

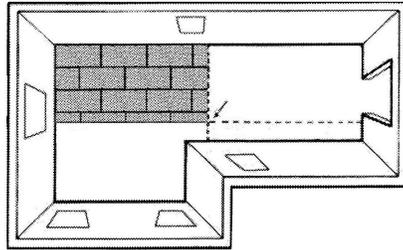
# "HOW TO" INSTALL GLASS

# SUBWAY TILE

# Giorbello

## Preparation

1. Be sure to clean the surface you are installing tile on to. Any dirt or debris can affect the adhesive's ability to adhere your Subway Tiles to the substrate.
2. Measure and mark the center points of both the vertical and horizontal dimensions of your wall.
3. Snap a chalk line between these points to create your centerlines. Check the intersection of the chalk lines with a carpenter's square to ensure that it is fully square.
4. Layout your tiles without adhesive from your intersection point towards the end of the wall. If your layout results in pieces that are too small to cut along the edges, then adjust your centerlines accordingly and resnap chalk lines.



## Installation

### Mixing Thin-set

1. Be sure to follow mixing directions on bag on all points. You need allow the thin-set to sit between mixings - as the instructions describe - because it is during that time that the cement slakes. If you do not do this, the bonds will be weak and the thin-set will not reach maximum adhesive performance.
2. **DO NOT ADD EXTRA WATER ONCE MIXED.** This will weaken the adhesive strength of the MAPEI Adesilex P10 - specifically formulated for glass tile applications. If the thin-set is drying up, then remixing will return some of its fluidness.
3. Placing a damp towel over the bucket used to mix the thin-set will extend its "pot life".

### Applying Thin-set

1. Using the flat side of the trowel spread the adhesive onto the working area.
2. Only apply as much area as you can tile in the next 15 to 20 minutes (The open time for Adesilex P10 is 25 to 35 minutes). If you are not able to tile over thin-set that you have applied within this period, then you must scrape the adhesive off the surface and reapply.
3. Comb the notched side of the trowel across the thin-set. This ensures that an even and proper amount of thin-set is applied to your substrate.
4. Take the flat side of the trowel and knock down the ridges of thin-set so that the surface is covered evenly with adhesive.
5. This ensures that shadows from the ridges are not seen through the tile after installation.

## Tools

- Band or Ring Saw for Glass Tile
- Bucket
- Carpenter's Level
- Carpenter's Square
- Chalk Line
- Drill w/ Mixer Blade
- Grout Scraper
- MAPEI Grout Bag
- MAPEI Grout Float
- MAPEI Grouting Sponge
- MAPEI Margin Trowel
- MAPEI Square Notch Trowel (1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4")
- MAPEI Tile Spacers 1/8"
- Smoothing Stone
- Wet Tile Saw w/ Diamond Blade

## Materials

- Adesilex P10 (Thin-set)
- Keracolor U (Grout)
- Keracaulk U (Caulk)

### Setting Each Tile

1. When setting the tiles, butt them up to the adjacent tiles, and then press and twist the tile into the thin-set away from the already set tiles. This prevents thin-set from squeezing up into the grout lines. The less thin-set that dries in the grout lines, the less clean up will be required before grouting.
2. Place tile spacers where tiles butt up next to one another. You should place at least two along each edge to ensure straight, uniform grout lines.

### Cutting Tile

1. Make an outline of the cut on a piece of paper or cardboard. Then, cut it out and trace the pattern onto the back of the tile. Make sure to flip the pattern 180° when translating the pattern to the tile so that it installs correctly when right side up.
2. Push tile through your tile saw *face down*. This prevents the inevitable chipping from removing the painted back. When this happens, you can see straight through the tile to the thin-set.
3. For curved cuts you will need a band or ring saw specifically designed for glass tile.
4. Use a smoothing stone to remove any excess chipping or burrs left on the tile from the cutting process.



### **OUTLINING**

After tracing your paper/cardboard to the size of your cut, flip the pattern 180° when translating onto the tile.

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## Grouting

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### Preparation

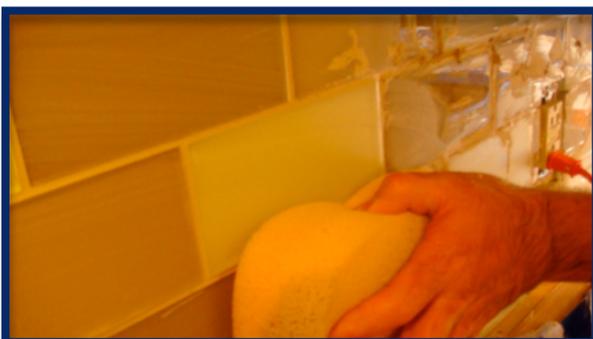
We recommend using our unsanded Keracolor U Grout for glass tile installation. Grout joints of 1/8" or less require **unsanded** grout because the sand grains are too large to create a strong bond in sanded grouts.

1. Allow thin-set to cure for 48 to 96 hours (2 to 4 days) prior to grouting. The humidity and temperature of the installation environment will affect curing time.
2. Examine the grout lines, and using a Grout Scraper remove any thin-set that has dried in the grout line in excess of 40% of the thickness of the tile.



