

Installation Guidelines

The following is an informative general overview for basic tile installation. As this is not a step by step guide, Andova Tiles recommends using a licensed installer for all tile installation, and that all TCNA guidelines are followed in accordance with ANSI 137.1 and 137.2.

Before You Begin:

Carefully read through the product item page and specifications for any additional documentation regarding installation, tile care and maintenance information.

Make sure all the necessary tools and products are on hand for the installation. The following is a list of necessary supplies but it is not all inclusive: Safety glasses, gloves, buckets, cutting tools *such as Wet saw, tile cutters, tile nippers, etc*, thin set or other adhesive, tile spaces, trowels, rubber mallet, grout, grout float, sponges and lint free cloth.

Prepping and Planning

Be sure to prepare the installation surface by ensuring that it is flat, even and clean. Structure the tile layout by carefully measuring the area. Then, dry-laying the tiles to ensure they fit the space. All tiles in a specific area should be from the same dye lot number, tone/shade, and/or caliber. If multiple boxes are being used, it is recommended to pull tiles from each case to prevent obvious color differences amongst the pieces.

Tile Cutting:

Tiles can be cut to preferred sizes by using tile nippers, tile cutter or a diamond tipped wet saw. FOLLOW ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND WEAR PROTECTIVE GEAR.

Adhesives:

There are different adhesives available for tile installation. Some options include mastic, thinset, polymer-modified thinset and epoxy. Be sure to choose the most suitable type for specific tile being installed. Always consult a licensed installer on which adhesive to use. Carefully follow the directions provided by the manufacturer of the chosen adhesive.

Tile Layout:

Spread out the thinset with a notched trowel that is proportional in size to the tiles. After carefully following the chosen adhesive manufacturer's instructions, lay and press the tiles in place with a rubber mallet using spacers accordingly. The spacers will help create uniform grout lines.

Important Note: Before installing individual glass tiles larger than 3"x6", apply an additional even layer of adhesive ('back-butter') to the back of the tile.

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Grout:

CHECK IF THE PRODUCT NEEDS TO BE SEALED. IF YES, CAREFULLY SELECT THE CORRECT SEALER FOR YOUR PARTICULAR TILE AND PRODUCT BEING INSTALLED INSTALLER. FOLLOW THE SPECIFIC MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEALING.

Grout Selection:

There are many types of grout for various applications and specific tiles. Here are the most common used:

- **Sanded grout** is recommended for tile with grout joints of 1/8" and larger, as the large pieces of sand in the mixture decreases grout shrinkage. This is ideal for larger tile spaces.
- **Non-sanded grout** is better for tile with grout joints of 1/8" and smaller. Mosaics, decorative tiles, glossy finishes, or delicate and metallic pieces are better off with non-sanded grout. In these cases, the sanded grout may scratch the tiles.
- **Epoxy Grout** is used for certain types of applications and tiles. Please consult with a professional installer before selecting to use epoxy grout

Grout color has a big impact on the final look of the project and appearance of the tile. Choose the color that is both most appealing and pairs well with the décor. Keep in mind that the

grout color may look slightly different once it has finished drying.

Application:

The tiles and their adhesive must be fully dry before beginning the grout process. Check the adhesive's instructions to confirm the recommended drying time.

1. Prepare the grout according to the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Remove the tile spacers in small sections
3. Once the grout is properly prepared, apply it slowly to small portions of the tile, using a rubber float.
4. Spread the grout across the tile surface, while filling up the tile spaces. Be mindful of keeping the grout flat and evenly distributed.

Cleaning:

It is important to clean up the excess grout from the tile surface soon after the grout has been applied.

1. Using a dry, lint-free cloth, wipe off all excess grout from the surface of the tile.
2. Take a slightly wet sponge and continue cleaning the tiles.
3. When the tiles appear clean, repeat step #2 with a new sponge.

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Cleaning Continued:

4. Wait 15 minutes, then buff up the tile with a soft rag. The finished project should be smooth, uniform in color and even in height.

Additional Notes for Stainless Steel and Aluminum Tiles:

Some metal tiles come with a thin protective plastic film on the tile surface to prevent scratching. The film can be left on during installation to protect the finish. If the tile needs to be cut down, a diamond tipped wet saw can be used, which will prevent uneven tile edges. The edges can then be smoothed down with fine sandpaper or a metal file. When grouting textured metal tiles, a grout release or sealer should be used to prevent the grout from sticking to the tile surface.

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Fall in Tile Love

We know that loving your space means loving everything that you put into it, especially when it comes to your home. Choosing a tile can be a long-term commitment so we make sure to create ways for online shoppers to emotionally connect while they explore and purchase our products. From creating warm and inviting visual stories to providing an elevated level of customer service, both our business partners and online shoppers are excited to fall in tile love over and over again!

About Our Tile

Tile comes in all shapes and sizes, just like people! Our mission is to offer an amazing variety of the latest styles and timeless classics so that everyone can find their true tile love. We source from all over the world to bring you the trends happening both today and tomorrow. Each and every tile has that special something that will put a smile on your face every time that you walk into your home.