

Installation Failure Tips and Tricks

The following are three common problems with the installation of glass, ceramic, and porcelain tile and mosaics. Please take these suggestions as general tips and tricks for a successful install.

1. Grout joint: Due to thermal expansion/contraction and/or seismic activities, your wall is constantly breathing. Therefore, a minimum 1/8" of grout joint is recommended for any glass or ceramic tile installation in order to allow the wall to breathe. If the tiles were installed butt-jointed, then they are bound to crack.
2. Thinset use: A High Polymer-based non-sag glass tile thinset is recommended for the installation of all glass tiles. Avoid using regular cement based thinsets as the tiles will sag during installation. Wrong thinsets such as mastic and cement based mortar may also shrink during the curing process, which may put too much tension on the glass tile and crack it as a result. Proper installation is the key to a successful install.
3. Unleveled/Unsealed Substrate: If tile is installed over an unlevelled/unsealed substrate, the substrate must be floated and be made even prior to install. Due to breathing of the wall, tension in the seam in between backer boards or drywall may result in a crack in the tile.

Alternatively, an Instaset Peel and Stick Mastic Adhesive Membrane can be used as a simple and quick way to replace conventional thinset installs. See it here: https://www.abolos.com/peel-and-stick-roll.html?_SID=U

These are some key factors involved in having a successful tile install, we would be happy to help you diagnose specifically what may have occurred, you can email us at info@abolos.com and we would be happy to help you solve the problem.

Alternatively, we may also carry a peel and stick version of the tile you have purchased that would avoid any further installation problems. This tile comes with a peel and stick adhesive membrane that will absorb any shock or movement in the wall and avoid the tiles from cracking. Also, it is rated for shower and kitchen back splashes.

For more installation tips, please have your certified installer refer to the TCNA (Tile Council of North America) handbook for installing glass tiles.

