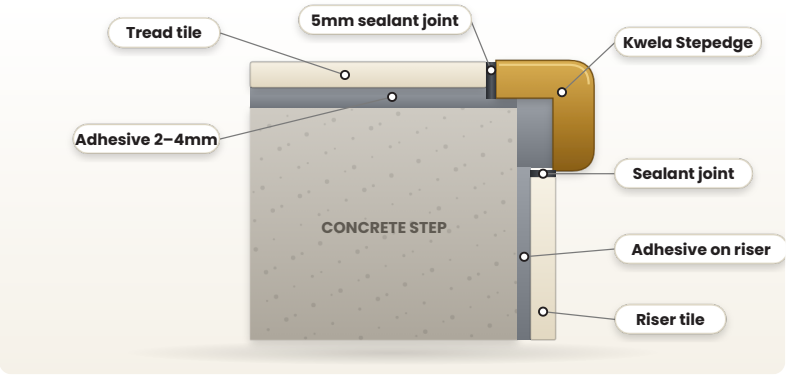
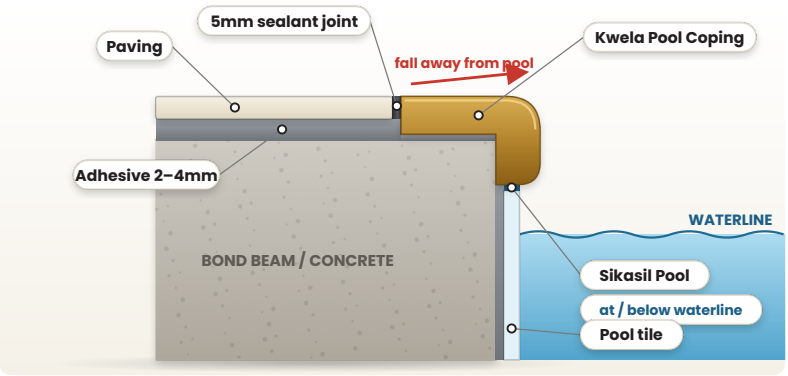
Pool Coping | Stepedge | Skirtings | Flatback

INSTALLING WITH SIKAFLEX 11FC / ALCOFLEX PU — ADHESIVE AND JOINT SEALANT IN ONE



STEPEDGE

- Adhesive under the tread **and** down the riser — fully filled behind the nose
- 5mm sealant joint to the tread tile and the riser tile
- Never butt the stepedge tight against the tile



POOL COPING

- Falls slightly **away from the pool**
- Sikaflex / Alcoflex above the waterline
- **Sikasil Pool** for any joint at or below the waterline

STOP — THE 4 MISTAKES THAT CAUSE FAILURES

Tape left on until cured
Peel it while the sealant is wet

Acetone or abrasives
They damage the Kwela surface

Cement grout
Sealant is the grout

Butted joints
Always leave 5mm

ABOUT YOUR KWELA PRODUCT

Kwela products are handmade from resin, marble dust, pigments, sand and oxides, with a porosity of 0.27% (CSIR tested). Slight shade and colour variation is a natural feature of the product, and new batches may differ. **Once installed, products cannot be returned** — so lay out first and check you are happy (Step 2).






The 5 steps
1 Prepare · 2 Dry lay · 3 Bond · 4 Joints · 5 Clean & seal

Total time to use
About **14 days** from bonding to full cure

If in doubt
Do not install. Ask your stockist or visit kwelatiles.co.za

BEFORE YOU START — Tick every box — if you can't, don't start

Weather & site

- [ ] Air & surface 5°C – 35°C
- [ ] Not in hot midday sun on dark pieces
- [ ] No rain for 24 hours (outdoors)
- [ ] New concrete at least 28 days old
- [ ] Products stored indoors, flat and level
- [ ] Every box opened and checked for damage
- [ ] 5–10% extra pieces for cuts

Tools

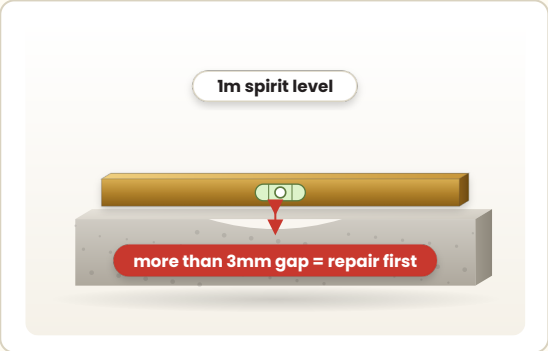
- [ ] Sealant gun (sausage gun for 600ml)
- [ ] Notched trowel 4 / 6 / 8mm
- [ ] 1m spirit level + string line
- [ ] Wet diamond blade (grinder or tile saw)
- [ ] 5mm spacers
- [ ] Good masking tape (UV-proof outside)
- [ ] Spatula / rounded smoothing tool
- [ ] Clean dry cloths, bucket of water
- [ ] Gloves, glasses, FFP2 dust mask

