



GLASS
TILE
INSTALLATION
GUIDE

medici
MOSAICS & CO.

GLASS

TILE

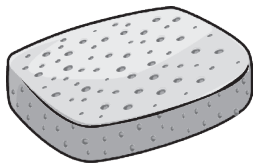
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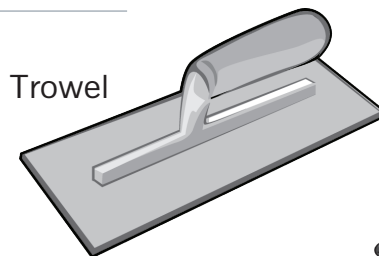
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Believe it or not, basic tile installation does not require extravagant tools and years of experience. With the right planning, materials and attention to detail, it is certainly achievable with our simple guide below. Please visit the Tile Council of North America website (www.tcnatile.com) for more extensive projects requiring anti fracture membranes, draining systems, radiant heating, showers or other complexities.

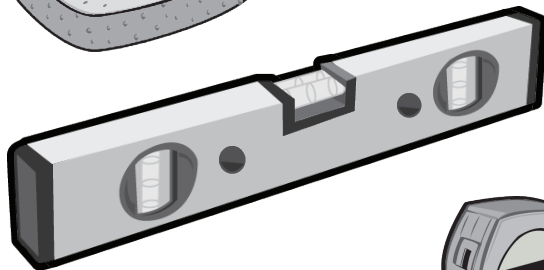
Tools Needed



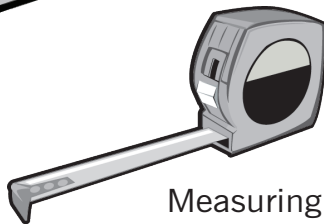
Sponge



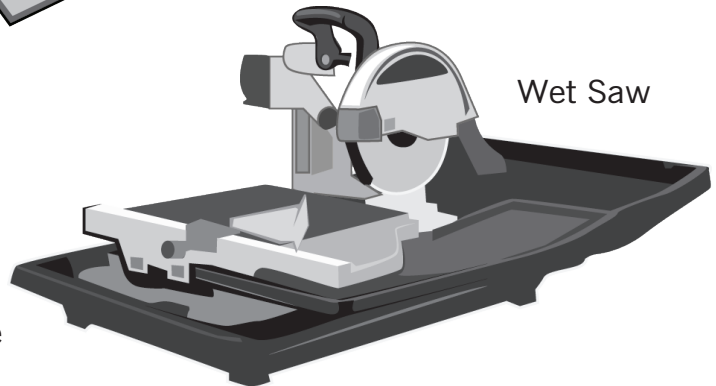
Trowel



Level



Measuring Tape



Wet Saw

Materials Needed



Grout



Tile



Thinset

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TILE

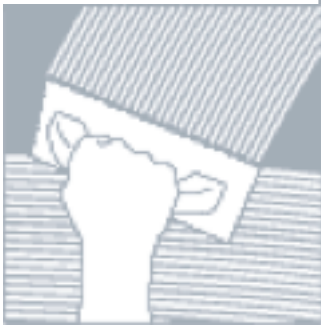
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Important - Since any crack in a glass tile is very visible, the use of a crack isolation membrane that meets American Specification Standards (ANSI A118.12-2005) over the entire surface is strongly recommended. Many substrates may continue to cure and shrink over a period of months, and a crack isolation membrane prevents shrinkage or movement of the substrate to mirror through the tile. If a crack isolation membrane is not used, neither the distributor nor the manufacturer will accept any responsibility should any cracking occur. Install only over well-cured, stable substrates. Allow for an expansion joint whenever substrates change.



Installation - Use a white thin-set mortar formulated for interior and exterior wall installations. Spread the adhesive with a notched trowel following the manufacturer's recommendations (in many cases a 3/16" V-notch trowel works well). Use the flat side of the trowel to smooth the ridges without removing thin-set. Use only the thin-set manufacturer's minimum recommended thickness of thin-set. Do not overbuild the adhesive, as it will shrink and add stress or crack the glass. Spread only as much adhesive as will be covered with the tile within 15 minutes.



Sheet mounted mosaics can be applied directly to the thin-set. 4" and larger tiles should be "back buttered" with the flat edge of the trowel to provide a void-free installation and good contact with the mortar bed. Firmly press the glass against the surface to prevent voids in the adhesive from showing through the glass.



Install Glass Tile on the wall leaving even spacing between tiles of at least 1/16" (1.5mm). Use plastic spacers whenever possible. Install control joints where the tile abuts restraining surfaces and around the perimeter of the tile work. Allow the adhesive to cure according to the manufacturer's instructions (at least 24 hours). Grout with an un-sanded grout to prevent scratching of the surface. Grout joints should be filled to approximately 2/3 of the thickness of the tile to allow light to reflect on the internal surfaces of the tile.

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Cutting - Select a method for cutting glass tile according to the shape of the cut that you want to make. Note: Straight cuts generally do not result in additional stress on the glass tile, but notched cuts may add stress and cause cracking of the glass. Keep in mind that in many cases it may be easier and less expensive to mark your cuts and take the tile to a professional glass shop for cutting or drilling.

Glass tile should be cut on a wet saw using a diamond blade designed for cutting glass. A blade for cutting glass is thin, has smaller diamonds than a tile blade, has a continuous rim and generally runs at a slower speed. Glass tile is cut with the glazed side up, the rotation of the saw blade should enter the glass from the glazed side. Ensure adequate water or coolant is provided. Whenever possible cut edges should be placed in corners where they can be covered or hidden. Keep in mind that in many cases it may be easier and less expensive to mark your cuts and take the tile to a professional glass shop for cutting or drilling.



Blades for cutting glass tiles are made to fit most tile saws and are available from many tile distributors. A lapidary blade will also cut glass tiles cleanly. Drilling a hole requires the use of a drill bit or coring drill that is designed for glass - if the drill and glass tile are not securely clamped in place, drill a small pilot hole through the glass to act as a guide. Always use a proper glass-drilling bit, keep the drill bit and hole lubricated with turpentine or water and drill at very slow speed. Start drilling from the back of the tile, then complete the hole by drilling from the face of the tile. Attempting to drill all the way through the tile from one side will cause the glass to chip off on the exit side of the hole. Important - Drill a hole 1/8" (3mm) larger than any anchors you plan to use. This will prevent the stress transfer from the



Cleaning - for routine cleaning, any non-abrasive cleaning compound that is recommended for either glass or tile (such as Windex, ammonia mixed with water, vinegar mixed with water, etc.) can be used. Follow rinsing instructions carefully

Disclaimer: This guide is meant to serve as a general resource, not an exact how-to-guide. Because there are so many variations to each project, we suggest you consult a contractor before installing your tile.