed virtually anywhere throughout the home, which is why there are so many different

tiling options available. It is also why it is important to be informed before you you're your final purchase decision," says Jasmin. She advises that before you go shopping for tiles, you should have a clear idea of where they are to be placed and what your budget is:

- **Location:** Where your tiles are going to be installed is obviously an important consideration to make before you purchase anything. "Tiles come in all shapes and sizes and while there is no steadfast rule, there are some guidelines. For example, larger, more simple tiles are often the most popular for flooring, while smaller and more decorative tiles are the number one choice for walls and splashbacks," says Jasmin. Natural stone tiles, or tiles that have a prominent texture, are also a great option to remember for shower floors, as they have more grip than most tiles and will be less slippery when wet.
- **Price:** Tiles fluctuate wildly in price – they range from really affordable, to incredibly high-end. It is important to have a definite budget before you go shopping, as with all the beautiful tiles available, it is very easy to be swayed into buying expensive tiles that you can't really afford. Having said that, Jasmin notes that it's also important to remember to regard tiles as an investment, as they are incredibly durable and if properly installed, they will offer decades' worth of good looks.
- **Usage:** How much foot traffic your tiles will be exposed to is another important consideration. Porcelain, glazed ceramic and natural stone tiles are the best for flooring applications, as they are very durable and can easily withstand a high level of foot traffic. Glass and other more delicate types of tiling on the other hand, are best installed in low exposure areas, such as bathroom splashbacks, where they are less likely to be cracked or damaged.

### **Perfect placement**

"The installation of your tiling is one of the crucial factors to ensure their longevity and functionality," explains Jasmin. She highly recommends that you get a professional tiler to lay the tiles: "Buying tiles is a sizeable investment, and one that will be entirely wasted if the tiles themselves are not professionally installed. Professional installation can really make or break a tiled area." Jasmin advises that you purchase a few extra square metres of tile in case some tiles are broken during the installation process, or later down the line: "Often, tile ranges get discontinued, so it is important to buy a few extra in case you need to replace one or two tiles at a later stage."

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