Materials

- [ ] Sikaflex 11FC or Alcoflex PU (see coverage, page 5)
- [ ] Sikasil Pool — joints at or below the waterline
- [ ] Sika Primer-3N — concrete that will get wet
- [ ] Sika Aktivator-205 — fibreglass & old tiles
- [ ] Sikagard-720 EpoCem — damp concrete
- [ ] Backer rod / bond-breaker tape
- [ ] Sika Tooling Agent N (or soapy water)
- [ ] TFC Easy Clean + TFC Deep Seal

1 Prepare the surface

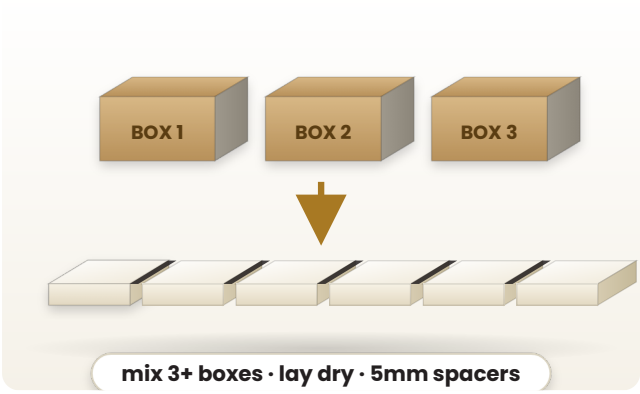
1. **Sound:** tap with a hammer handle. Hollow, cracked or crumbling? Repair first. Remove all paint, sealers and old adhesive.
2. **Level:** a gap of more than **3mm** under a 1m level must be filled with repair mortar and left to cure. **Never use extra adhesive to fill dips.**
3. **Fall:** pool copings and outdoor steps must fall slightly **away from the pool / to the outside edge**, so water runs off.
4. **Rough:** power-floated or smooth concrete must be scabbled, ground or acid-etched. Rinse and dry after etching.
5. **Clean:** brush and vacuum all dust. Wipe the **backs of the Kwela pieces** too — clean, dry, dust-free.



6. Treat the surface — find your substrate

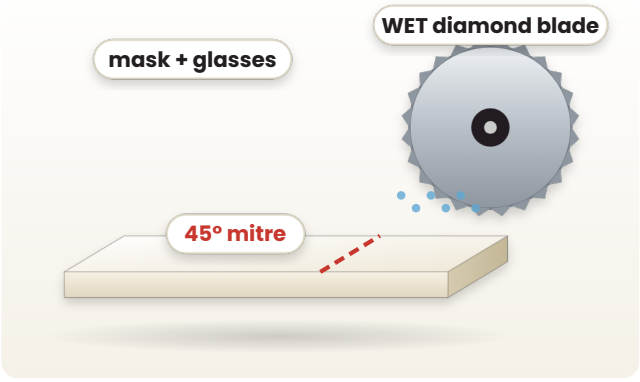
Your surface	What to do	Wait before bonding
Dry concrete or screed, indoors	Nothing extra after cleaning	Bond the same day
Concrete that will get wet (pools, outdoor steps, showers)	One thin brushed coat of **Sika Primer-3N**	At least 30 min — bond before the primer's maximum time on the tin
Damp concrete	**Sikagard-720 EpoCem**, about 2mm thick	24 hours
Fibreglass pool edge	Scuff with a scotch-brite pad, wipe clean, then **Sika Aktivator-205**	Flash-off time on the tin (minutes)
Existing tiles	Grind or scuff off the glaze, clean, then **Sika Aktivator-205**	As above

2 Dry lay, mix shades and cut — no adhesive yet



A Take pieces from **at least 3 boxes** and lay the whole run dry with **5mm spacers**. Stand back and swap pieces until the colour looks even.

B Start at the most visible point (shallow-end steps, bottom stair, doorway). Put cuts where they are least seen.

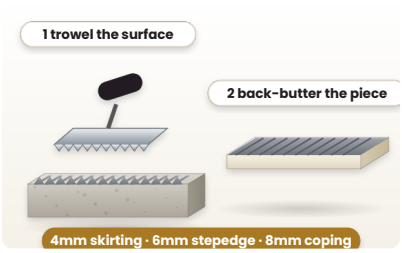


C Mitre corners at **45°** on both pieces. Cut slightly long and test-fit. Rinse cut edges and let them dry.

