

# DIY

DO ♦ IT ♦ YOURSELF

# GUIDE



**CERAMIC DECOR**

TILE & STONE PROFESSIONALS



## Leading the Tile Industry for Over 30 Years

Ceramic Decor opened its doors in 1983 as a small family run ceramic tile company in a 1,500 sq. ft. showroom. Today we are one of the largest tile companies outside of Toronto in our 30,000 sq. ft. building with over 40 employees.

Our vision at Ceramic Decor is to exceed expectations in the tile industry through integrity, innovation and unparalleled customer service.

Ceramic Decor has used their dedication to quality and service to become the leading tile installation service for the New Home Industry in South Western Ontario.

For our retail consumers, Ceramic Decor stocks thousands of square feet of tile in our warehouse, which means you can “buy it today, take it home today” or have us deliver it to you. We offer design advice from our in-house designers as well as comprehensive installation advice through tile seminars and individual service using our state of the art DIY Technical Centre.

Our showroom is always updating and evolving with the latest trends and products. Please stop by for an espresso and let us help you make your tile shopping experience enlightening.

This book is meant as a general guide. Any person(s) following this guide is responsible for their own safety. If you are not comfortable performing these tasks please re-consider doing the job yourself or call Ceramic Decor Installation. Ceramic Decor is not responsible for damages or harm caused while performing any of the outlined projects. There is no warranty provided.

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PRODUCT INFORMATION:

# TOOLS & SAFETY

Here are a list of the tools needed for most DIY tile jobs, big or small. Many of these tools are general purpose and most DIY'ers will have them around the house already, although some are more specific to tiling. Any tools you need can be purchased at Ceramic Decor. Be sure to take the proper safety precautions when working with tools and always read the manual for proper usage instructions.

## Ceramic Tile Safety

There are a couple of hazards in installing ceramic tile, but basic precautions will prevent injury. First, when cutting tile always wear safety goggles and a dust mask. Flying debris is common and dust is even more common. Tile nippers are perhaps the worst offender at shooting shards of ceramic that seem inevitably to fly toward someone's eyes.

Try to keep tile adhesive and cement from exposed skin and direct inhalation. Ensure to wear a mask when mixing any powdered adhesive. Tile adhesive can remain sticky for long periods if left on fingers. Rubber gloves will go a long way to

preventing skin exposure. Tile adhesive can be removed with water and soap or mineral spirits – wash your hands thoroughly.

Knee pads can prevent a few aches and pains, but they can sometimes be awkward. In any case, it is good to have a board or something to kneel on when applying floor tile.

Any tool may be dangerous; be sure you are thoroughly familiar with their operation. Read the manuals for any power tools you use.

## Tiling Tools Guide



SAFETY GOGGLES



KNEE PADS



RUBBER GLOVES



PENCIL



CLEANING CLOTHS



BUCKETS



TAPE MEASURE



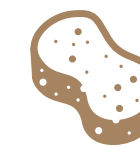
UTILITY KNIFE



BUBBLE LEVEL



CARPENTER'S SQUARE



SPONGE



CHALK LINE & PLUMB BOB



TILE SPACERS



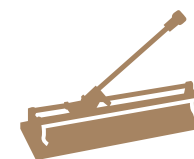
NOTCHED TROWEL(S)



RUBBER GROUT FLOAT



TILE NIPPERS



TILE CUTTER



WET SAW  
(OR GRINDER WITH DIAMOND WHEEL)



MORTAR MIXER & PADDLE

### TOOL TIPS

Before starting have all your tools ready so there are no last minute trips to the hardware store, especially for time sensitive tasks like applying adhesive!



## PRODUCT INFORMATION:

# CUTTING TILE

With a seemingly endless choice of tools available to do a tiling job, deciding exactly which tools you need for cutting the tiles can be quite confusing.

Tile cutters can be split into manual and powered. How much you spend on tile cutters depends on three things: how much can you afford, how confident are you with tools and how much tiling are you doing?

## Tile Cutters & Their Applications:

### TILE CUTTERS

Tile cutters are mainly for straight cuts. If you are laying a diagonal pattern and have to do diagonal cuts, measure the size of the tile from corner to corner and buy a tile cutter that is wider than that.

Tile cutters allow you to cut more tiles more efficiently and with greater confidence, ensuring that the tile measurement is exactly what you want for multiple cuts needed

### POWERED TILE CUTTING WET SAWS

Tile cutting saws, or wet saws, are primarily used for larger jobs or natural stone installations. They're used to make both straight and L-shaped cuts.

These saws are electric powered and are known as 'wet' tile cutting saws, as they use water to cool both the blade and the tile. This is your best option if you have a large surface area or many rooms to tile.

### HAND HELD 4" GRINDER

Depending on the tile or stone used, an angle grinder can also be used as a tile cutting tool primarily used to cut L-shaped or circular cuts.

### HOLE BORING DRILL BITS

These drill bits come in multiple sizes and are used to cut out circular holes on ceramic or stone products.

### TOOL SALES & RENTALS

All of these tools are available for sale in the Ceramic Decor showroom. We also offer tool rentals and provide in house cutting for tough cuts.

Visit our showroom and ask one of our sales staff for more information on tools, rentals and in house tile cutting.

### PRO TIP

Porcelain tile is very hard and brittle, and can often chip when cut. When cutting these tiles, maintain a slow, steady and even pressure to avoid cracks and chips. To ensure clean corners, cut a 2" relief slit along the end and then flip the tile around to finish the cut.

