

# Tiling

## Preparing to Tile

Firstly, repair any crack or holes, and make sure surfaces are clean and dry, brushing off any dust or debris.

Use filler for any holes or cracks in the wall. Make sure the filler has dried completely before proceeding. The area may require sanding to smooth out the surface. Buy the coarsest grade of sandpaper, be sure to use a face mask and open a window for improved circulation.

## Tiling Floors

*What you will need:*

*Tiles*

*Chalk*

*Notched Spreader*

*Tile Spacers*

*Tile Cutter*

*Damp Sponge*

*Adhesive*

*Grout Float*

*Clean Cloth*

Work out where the tiles will go by setting out the tiles.

Find the midpoint of the room and then in chalk draw two lines that cross in the centre of the room. Line the tiles up on these chalk lines to work out how many full tiles you can use.

*Tip! Avoid using cut tiles along the wall that is seen when you walk in the room.*

Spread a square meter of adhesive in one of the corners formed by the chalk line. Always use a notched trowel or spreader so that the adhesive is spread in even size rivens.

When laying floor tiles remember internal walls rarely straight so make sure you work from the centre of the room outwards using the chalk lines as a guide. Continue this method until one side of the room is fully covered. Then continue in the other direction. When you reach the wall, you may have to cut your tiles to fit into the remaining space.

If you are cutting Ceramic tiles, a traditional manual tile cutter should be sufficient however on some porcelain it may be best to use a rotary tile cutter as they can be heavier and more durable.

*Tip! Always make sure when cutting you leave a gap to take into the consideration the grouting between tiles.*

Leave the tiles overnight so the adhesive has chance to set, or follow manufacturers guide. When it comes to grouting spread the grout across all the tiles and making sure the grout fills the gaps fully. Then wipe over with a damp sponge to remove excess grouting before it sets.

Finally, give the tiles a once over with some tile or stone sealant to protect the grout and tiles from any water or chemical damage.

*Tip! Sealant is a must if the tiles are to be used in a bathroom or kitchen.*

## Tiling a Wall

*What you will need:*



<i>Tiles</i>	<i>Grout Float</i>	<i>Goggles</i>
<i>Tile Spacers</i>	<i>Notched Spreader</i>	<i>A 2x4 Piece of Wood</i>
<i>Adhesive</i>	<i>Damp Sponge</i>	
<i>Chalk</i>	<i>Clean Cloth</i>	
<i>Tile Cutter</i>	<i>Spirit Level</i>	

Tiling a wall is much different from tiling a floor, however its still important to keep the tiles straight.

For this you can use a piece of wood to line up against some tiles with the plastic tile spacers in between. Mark the position of the tile against the wood. This is now your tiling gauge.

Use the stick against the wall running it horizontally and vertically to plan where the tiles will go against the wall. Make sure that as you do this you leave some space usually around 3mm at the bottom of the wall for sealant and grouting.

*Tip! Also leave 3mm around the bath if you're tiling a bathroom.*

Nail or drill a piece of wood to the wall, this will act as your first row of tiles, also creating a straight edge to work from. Place some adhesive on to the wall using a notched trowel or spreader, applying horizontal lines in the adhesive with the spreader can increase hold.

Place the tile against the adhesive and move it slightly to make sure it is in place, do this for any the rest of the tiles, remembering to put tile spacers between tiles as you go.

Use safety goggles and face masks when cutting tiles for any edges or corners, remembering to leave a gap for any grouting between tiles. It is important to leave the tiles for 24 hours for the adhesive to dry onto the wall.

After the adhesive has set, spread the grout across all the tiles and making sure the grout fills the gaps fully. Then wipe over with a damp sponge to remove excess grout before it sets.

Finally, give the tiles a once over with some tile or stone sealant, this way it can protect the grout and tiles from any water or chemical damage, a must if the tiles are to be used in a bathroom or kitchen.

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