

Tile Merchant

Installation Guides

Wall Tiles

As with other building work it is important to work safely and to take suitable safety precautions including the wearing of protective clothes, gloves, safety goggles and dust mask.

Before Beginning the Work

- Our wall project presumes you have first installed an underlayment of cement board, the best surface on which to install a wall tile using rapid set adhesive. Estimate your tile needs, based on the square footage of the wall area. It's best to pad the estimate by at least 10 percent to allow for waste and breakage.

— What you will need *Tools*

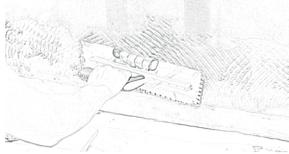
- Ruler
- Tape measure
- Marker
- Trowel
- Notched Trowel
- Tile Cutter / Wet Saw
- Hacksaw
- Tile nippers
- Eye protection and hearing protection
- Sponge and bucket
- Cartridge gun / Sealant
- Grout float

— What you will need *Materials*

- Wall tiles
- Tile Adhesive
- Tile Spacers
- Sanitary sealant
- Thin-set tile adhesive
- Grout
- Multi-purpose cloths
- Trim

Wall Tiles

one



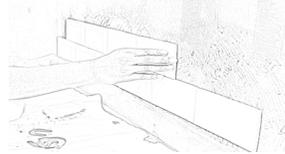
Start in the corner of your wall or in the centre. Scoop some tile adhesive with the trowel and press it directly onto the wall. Spread the adhesive evenly with the notched trowel, spreading in horizontal strokes away from the corner.

Use the edge of the notched trowel at a 45° angle. The ridges of the notched trowel will ensure that there's an equal amount behind each tile, making it easier to keep all tiles level.

Work small. Do no more spread more than 1.5m² of adhesive at a time. Adhesive hardens, and you want to ensure that your adhesive does not set before you have placed your tiles onto it.

Tip: If your tiles are larger than 20 × 20cm, we recommend applying adhesive to the wall and also on the back of each tile.

two



Position your first tile into the corner, press the edges of the tiles firmly against the wall. Then add a tile above it and one next to the original tile pushing them firmly into the adhesive using a firm twisting action.

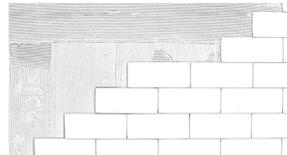
Tip: Wipe off excess adhesive from the tiles with a damp sponge as you tile – if you let it dry it'll be very difficult to take off.

three



Put tile spacers into the corners between the tiles and adjust the tile positions as and when needed. Push them in firmly and position them flush against the wall so you can grout over them.

four



Add another tile above the last one you applied, and another beside it. Continue applying the whole tiles in this way until you've tiled the area covered with tile adhesive.

five

Apply another square metre of adhesive and tiles until you have fixed all the full tiles.

six

Leave tiles to dry for the length of time specified on the tile adhesive instructions.

seven

Fix whole tiles to the other section of the wall, starting from the corner next to the tiles you've already fixed.

eight

Once all the whole tiles have been fixed and are dry, remove the horizontal timber batten.

Now you've fixed all of the whole tiles, you're ready to fill the edges and corners of the wall.

Wall Tiles - Corners, cutting and grout

corners

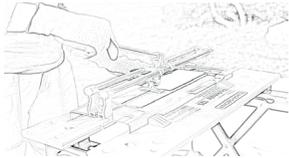
There are two types of corners, internal and external.

Internal:

The corner join between two walls, for example the corner of a room, or the corner created by a door frame.

External:

Outward-facing corner that protrudes into the room, for example the corner of a feature wall or the edge of a window recess.



cutting

Hold the tile you'll be cutting over the last whole tile in the row. Fit another against the wall and mark where it overlaps the one below with a tile marker. When you mark the tile, it's time to cut. Using tile nipper, snap cutter or wet saw.

internal corner

After you've cut your tile, please check to see that it fits.

Use the narrow end of a notched spreader to place adhesive on the back of the cut tile. Then press it into place so it's level with the adjacent tile. Use spacers if you need to.

If you're tiling more than one wall, move on to the next wall. If not, you're ready to start grouting and finishing the tiles.

external corner

Use a tile trim to get a clean professional finish on external corners.

Once you are finished tiling your wall.

Use a tape measure to measure the length of the edge that you'll be fixing the tile trim to. Cut trim to size. Add a thin strip of tile adhesive to the untilled wall using the notched trowel and press the trim into it.

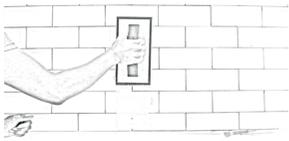
external corner - cont.

Line the trim up with the tiles of your first wall. Put two spacers between the trim and each tile (each end) to make sure there's a gap for grout. Put some more tile adhesive directly on to the untilled wall with the notched trowel. Add the adhesive vertically from top to bottom to avoid knocking the tile trim out of place with the teeth of the notched trowel. Now you can move on to tiling the second wall, work away away from the corner trim. As you set the tiles in place, remember to allow a narrow grouting gap between them and the trim. Insert spacers and adjust the tiles as you go, so the gap stays the same and the trim stays in place.

Wall Tiles - Grout and sealer

grout

Once the tiles have been fixed in place and the adhesive has dried, it is now time to apply the grout. Remove any protruding tile spacers at the edges of the wall and at corners.



one

Starting in a bottom corner, press a small amount of grout onto the face of the tiles with a trowel.

To spread it, use grout float, with long, diagonal strokes and ensure to work it into the joints between tiles. Repeat this process until you've grouted all the joints. The grout hardens quickly, so do this as quickly as you can.

If you are grouting a large area, do not attempt to do it in one. Take it in sections to avoid the grout hardening.

two



As soon as you finish applying the grout, go over the tiles with a damp sponge to remove any excess. Be careful to avoid dragging any grout from the joints.

three

Leave the grout to dry. When it is dry, you will notice a powdery film appear on the tiles from all the sponging. Remove this by wiping with a soft, clean cloth.

sealer

Sealing around the edge of tiling is essential to stop water getting behind the tiles, particularly around worktops, basins and kitchen sinks.

one

Attach the nozzle to the sealant and cut off the tip. Place a continuous bead of sealant, working from one end of the tiled area to the other. Keep a steady pressure on the trigger of the sealant gun and a consistent speed.

Even bumps or irregularities in the shape of the a sealant with a wet finger, ensure to take care not to remove the sealant from the surface.