If you are cutting porcelain with a saw that allows you to adjust the depth of the cut, make several shallow cuts about 1/8" deep to reduce the risk of chipping.



CAUTION: Always keep this safety cover securely in place when operating saw.  
MISE EN GARDE: Gardez toujours ce couvercle de sécurité bien en place en utilisant la scie.  
CAUCIÓN: Mantenga siempre esta protección cuando utilice la sierra.



HOW TO GUIDE:

# GROUTING

Grout can come in both powder and in premixed form, and it is available in a variety of different colours. It helps make your tile work stand out with dramatic contrast, or works as a subtle accent.

When mixing grout it is important to remember to only mix up as much grout as you can use before it begins to set.

## GROUT RESTORATION

NuGrout Colourant and Sealer is a powerful, 100% acrylic colourant and sealer that penetrates deep into the pores of grout to add a fresh, new appearance. It simultaneously seals as it colours to protect against mold, mildew and future stains.

NuGrout dries tack-free after only 30 minutes and is ready for light traffic in 2-4 hours.

- Colours and seals to restore grout to stain-free appearance
- Suitable for use on glazed ceramic and porcelain floors, walls and counter-tops
- Renew the look of your grout in just one day
- Your choice of 36 colours



### STEP 1: MIXING GROUT

Once your tiles have set and the surface is dry, you may begin applying the grout. Mix the grout according to the instructions, or until it has reached a peanut butter-like consistency.

### STEP 2: APPLICATION

Apply the grout to the dry tile surface using the grout float in a cross sweeping pattern, held at a 45° angle. The grout should be pushed over the tile joints in 2-3 directions to ensure they are appropriately filled in.

### STEP 3: CLEAN UP

Begin removing the excess grout 5-10 minutes after application. You'll be aware of the appropriate time because the grout will begin to show as a white haze on the tile. Fill a clean bucket with water and use your sponge to wash the excess grout from the surface of the tiles. Be sure not to use too much water or wash in a spiral motion as you may remove too much of the grout from in between the tiles. You may have to repeat the washing process once or twice with glossy or textured tiles before all the excess grout is removed. Use a clean, dry cloth to buff the entire surface clean of any dry particles.

**Mix your grout thoroughly to minimize colour variation**

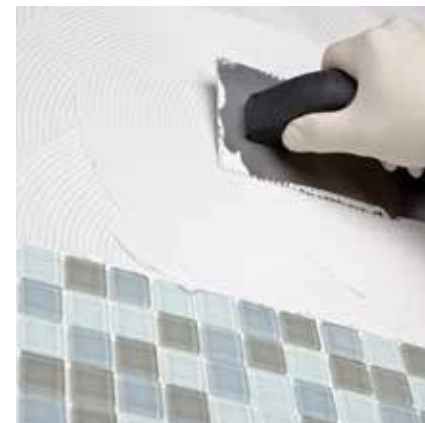




HOW TO GUIDE:

# KITCHEN BACKSPLASH

How do I install a tile backsplash? Is it something I can do myself? Installing a tile backsplash is a great starter project for the DIY'er. Despite the small scale, there are a few important skills involved: measuring, surface preparation, layout, cutting, grouting, applying silicone and protecting surrounding areas.



**A properly prepared wall will help achieve the best results**

## STEP 1: MEASURING

To measure the area you wish to have tiled simply calculate the total area by multiplying the width by the length of various sections of the walls. Add about 10% overage to your total to compensate for waste and future repairs that may arise. Have these measurements with you for your first visit to the tile showroom.

**For a detailed guide on measuring a backsplash, visit our website installations page: [www.ceramicdecor.com/installation-guides](http://www.ceramicdecor.com/installation-guides)**

## STEP 2: SURFACE PREPARATION

Before installing the tiles, prep all the holes, bumps, or indents by smoothing out the area with drywall compound. Make sure to turn off all electrical power, remove cover-plates and valances and cover counter tops before installation begins.

## STEP 3: LAYOUT

It may seem easy to start on one wall and begin setting tile, but when the backsplash meets the focal point in kitchens, odd size pieces or misalignments can stick out. The recommended starting point is in behind the stove. Draw vertical line centered behind the stove and a horizontal line measured one full tile off the counter top. This right-angle will be your starting point.

## STEP 4: APPLYING THE ADHESIVE

Adhesive [SEE ADHESIVES, GROUT & MAINTENANCE: PAGE 25] is applied with a grooved trowel held at a 45° angle to the wall. Drag the trowel horizontally along the wall and the grooves on the edge of the trowel will leave little raised rows of adhesive.

Use a trowel [SEE TILING TOOLS GUIDE: PAGE 28] that meets the specifications for your tile - for example, large tiles require extra adhesive and larger grooves. Your goal is to use plenty of adhesive so that at least 75%-80% of the back surface of the tile is covered.

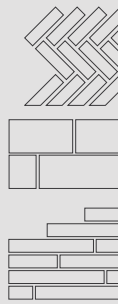


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## LOOKING FOR DESIGN INSPIRATION?

Backsplashes can add a distinctive touch along the narrow band of wall between the counter top and upper cabinets. In older homes a new backsplash can bring a tired kitchen back to life.

Try one of these unique designs or visit our showroom and speak with one of our sales associates today.



## STEP 5: SETTING THE TILE

As you place each tile, give them a slight twist or wiggle as you put them into place and square them up. Between each tile, plastic tile spacers [SEE TILING TOOLS GUIDE: PAGE 4] may be used to keep spacing consistent.

When cutting around electrical boxes is required, simply remove the outlet (not the whole electrical box) and slip the edge of the tile behind the metal horns that hold the screws. Longer screws may be needed to reinstall the outlet.

