

IRELAND'S HOMES INTERIORS & LIVING

IRELAND'S LARGEST SELLING MONTHLY INTERIORS AND LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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37

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homes & kitchens

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HEATING SPECIAL

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COOKERS

What's hot
in the kitchen

TILES

The latest trends



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Deirdre Prince
on involving the kids

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We visit Carlow
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Shiela Kiely's
Gimme the Recipe



€5.00



1 Dune Cassandra tiles from **Tile Solutions**. Prices on request.
 2 This stunning example is from **Creative Stone & Tile**. Price on request.
 3 Stunning mosaic floor tiles from **Bisazza**. Price on request.



Expert Advice

Fired Earth's Tile Category Manager, Leila Roberts.

Materials

If you use a glazed ceramic tile on the floor in a heavy traffic area be aware of the wear rating on the tile. Good quality tiles, when properly sealed, should be able to withstand normal wear and tear within the home.

Porcelain tiles that mimic a wood effect are on trend, with parquet, hexagon and plank designs seeing a revival. The easy installation and low maintenance attributes of these tiles has made them a popular choice.

Coloured porcelain is better equipped to withstand abrasion than glazed porcelain – this is something to consider if you have children or pets and your tiles may be subject to heavy use. If you do manage to chip the surface, the colour extends through the body of the tile so damage will not be as noticeable.

The size and shape of the tile can have an effect on how large or small a room feels, so take samples home. Be sure the colour of the tile is suitable in your space by checking it at different times of the day in varying lights.

If you use natural stone it will need sealing to prevent any stains or spills becoming permanent marks on the surface. But don't let this put you off – natural stone is one of the few materials that looks better as it ages.

Seal all grouted areas to protect the surface, as some grouts can become discoloured.'

