



CERAMIC TILE PACKAGING SPECIFICATION

Scope: To develop packaging requirements for ceramic tile items shipped to Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Objective: To ensure minimum packaging elements have been implemented by Lowe's Ceramic Tile suppliers, in the effort to minimize product damages and improve shelf presentation at Store level.

Material Requirements: Individual master cartons for ceramic tile must consist of the following packaging components:

1. Corrugated Carton.

- Burst Strength = 150# Burst (Mullen) Strength**
- B-Flute

**Test Method: TAPPI T810 om-06

2. Plastic Strapping***

- Minimum width = ½ inch

*** If metal clips are used to secure the plastic strapping, they must be free of sharp points or edges and securely applied.

Packaging Alternatives:

The individual master carton packages must be secured using the following method:

Plastic Strapping around Master Carton
(2-bands minimum. 4-bands as applicable.)



3. Barcodes

- Tile is sold by carton and could be sold by piece. Carton must have a unique UPC barcode. Bar code for piece is preferred.
- If bar code for piece is applied, single piece barcode must be covered by the carton packaging to avoid scanning of the individual barcode instead of the carton barcode when purchasing a carton. Especially important for self check out.

4. Multi-Carton Banding

- If supplier bands two cartons together the following standard must be used;
- Band PMS Color: Yellow
- Text on Band:

<ATENCION: ESCANEAR LOS CODIGOS DE BARRA EN CADA CAJA> <ATTENTION: SCAN BAR
CODES ON EACH BOX> <ATTENTION : CODE À BARRES SUR CHAQUE BOÎTE>>
<ATTENTION: SCAN BAR CODES ON EACH BOX>



5. Pallet Size Options

Rail Pallets

- 36" x 42"

Container Pallets

- Euro Pallet 31.5" x 47.25"
- Inline Pallet 31" x 42"

Pallets for inline products are 31" x 42" only.

Item Number Standardization Guidelines: Packaging

SIZING ON PACKAGING

All item numbers will be sized based on the size of the panel area on which it is placed. This will ensure consistency in the proportion of the item number size to package size across brands.

Figuring Area

The first step to determining the size of the item number is to determine the area of the panel or package. If you are designing a box, you will need an item number on all panels. Each panel is figured independent of the others. Multiply width times height of a panel to get the total area for that panel.

$$w \text{ (in inches)} \times h \text{ (in inches)} = \text{area (in square inches)}$$

Determining Size

Once you have the total area (in square inches) for a panel, find that figure on the *Item Number Size Chart* under "Panel Size". The corresponding size under "Font Size" is the size for that panel.

In the case of an extremely small (under 18 sq. in.) panel or package, such as a hangtag, the preferred size is 12 pt. However if the available space isn't large enough, the item number may be reduced. All item numbers must be at least 8 pt. to maintain readability.

Item Number Size Chart

Use this chart to determine the size needed for your package.

Master Cartons

Note that the minimum font size for master carton labels is 125 points. Show the master carton quantity below the item number. The quantity should be the same font size as the item number.

PANEL SIZE in square inches	FONT SIZE
<12	12 pt. (preferred; no smaller than 8 pt.)
13 - 36	20 pt.
37 - 60	31.5 pt.
61 - 100	39 pt. (3/8 in.)
101 - 180	51 pt. (1/2 in.)
181 - 280	63 pt. (5/8 in.)
281 - 360	76 pt. (3/4 in.)
361 - 500	89 pt. (7/8 in.)
501 - 1000*	125 pt. (1-1/4 in.)
>1000	150 pt. (1-1/2 in.)

*(minimum for master carton)

CRITICAL NOTE FOR DISPROPORTIONATE PANELS: If the height to width ratio is greater than 1:7, use the next larger designated font size. For example, a 36 inch wide by 2 inch tall panel with total square inches of 72, has a 1:18 height to width ratio. Therefore instead of using the designated size for 72 sq. in. (39 pt.), go to the next largest size of 51 pt.

Item Number Standardization Guidelines: Pallet Stickers

PALLET STICKERS

For shrinkwrapped palletized products, a revised simplified pallet sticker has been designed to maintain consistency and to help with downstocking palletized products. The font size of the item number and the quantity information have been increased so they are large enough to read from ground level. Vendors should place their specific information in this standard format, available from Lowe's.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN xxxxxx	ITEM DESCRIPTION XXXXX XXXX	PO # 0000000
NOMINAL DIMENSIONS XXX" X XXX"		#0123456
MODEL NUMBER 00000		QTY 960
<div style="border: 1px solid pink; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">I20F5</div>		

Position/size

For top stock palletized materials, the sticker should be placed close to the **bottom center** of the shrink-wrapped materials for visibility as the product inventory is depleted.