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## STEP 6: GROUTING

Once the tile has dried over night, remove spacers and apply grout to the backsplash.

[SEE GROUTING: PAGE 21]

After the grout has set and the tile has been washed, a thin bead of silicone [SEE ADHESIVES, GROUT & MAINTENANCE: PAGE 5] may be applied where tile meets counter top (and vertical corners if desired).







HOW TO GUIDE:

# BATHROOMS

## Shower Floors & Bathroom Walls

Bathrooms can be more complicated to tile since they require special materials and techniques because of the moisture they are exposed to – but with the right tools, a little patience and the proper prep work any DIY'er can turn their bathroom into a beautiful showpiece for their home.

In this section of the guide we will cover the basics for installing a shower floor and bathroom wall tiles. Many of the techniques you learn from starter projects like tiling a kitchen backsplash can be applied to tiling in bathrooms too.

### WATERPROOFING WET AREAS

Apply a first coat of HPG or Aqua Defense once the cement has cured by using a roller or sponge. Fiber mesh will need to be installed in all corners of the pan and at least 3' off the ground. Once the fiber mesh is installed proceed to apply the second coat to all areas.

Allow the waterproofing to dry as per manufacturer's instructions before tiling.



**The shower floor should always be installed prior to any wall installation**

## Installing a Shower Floor

### STEP 1: MORTAR BED INSTALLATION

Mix water and sandmix in a pail using a hand drill/mixer (following the manufacturer's instructions), until the required consistency is achieved.

Plug the drain with a cloth until dry to prevent water draining from the concrete overnight. Ensure a vinyl pan or shower liner is present as required by local plumbing code.

Pour the concrete around the perimeter and spread it out with a trowel. The height of the concrete should gently slope from 2-1/2" around the outside of the form to 1-1/4" near the drain. Gently pack down with the flat side of the trowel to help bring the moisture to the surface and smooth out the concrete.

Allow the concrete to cure according to the manufacturer's instructions before tiling.

### STEP 2: SETTING THE TILE

First lay out the entire floor including the cut tiles without using any mortar to test the fit and placement of the tiles. Once you're satisfied with the fit, remove the tile and spread the mortar and install as per manufacturer's instruction.

Allow to dry overnight then proceed to grout. It is advised that a waterproof membrane such as MAPEI Aqua Defense is applied on the concrete and curb before tile setting.



# Installing Bathroom Wall Tiles

## STEP 1: SURFACE PREPARATION

Begin by removing any existing tile and drywall by chipping out the grout with a chisel and hammer set. Then begin pulling off the tiles by forcing the teeth of the hammer behind the drywall and pulling the boards down. It is recommended that you have your water shut off to the shower and protect any fixed surfaces, such as the tub and existing floor tiles.

With any high moisture application, it's in your best interest to replace the original drywall boards. In this case, use 1/2" concrete board or similar water resistant board with the appropriate screws. The screws should be placed every 8 inches into the studs.

## STEP 2: LAYOUT

The next step is to do your layout for the tile. You probably won't get an even number of full tiles. The best way to determine your borders is to measure the wall width. Find and mark your end-point. Take into account the width of your mortar joint. Be aware that this layout applies to vertical measurements only. For the bottom to top layout, use a full tile at the bottom and work up.

Now that your layout is made, use a chalk line or a level to mark your vertical lines.

