

Tools/Materials

- Adhesive: Use a high-quality, polymer-modified thinset mortar. Avoid pre-mixed mastics.
- Wetsaw or angle grinder (do not use traditional tile cutters or tile nippers)
- Margin trowel
- V-notched trowel: ¼" or smaller

Mockup

Before the installation phase, it is highly recommended for the installer to perform a "dry-lay" of the tiles. During this phase, careful consideration should be accounted for, as small imperfections of caliber, surface irregularities, and shade variations are inherent and expected.

Surface Preparation

Tile may be installed over most structurally sound substrates, if they are clean, smooth, dry and free of wax, paint, soap scum, grease and other foreign contaminants. Any damaged, loose, or uneven areas must be repaired, patched and leveled. Remove any moldings, trim, appliances, etc., which could interfere with installation.

Applying Mortar

Carefully read and follow all instructions and precautions on the mortar package. For best results, use high quality, non-sag, latex modified thinset mortar. Mix only enough to be used within 30 minutes. Using a v-notched trowel (1/4" or smaller) spread a 1/4" coat on the surface of one grid area, using the flat side of the trowel. Next, use the notched side of trowel to comb mortar into standing ridges by holding trowel at a 45-degree angle. Then remove excess mortar, leaving a uniform, ridged setting bed. Don't spread a larger area than can be set in 15 minutes. Aim for 100% mortar coverage - leaving no voids or hollow spots.

Setting Tile

Back butter each tile using the flat side of the trowel. Then set tiles one at a time using a slight twisting motion. Do not slide tiles into place. Unlike traditional ceramic wall tiles, these tiles are installed without joint spacing – as grout is not used. Fit perimeter tiles in each grid last, leaving 1/4" gap between tile and wall. When grid is completely installed, tap in all tiles with a rubber mallet or hammer and wood block to ensure a good bond and level plane. Remove excess mortar from joints with a putty knife and from tile with a damp sponge. Do not touch the tiles until they are set (usually in 24 hours).

Special Note

At certain angles, the ridged portion of the thinset mortar may be visible between the exposed joints.