### **CUTTING**

Make sure to cut with the backing face up



### **CLEANING**

Do not over wet the sponge. It will discolor the grout and remove it from the joint.

### Mixing

1. Be sure to follow mixing directions on bag on all points. You need allow the grout to sit between mixings - as the instructions describe - because it is during that time that the cement slakes. If you do not do this, the bonds will be weak and the grout will not reach maximum adhesive performance and color consistency.
2. **DO NOT add extra water once mixed.** This will dilute the grout and possibly bleed the color. Remixing the grout should return some of its fluidness.

### Applying

1. Use a Grout Bag to spread grout directly into the joint or use a Grout Float diagonally across the face of the tiles. You can use an old toothbrush handle or your finger to spread the grout in those hard to reach areas. Make sure that all grout joints are completely filled, leaving no air pockets or voids. **Only apply up to 25 sq. ft. at a time.**

2. Grout dries very quickly and is difficult to squeeze out of the Grout Bag within an hour. Therefore, mix small batches at a time to prevent wasting the grout.

## Cleaning

1. Wipe off excess grout with your Grout Float, held at a 45° angle, diagonally in relation to the grout joints. This will prevent the float from digging the grout out of the joints. Be sure to remove as much as possible.
2. Wait 15 to 20 minutes after using the Grout Float to wipe the surface before cleaning.
3. Soak a Grouting Sponge with clean water, then wring thoroughly. It should be barely damp. Remove the remaining grout by wiping diagonally in relation to the joint lines, and be sure to rinse the sponge often. **DO NOT OVERWET THE SPONGE. IT WILL DISCOLOR THE GROUT.**
4. Repeat until the grout joints are smooth and level with the tiles.
5. The grout will dry to haze on the face of the installed tiles. Take a soft, dry cloth or cheesecloth and polish this haze off the surface of the tiles.
6. Do not allow water near the grout for 48 hours.

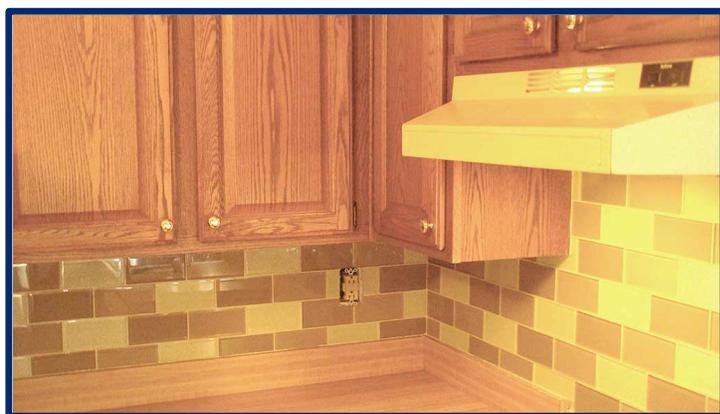
## Sealing

1. Though not required, sealing your grout joints is highly recommended. It prevents liquid absorption and thus the possibility of staining.
2. Follow the grout lines with a small paintbrush or cloth dipped into the grout sealer while wiping off any excess that may spill onto the tiles. Make sure to wipe the tiles or you will be left with a haze that will take away from the clear beauty of the Glass Subway Tiles.
3. Grout Sealer is not a permanent protector, and will need to be reapplied. However, this length of time is dictated by the amount of foot traffic/wear and tear that the tile is subjected to. For example, a kitchen backsplash may not need to be sealed at all, or if it is, then only once. On the other hand, a floor tile in a foyer may need sealer reapplied every 6 to 12 months.

## Caulking

Use color-coordinating caulk in the grout joints where:

- There is a change of plane.
- Two walls or a wall and a floor meet
- Tile butts up next to a non-tile material i.e. countertops, cabinets



# Glossary

**Adesilex P10** – A pure white, polymer-modified thin-set that has been specifically formulated for use with glass tile installations. The true white color prevents the discoloration of the tiles by the thin-set.

**Curing** – The process of becoming hard or solid by cooling, drying, or crystallization; "the hardening of concrete". 3"x6" glass subway tile requires roughly twice the curing time as glass mosaic tiles because of their large surface area. We recommend 2 to 4 days curing time vs. the usual 1 to 2 days for MAPEI Adesilex P10.

**Grout** – A thin, coarse mortar poured into joints between tiles to fill them and consolidate the adjoining tiles into a solid mass. Available in unsanded and sanded varieties. We recommend unsanded grout for glass tile because of the small – less than 1/8" – grout joints and to prevent scratching of the tiles' surface.

**Notched Trowel** – Designed to apply tile adhesive to vertical or horizontal surfaces quickly and evenly without mess.

**Open Time** – Amount of time that thin-set will remain usable if left on the wall/floor i.e. MAPEI Adesilex P10 has an open time of 25 to 35 minutes.

**Pot Life** – Amount of time that mixed cement will remain usable if left in the bucket i.e. MAPEI Adesilex P10 has a pot life of 3 to 4 hours.

**Slaking** – The process that cements undergo as they interact with water that gives it strength. Allowing grout or thin-set to sit and slake after mixing is very important in ensuring maximum adhesive strength.

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