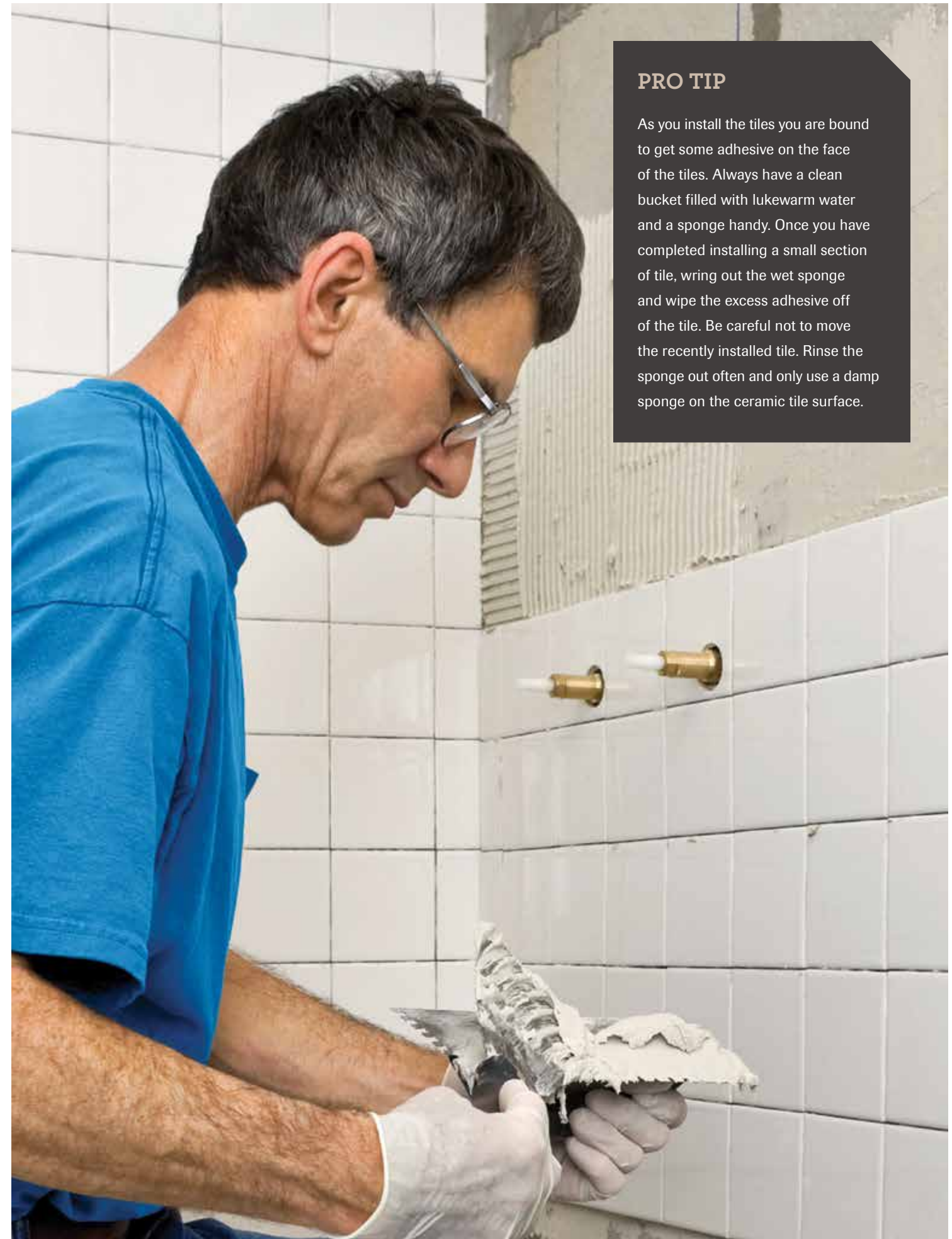
## STEP 3: SETTING THE TILE

Start setting tile where your chalk lines intersect.

Be sure the adhesive [\[SEE ADHESIVES, GROUT & MAINTENANCE: PAGE 5\]](#) is made for adhering tile to vertical surfaces. Wall tile adhesive has better grip for keeping tiles from sliding around once pressed into the adhesive. The adhesive should be spread onto the wall with the proper sized trowel [\[SEE TROWEL SELECTOR GUIDE: PAGE 8\]](#) Tiles should be pressed firmly into the adhesive. To help adhere the tile into the adhesive, give the tiles a slight twist after pressing them into the adhesive. When all the tiles are in place on the wall, give them 24 hours to set before applying grout.



**When laying out tiles, make sure to measure twice, and don't forget to account for grout lines**



### PRO TIP

As you install the tiles you are bound to get some adhesive on the face of the tiles. Always have a clean bucket filled with lukewarm water and a sponge handy. Once you have completed installing a small section of tile, wring out the wet sponge and wipe the excess adhesive off of the tile. Be careful not to move the recently installed tile. Rinse the sponge out often and only use a damp sponge on the ceramic tile surface.

HOW TO GUIDE:

# FLOORS

## Preparing Sub-floors & Tiling a Floor

When tiling a floor it is essential to prep the sub-floor correctly, creating a sturdy solid surface for your tiles. A properly tiled, well maintained floor can add value to your home and last a lifetime.

### Preparing Sub-floors:

#### INSTALLING BACKER BOARD

Measure your floor to determine the correct amount of product you will need and add 10% to your final calculations to account for waste.

Remove any existing floor material (i.e. tiles or laminate flooring) and clean the surface of dirt and debris.

Measure out and cut the backer boards to fit the size of the room making sure to off-set the joints with the existing ones in the sub-floor. Leave a 1/4" gap between the boards and the wall. Leave a 1/8" gap between each board as well.

Mix a bag of polymer modified grey mortar with water as directed by the manufacturer. Wear a dust mask, goggles and gloves for safety as mortar is caustic. Apply the mortar to the sub-floor with a 1/4" notched trowel. Apply only enough mortar to the sub-floor to bond one board at a time.

Embed the backer boards in the mortar and secure them to the sub-floor by driving in backer board screws every 8".

Fill and cover the backer board joints with the mortar using a margin trowel to smooth them out. Apply 2" fiberglass tape to the joint and scrape off any excess adhesive. This will provide a water resistant seam to help prevent mold.

#### MESH AND CEMENT OVER PLYWOOD

Ensure floor is tightly screwed down and there is no movement in the floor prior to starting.

Use at least one layer of galvanized diamond mesh. The mesh should overlap no less than 1/2" at the seams and be fastened using 1" staples spaced out 5 7/8" on center.

Once the mesh is secured, mix cement (sandmix is recommended) and apply a 1/4" mortar bed using 1/4" wood or metal guide around the perimeter of the room. Pull the mortar with a straight edge along end of the guides keeping it as level as possible. Float the area using a cement float to smooth it out. Let it dry overnight and scrape down any high ridges in the morning.

#### PREPPING A CONCRETE FLOOR

Make sure all loose paint, grease, etc. is removed. High spots can be removed with a grinder or hammer and chisel. If the concrete floor is more than a 1/4" out of level in a large area, use a self-leveling underlayment [SEE ADHESIVES, GROUT & MAINTENANCE: PAGE 6] to correct the floor. Clean the floor thoroughly making sure to remove all loose debris and dirt.



### Tiling a Floor:

#### STEP 1: LAYOUT

Establish the layout trying to get as many full tiles visible as you can. There are many ways and methods of laying out the floor tile. Most of the problems associated with layout are due to the room being out of square. The following method is simple, easy to use and does not require a square room.