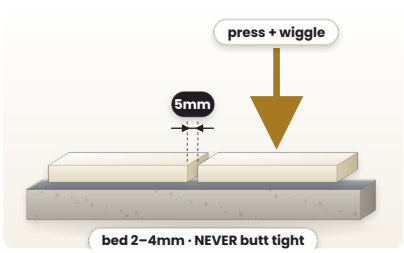
D **Number the backs** in pencil, lift them off, and mark the movement-joint positions on the surface (page 4).

3 Bond the profiles

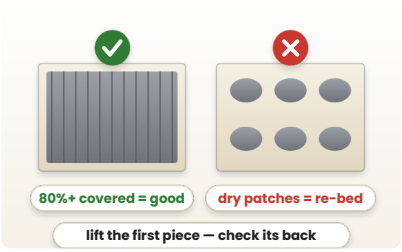
Sikaflex / Alcoflex starts to skin within minutes — **spread only enough for 1 or 2 pieces at a time.**



1 Notched trowel on the surface **and** a thin even layer on the back of the piece (back-butter).



2 Place on its number, press down and wiggle ~5mm. Finished layer **2–4mm**. Keep the **5mm gap**.



3 Lift the first piece straight off. Back **80%+ covered**? Carry on. Dry patches? Bigger notch, more back-butter.

4 **Stepedge & coping:** adhesive must touch the top **and** the front face of the step / beam. **No hollow behind the nose.**

5 Check **level and line** after every piece. Adjust in the first few minutes — after that, lift and re-bed.

6 Wipe squeeze-out off the face **immediately** with a dry cloth.

Then leave it alone

No walking, loading, water or furniture on the pieces for **24–48 hours** (longer when cold). Fill the joints the next day so you don't knock the pieces out of line.

4 Fill the joints — the sealant IS the grout

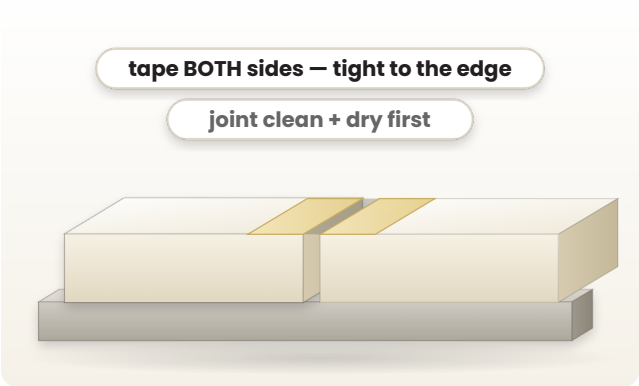
Which sealant where

Joint position	Use
Above the pool waterline, steps, skirtings, flatback	**Sikaflex 11FC** or **Alcoflex PU**
At or below the waterline, or always wet from splashing	**Sikasil Pool**

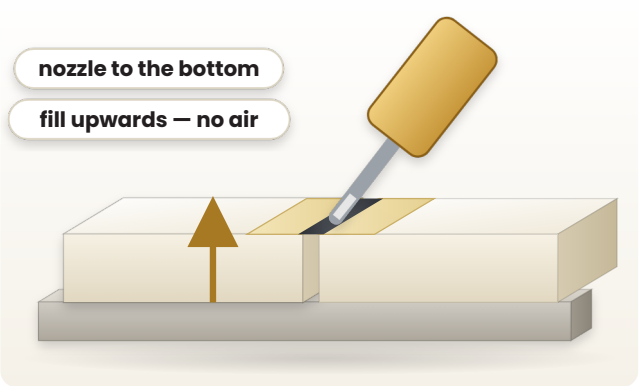
Extra movement joints (full depth)

- [ ] Over every joint in the concrete underneath
- [ ] At every corner of a pool coping
- [ ] Every 3–4m on long straight runs outdoors
- [ ] Where the profile meets a wall, column or other material

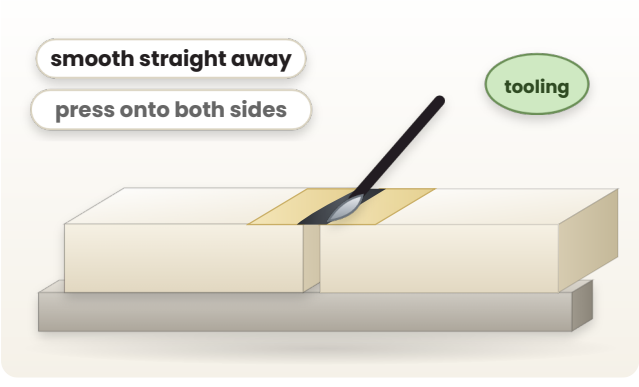
Push backer rod or bond-breaker tape into the bottom first, so the sealant sticks to the two sides only.



