

# Ceramic Tile Installation Guide

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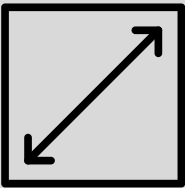
## Step 1: Surface Preparation

The surface should be clean, dry, and free of dust. Cement backer boards are recommended for wall and floor installations to ensure stability.



Any areas that are damaged, loose, or uneven must be fixed, patched, and made level. Remove any moldings, trim, appliances, or other items that could obstruct the installation. Door jambs may be trimmed to allow tiles to slide underneath.

## Step 2: Layout



Begin by marking the wall's center with a vertical line using a level. Lay out a row of loose tiles from this line at the bottom, ensuring even spacing.

If the layout leaves cuts smaller than half a tile, shift the center line half a tile width toward the side wall. Find the lowest point of the floor or tub with a level, stack two tiles there, and draw a horizontal line at the top. Extend this line around all the walls to guide the placement of the first row of tiles above it.

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## Step 3: Applying Adhesive

Use a latex-modified thin-set mortar. Porcelain tiles are impervious, so the adhesive should be suitable for non-porous materials.



Thoroughly read and adhere to all instructions and safety warnings on the adhesive or mortar packaging. Prepare only as much as you can use within 30 minutes. With the trowel specified on the adhesive package, apply a 1/4" layer to the surface of one grid area, using the flat side of the trowel.

## Step 4: Cutting Tile



We recommend using a wet saw with a diamond blade to cut ceramic tile. Carefully measure the tiles and mark the cut line with a pencil or marker. Use a tile cutter for straight or diagonal cuts, a nipper for curved cuts, and a rod saw for longer curves. Smooth sharp edges with a carborundum stone.

Before cutting, wear gloves and safety goggles to protect against debris. Mark the tile with a line, leaving at least 2 inches for expansion, which is important for grout joints.

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## Step 5: setting Tile



Begin tiling from the center of the room, completing each grid section fully before proceeding to the next. Start by placing the first tile at the grid's corner and work outward.

Set each tile with a gentle twisting motion, avoiding sliding them into place. Use tile spacers or ensure even spacing between tiles. Install the perimeter tiles last, leaving a 1/4" gap between the tiles and the wall.

## Step 6: Grouting Joints



We recommend using use sanded or non-sanded grout depending on the joint width. and wait around 24 hours before applying grout (check the adhesive package for exact timing). Be sure to thoroughly read and follow all instructions and safety guidelines on the grout packaging. Mix only the amount of grout you can use within 30 minutes.

Remove the spacers and spread grout over the tiles, pressing it into the gaps with a rubber float. Wipe off extra grout right away by scraping diagonally across the tiles.

After 15-20 minutes, when the grout starts to set, clean the tiles with a damp sponge, rinsing it often. Once the grout dries and a haze appears, polish the tiles with a soft cloth. Wait 72 hours before heavy use, and avoid sealers or polishes for three weeks, following the manufacturer's instructions.

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