The first thing you will need to do is to snap two chalk lines. Snap one chalk line down the centre of the room and then snap the other centred perpendicularly to the first. You will have one line down the centre width of the room and one down the centre length.

Next, place a row of tiles down along both sides of the line. Make sure to leave room for spacing of the grout.

Once you have laid out the tile, check to make sure that the spacing is okay. You may need to move the tiles some so that you end up with as many full tiles as possible. This will avoid lots of cutting. If the room is small, you may want to place the tile so the cut tiles on either side are even, giving the floor an equal appearance. Let your eye be the judge.

**Make sure to  
clean the sub-  
floor thoroughly  
to remove all  
loose debris and  
dirt before  
you start**

#### STEP 2: APPLYING THE ADHESIVE

Mix the thin-set in a bucket by adding water and stirring to a thick pasty consistency, follow the product instructions and guide.

Once the thin-set is mixed, trowel it over the area where the tile will be set. Trowel only enough for an area that you can safely reach on your knees. Using a notched trowel, drag the thin-set so that the rows left in the thin set are in a straight line. DO NOT use a circular pattern.



HOW TO GUIDE:

# SPECIALTY INSTALLATIONS

Leger & Stacked Stone, Tiling Over Tile, Tile Transitions, Tiling on Stairs, Fixing a Broken Tile & In-floor Heating

These unique applications may require special products or methods for proper installation, but at their core, they all follow the same basic principles as a standard tiling job.

## Installing Ledger Stone or Stacked Stone

### STEP 1: SURFACE PREPARATION

Interior walls should be installed on cement board or exterior grade plywood using a polymer modified mortar following the manufacturer's guidelines for trowel use and mortar recommendations.

### STEP 2: SET THE TILE

Stacked stone is similar to installing wall tile except in some cases no grout joints are required. Apply the appropriate adhesive for the product you are using and set the stones. If you are tiling a corner, some manufactures offer pre-made corners. Another option is to overlap and intertwine the stones.



## Tiling Over Existing Tiles

### STEP 1: SURFACE PREPARATION

Inspect the tile floor, making sure there are no loose tiles; the existing tile must be in good shape for re-tiling. Clean them thoroughly to remove any wax or build-ups on tile floors. Apply MAPEI ECO PRIM GRIP to all areas and let dry as per instructions.

### STEP 2: APPLY THE ADHESIVE

Certain mortars are better for installing tile over tile. Make sure to choose an appropriate product, mix and apply the mortar according to manufacturer's directions.

### STEP 2: SET THE TILE

Set the new tile in sections as directed by the thin-set mortar's product guidelines. Butter the back of tiles by applying thin-set to the back of the new tile, as well as the surface it is being applied to.

To reduce the look of tile that is too thick, use decorative and bullnose tile to blend the tile at the edges of the walls.

After the floor or walls have been tiled, apply the grout according to instructions.

## Installing Tile Transitions

Select a trim for your wall or floor tile thickness. Using a trowel apply a layer of mortar and embed the transition. Trowel additional thin-set mortar over the inside leg of the transition to ensure full coverage and support of the tile edges. When set, your tiles should be flush with the top of the trim.