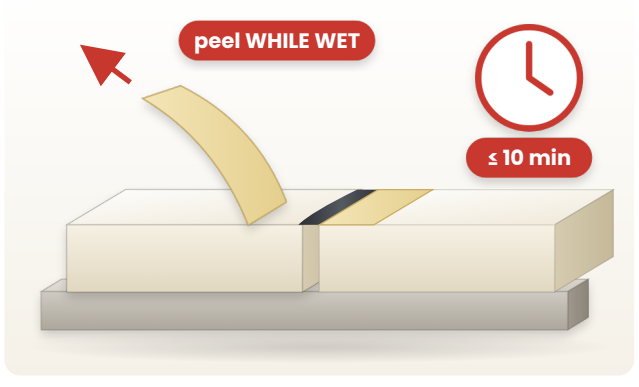
1 Brush or blow out dust — joint **clean and dry**. Mask **both sides**, tight to the edge.



2 Cut the nozzle at an angle, slightly narrower than the joint. Start at the **bottom** and push the sealant ahead of the nozzle — no air pockets. Fill slightly proud.



3 Smooth **straight away** with a spatula or finger dipped in tooling agent (or lightly soapy water). Press firmly onto both sides. **Never pour soapy water into an open joint.**



4 **Peel the tape off NOW, while the sealant is still wet** — within about 10 minutes. Pull away from the joint at an angle. **Waiting until it cures tears the joint.**

Then leave the joints alone. Sikaflex 11FC cures about **3mm per 24 hours** (slower in cold weather). No water, traffic or cleaning on the joints until they have cured right through.

5 Clean, cure and seal — in this order

When	Do	Don't
While working	Wipe wet sealant off the face at once: dry cloth, then a cloth lightly dampened with turpentine	**Acetone, thinners, scourers, sandpaper**
Day 1–2	Adhesive sets (24–48 h, slower when cold)	Walk on, load or wet the pieces
Joints cured (~3mm / 24 h)	Clean with **TFC Easy Clean**, rinse with clean water	Acid, harsh chemicals, grout-off products
After cleaning	Let the pieces dry fully — at least 2–3 h warm and dry, longer if cold or damp	Seal damp pieces
Once dry	Apply **2–3 coats of TFC Deep Seal** as per the TFC tin. **Required on all Kwela products.**	Skip sealing
Day 14	Fully cured — ready for use	Fill the pool, heavy furniture or pressure-washing before day 14

COVERAGE — Sikaflex 11FC / Alcoflex PU (add 10% for waste)

Product	600ml adhesive	600ml grout	300/280ml adhesive	300/280ml grout
Pencils	20 LM	200 joints	10 LM	100 joints
Bullnose / steptiles	10 LM	30 joints	5 LM	15 joints
Skirtings	7 LM	40 joints	3.5 LM	20 joints
Standard copings	7 LM	20 joints	3 LM	10 joints
200mm copings	2 LM	20 joints	Use 600ml	10 joints
250mm copings	1.5 LM	15 joints	Use 600ml	7.5 joints
300mm copings	1 LM	10 joints	Use 600ml	5 joints

300ml/280ml available in black and white; Sikaflex 11FC 600ml in concrete grey.

ALWAYS	NEVER
Dry lay first, from 3+ boxes	Install a piece you're unhappy with
Level, clean, dry, sound surface	Fill dips with adhesive
Prime surfaces that will get wet	Butt pieces — always 5mm
Sikasil Pool at / below the waterline	Use cement grout
Peel tape while the sealant is wet	Use acetone, abrasives or acid
Seal 2–3 coats TFC Deep Seal	Use the area before 14 days

SAFETY

Gloves and glasses with all sealants, primers and activators; work with ventilation. FFP2 mask when cutting (marble and resin dust). Skin: wipe off, wash with soap and water. Eyes or swallowed: rinse with water and get medical help immediately — take the product label. Read each product's safety data sheet.

If in any doubt, do not install. Contact your stockist or visit www.kwelatiles.co.za. Once installed, no refunds, credits or returns can be entertained. Kwela Tiles has no control over where and how its products are applied and accepts no liability, directly or indirectly, arising from their use, whether or not in line with its advice.

IF IN DOUBT, DO NOT INSTALL.