



INTRODUCTION

The following information is intended as an overview of the tile installation process. It is not meant as a step-by-step instruction manual, but rather as a way to familiarize yourself with the basic process. Carefully follow all instructions provided by the manufacturers of your setting materials to ensure success.

TOOLS

Have the right tools and installation products before you begin your tile installation. Some of the supplies you may need are a wet saw, tile nippers, safety glasses, trowels, sponges, grout, tile spacers, thinset, gloves, a grout float, and a few buckets.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Your installation surface or subfloor (if using floor-rated tile) must be sound, flat, solid, and clean of all debris.

LAYOUT / DRY LAYING

Plan your layout by measuring carefully to minimize cuts, and dry lay your tiles for fit. Ensure that all of your tiles are marked as the same dye lot number. Additionally, it is beneficial to mix tiles from different cases to prevent any obvious shade variations.

CUTTING TILE

If you need to cut the tile, use tile nippers, a tile cutter, or a diamond-tipped wet saw to cut it to a desired size. Follow safety precautions and wear protective glasses.

THINSET AND MASTIC

Be sure to select the correct type of adhesive suitable for your installation. This can vary by tile material and installation location. There are a variety of adhesives available, such as mastic, thinset, polymer-modified thinset, and epoxy. Follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer of your chosen adhesive.

LAYING THE TILES

Apply the thinset with an appropriately-sized notched trowel, then lay and press the tiles in place, using a rubber mallet if needed. Use spacers to create uniform grout lines.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR MOSAIC TILES

Mesh Backing

Our mosaic tiles have a mesh backing that ensures appropriate bonding during installation. For optimal performance, avoid exposing the mesh to excessive moisture before installation, which could result in the tiles falling off the mesh backing. For this reason, it may be beneficial to remove the tiles from the mesh and cut them individually with tile cutters or nippers rather than with a wet saw.

Stainless Steel and Aluminum Mosaics

You can prevent scratches on these surfaces by using a clean sponge, keeping the protective cover on and applying non-sanded grout during installation. If necessary, cut this tile from the rear with a diamond-tipped wet saw to prevent uneven edges. Cut edges can then be treated and smoothed with fine sandpaper or a metal file.