### REGULAR EDGE



### CARPET & REGULAR REDUCERS



### STAIR NOSING TRANSITIONS

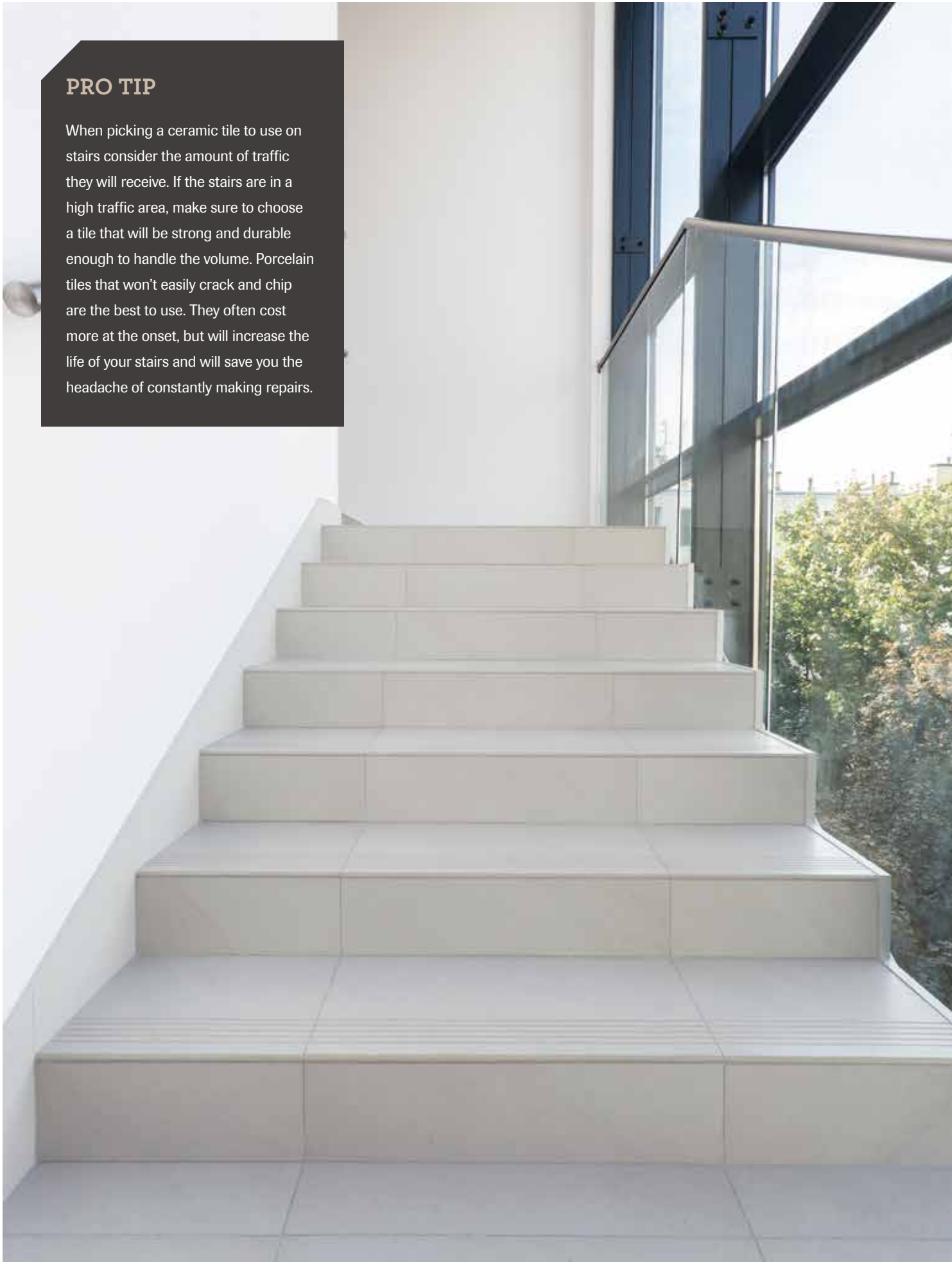


### VINYL WALL EDGE



## PRO TIP

When picking a ceramic tile to use on stairs consider the amount of traffic they will receive. If the stairs are in a high traffic area, make sure to choose a tile that will be strong and durable enough to handle the volume. Porcelain tiles that won't easily crack and chip are the best to use. They often cost more at the onset, but will increase the life of your stairs and will save you the headache of constantly making repairs.



# Tiling on Stairs

## STEP 1: SURFACE PREPARATION

Prepare the stairs and surrounding area by removing the trim, carpet, or other items from the stairwell area. If existing wood nosings are to remain, ensure to mask them off with tape before you begin. Remove nails, tacks or staples from the wooden stairs and inspect each step for holes and cracks.

If angled risers are required, cut 1/2" plywood boards and screw them into the top of the stair nose and secure them into the bottom of the riser of each step.

Remove sanding dust and other debris from the steps. Sweep the area, then wipe down each step with a damp cloth or sponge.

## STEP 2: APPLYING THE SUB-STRAIGHT

Install wire lath (mesh) and scratch coat to the step only and let cure overnight. If wood nosing is being used make sure to install it prior to the wire lath and scratch coat.

## STEP 3: TILE LAYOUT AND INSTALLATION

Precut any metal nosing being used or straight edge metal that will sit in-between wood and tile for all steps prior to installation. Using the trowel size indicated as per installation guidelines, apply the mortar in small sections, one step at a time.

Position the first tile in the centre of the riser (vertical surface of the step) and make it so the top edge of the tile is even with the step tread (horizontal surface of the step). Place tile spacers on each corner of the tile and continue placing tiles, working out from the center. Repeat the process across the whole row. Mark and cut the tiles at either end if needed.

Secure the tile to the step treads in the same fashion as the tile placed on the riser. Position the tiles so the gaps between each tile are in line with one another, aligning the front edge of the tile flush with the surface of the vertical tile on the riser.

Allow the thin-set adhesive to dry for 24 hours before applying grout.

**Always start on  
the top step and  
work your way  
down the stairs**





## Fixing a Broken Tile

### STEP 1: REMOVE GROUT

To replace one tile, first dig out the grout around it. Do this with a tool called a grout rake – a utility knife works well too. For a group of tiles, dig out around the section of tiles you're replacing.

### STEP 2: BREAK UP THE DAMAGED TILE

Shatter the broken tile into small pieces by hitting it with a hammer and a chisel. Be sure to wear safety glasses because pieces may go flying.

Pry out the pieces and scrape off the grout and adhesive with a chisel or putty knife. Do not disturb the substrate. Remove all the debris and get the surface as clean as possible.

### STEP 3: REPLACE WITH NEW TILE

Once the tile is all cleaned out, dry-fit the tile first to ensure it is flush with adjacent tiles, then set new tile with recommended mortar.

When chipping out a broken tile wear safety glasses as a piece of tile may go flying

## In-floor Heating Guide

	NUHEAT (MATS)	WARM TILES BY EASY HEAT (CABLES)
Suitable Substrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plywood</li> <li>Concrete</li> <li>Wire mesh and cement base</li> <li>Cement board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plywood or board (unless using wire mesh and cement)</li> <li>Concrete</li> <li>Wire mesh and cement base</li> <li>Limitations: Not for use directly on cement</li> </ul>
Sizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vary in size</li> <li>If more than one mat is required in a room a custom mat is recommended. Custom mats require a detailed sketch provided by the customer which allows Ceramic Decor to obtain a quote and design from the manufacturer</li> <li>For areas requiring over 100 sq. ft. of coverage in a single mat Ceramic Decor recommends using tile cables instead of Nuheat mats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>120V and 240V kits available</li> <li>Kits available in various sq. ft. coverages</li> <li>Greater than 70 sq. ft. heated area recommended for 240V Kits</li> <li>It is especially beneficial to use cables in irregular shaped areas</li> </ul>
Installation Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases overall thickness of finished floor approximately 1/4"</li> <li>Mat is adhered to substraight using 1/4x1/4" v-notched trowel and MAPEI Ultra Flex II Feather off excess thin-set at the perimeter and allow it to dry for 18 to 24 hours after mat is applied</li> <li>Thermostat probe is installed in mat and leads are left at the edge of the floor for hook-up</li> <li>Connecting the mat leads should be done by a licensed electrician</li> <li>Tile can then be installed using appropriate thin-set mix for the tile's requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Over Plywood:</b></li> <li>Wire mesh is fastened to the sub-floor then cable is installed (by a licensed electrician) with 3" spacing</li> <li>Sand mix is then poured over the cables, levelled, smoothed and left to cure for 24 hours before the tile can be installed</li> <li><b>Over Concrete:</b></li> <li>MAPEI Primer L or Primer K is used to prime exposed concrete</li> <li>Cables are installed (by a licensed electrician) directly on concrete using tap cons to fasten the tracks with approximately 2" spacing</li> <li>Sand mix is then poured over the cables, levelled, smoothed and left to cure for 24 hours before tile can be installed</li> </ul>
Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmable thermostat recommended</li> <li>30 sq. ft. of mat uses less electricity than 3 100w light bulbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmable thermostat recommended</li> <li>Average daily operating cost is 1 cent per sq. ft. of heated area</li> </ul>
Manufacturer's Websites	<a href="http://www.nuheat.com">www.nuheat.com</a>	<a href="http://www.warmtiles.com">www.warmtiles.com</a>

All Installations of these products should involve a licensed electrician to ensure all manufacture's recommendations and warranties are observed.

PRODUCT INFORMATION:

# ADHESIVES, GROUTS & MAINTENANCE

## Adhesives, Thin-set & Mortars

APPLICATION	TILE SIZE	ADHESIVE	INSTALLATION NOTES:
Floor Tiles	Up to 33x33cm (13x13")	Ultraflex™ 2	<b>These mortars can be installed over:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exterior grade plywood - 2 layers at 16mm (5/18") per layer</li> <li>• Cement backer units</li> <li>• Concrete slab</li> <li>• Fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backer board</li> </ul>
		Ultraflex™ RS	
	33x33cm (13x13") or larger	Ultraflex™ LFT	
		Ultraflex™ LFT Rapid	
Wall Tiles	Up to 30x30cm (12"x12")	Type 1™	
	33x33cm (13"x13") or larger	MAPEI Ultralite™ Mortar	
Glass Tiles	Up to 15x15cm (6x6")	Adesilex™ P10	Adesilex™ P10 cannot be used with glass tile that has a decorative coating on the back. Instead use Kerabond™/Keralastic System. Do Not use Adesliex™ P10 for tiles.
		Adesilex™ P10 with Keraply	
Installations Requiring Unmodified Mortars	Up to 33x33cm (13x13")	Kerabond™	
	33x33cm (13x13") or larger	Kerabond™ T	
Wet Areas		Mapelastic™ HPG with Mesh	Mapelastic™ HPG is a flexible liquid acrylic waterproofing and crack isolation membrane.
		MAPEI Ultralite Mortar	
Exteriors		Kerabond/Keralastic™ System	
Caulking		Mapesil™ 100% silicone sealant	



## Self-levelling Underlayment

APPLICATION	ULTRAPAN® EASY High-performance, easy-preparation, self-leveling underlayment
Over Concrete, Ceramic, VCT and Terrazzo	•
Interior	•
Substrate Profile	Prepared / Primed
Application Range	Feather edge to 5cm (2")
Approximate Coverage	2.23m <sup>2</sup> (24 sq. ft.) per bag at 6mm (1/4")
Working Time (23°C / 73°F)	15 Minutes
Cure Time Before Installing Ceramic Tile (23°C / 73°F)	3 Hours
Cure Time Before Installing Resilient or Wood Flooring (23°C / 73°F)	24 Hours
Compressive Strength (ASTM C109)	1 Day => 13.8 MPa (2000psi) 28 Days => 28.3 MPa (4100psi)



## Maintenance & Sealers

PRODUCT TYPE	CLEANER	SEALER
Slate	Ultracare™ Stone Cleaner Heavy Duty	Granquartz 355E Matte Colour Enhancer • Colour enhancing silicone impregnator intended for use on honed and textured stone only.
		Granquartz 357E Colour Enhancer Satin Gloss • Modified acrylic sealer/colour enhancer intended for use on textured stone only.
Marble and Travertine	Ultracare™ Stone Cleaner Heavy Duty	Granquartz 314P Premium Impregnator • Silicone impregnator suitable for use on all natural stones with a natural appearance regardless of finish type.
		Granquartz 313P Water Based Sealer • Water based impregnator that offers protection from both oil and water borne stains. 313P is easy and safe to use, and has no smell.
Porcelain	Ultracare™ Tile and Grout Cleaner	Granquartz 433P Porcelain Floor Impregnator • The highest quality stain protection available for porcelain tile. It is specifically formulated for high density materials like porcelain, and is suitable for all finish types.
Grout	UltraCare™ Cement Grout Haze Remover	UltraCare™ Grout Sealer
	UltraCare™ Efflorescence Remover	
	UltraCare™ Concentrated Tile & Grout Cleaner	
	Ultracare™ Tile and Grout Cleaner	Grout Refresh™ Colourant and Sealer
	Grout Refresh™ Pre-Cleaners	

## Trowel Selector Guide

USE	PRODUCT	TILE SIZE	TROWEL SIZE
Walls	Type 1™	19mm (3/4") Mosaics	4.5x4.5mm (3/16x 3/16") V-notched
		Up to 25x25cm (10x10")	6x6x6mm (1/4x1/4x1/4") Square-notched
	Adesilex™ P10	15x15cm (6x6") or smaller	6x6x6mm (1/4x1/4x1/4") Square-notched
	Adesilex™ P10 / Keraply™ System	15x15cm (6x6") or smaller	4.5x4.5mm (3/16x 3/16") V-notched for mosaics
	MAPEI Ultralite™ Mortar	33x33cm (13x13") or smaller	10x10x10mm (3/8x3/8x 3/8") Square-notched
Floors	Ultraflex™ 2	33x33cm (13x13") or smaller	10x10x10mm (3/8x3/8x3/8") Square-notched
	Ultraflex RS		
	Ultraflex LFT™		
	Ultraflex LFT RS	33x33cm (13x13") or smaller	12x12x12mm (1/2x1/2x 1/2") Square-notched
	MAPEI Ultralite™ Mortar	33x33cm (13x13") or smaller	10x10x10mm (3/8x3/8x3/8") Square-notched
	Kerabond/Keralastic™ System		
	Kerabond™ T	41x 41cm (16x16") or Larger	12x12x12mm (1/2x1/2x1/2") Square-notched

## Grout Selector Guide

Ceramic Decor recommends using **Ultracolor Plus** grout for most tile installations.

GROUT CHARACTERISTICS	KERACOLOR™ S	KERACOLOR™ U	ULTRACOLOR® PLUS	MAPEI FLEXCOLOR™ CQ
Interior / Exterior	•	•	•	•
Residential / Commercial	Good	Good	Better	Better
Industrial			•	•
Chemical Resistance				
Stain Free				•
Mold and Mildew Protection	Good	Good	Better	Best
Helps Contribute to LEED Points	•	•	•	•
Colours Available	36	36	36	36
Time Until Light Foot Traffic (Hours)	24	24	3	24
Time Until Heavy Traffic (Hours)	72	72	3	48
Efflorescence-free Grout (No Shading, No Motting)			•	•

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## HOW DO I MEASURE MY SPACE SO I ORDER THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF TILE?

Refer to the How to Measure a Backsplash instructions in this guide [\[SEE KITCHEN BACKSPASHES: PAGE 9\]](#). The same basic principles apply to measuring for all tile installation.

## WHAT ARE SPACERS AND WHEN SHOULD THEY BE USED?

Spacers are used to keep consistent spacing between your tiles (grout joint). DIY'ers should always use the appropriate spacers and we have sizes for all tile installs in our tool area.

## DO I NEED TO BUY EXTRA MATERIALS FOR WASTAGE?

Yes. Always add approximately 10% extra for waste. This will allow for cutting and fitting of tile. If you are using large format tile in a small space, you may need to apply 15% or even 20% extra for waste.

## DO I HAVE TO DO ANYTHING TO PREP MY AREA BEFORE I START THE TILING PROCESS?

Follow the instructions in the guide for the area that you are tiling. Each type of tile installation will require different preparation.

## IF I HAVE A SMALL AREA TO TILE SHOULD I USE A SMALL TILE?

Any size tile can be used in a small space. Smaller sizes often look busier because of the extra grout joints.

## CAN I USE FLOOR TILE ON A WALL OR VICE VERSA?

Floor tile can be installed on walls or floors. Wall tile can only be installed on walls because it is not strong enough for floors.

## PRODUCT DEFINITIONS

### Ceramic Tile:

Glazed ceramic tiles may be used in residential applications. Tile identified as "wall tile" cannot be used in floor installations as the material is not designed or strong enough for foot traffic. Ceramic tile does not require sealing after installation. Maintenance products specific to ceramic tile should be used for daily and deep cleaning.

### Porcelain Tile:

Most high end tiles available are porcelain. Porcelain is suggested for use in heavy residential, commercial and in some cases exterior installations. It is available in both full-bodied unglazed (exterior use and heavy commercial) as well as glazed finished. Sealing may be required on unglazed porcelain depending the application.

### Natural Stone:

Natural stones include marble, travertine, limestone, slate or granite. Natural stone tiles often require specialty mortars and have unique installation requirements. These stones can be porous and often require sealing. Stone specific maintenance products must be used.

## HOW DO I PICK THE BEST GROUT FOR MY APPLICATION?

Our Grout Selector Chart [\[SEE ADHESIVES, GROUT & MAINTENANCE: PAGE 8\]](#) outlines all of grout choices and will help you make a the right choice.

## DO YOU RENT TILE CUTTERS OR WET SAWS?

We rent our wet saws for a nominal fee much lower than other rental stores. If you purchase your tile from Ceramic Decor you are able to borrow a score and break tile cutter and nippers free of charge.

## HOW DO I CUT AROUND PIPES?

See the installation instructions on how to cut tile. We also carry many drill bits and hole boring kits that will assist in making these complicated cuts.

## DO YOU CUT TILE FOR A FEE?

Ceramic Decor can cut your tiles for you. All tiles need to be marked by you in the exact way that you want them cut with either pencil or construction crayon. We charge a nominal fee for cuts.

## HOW DO I CLEAN AND MAINTAIN MY TILED AREA?

Ceramic Decor carries a full line of professional grade tile cleaning and maintenance products. Review the maintenance chart in this guide for the appropriate products. [\[SEE ADHESIVES, GROUT & MAINTENANCE: PAGE 7\]](#)

**If you have any questions not covered here give us a call at 1-877-836-8453 and our staff will be glad to help.**



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