Installation in Four Easy Steps

TILE & STONE INSTALLATION
Select products eligible for a lifetime warranty.
Preparing your surface

A great tile project starts with a smooth, clean, solid, and level surface. Laying this groundwork may be your most important step—and we’ve got just the tools you need.

### RedGard® Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane

- **Size**: 1 gal.
- **Coverage**: 30–40 sq. ft.

Roll on RedGard.

### For Wood Floors & Countertops

#### 1/4" WonderBoard® Lite Backerboard

- **Size**: 36” x 60” x 1/4”
- **Coverage**: 15 sq. ft.

- **1**: For countertops only—clean then lightly sand.
- **2**: Apply FlexBond to floor or countertop.
- **3**: Fasten WonderBoard® Lite.

#### EasyMat® Tile & Stone Underlayment

- **Size**: 48” x 10’ x 5 mm
- **Coverage**: 40 sq. ft.

- **1**: Apply primer.
- **2**: Roll out EasyMat.

### For Walls & Showers

#### 7/16" WonderBoard® Lite Backerboard

- **Size**: 36” x 60” x 7/16”
- **Coverage**: 15 sq. ft.

- **1**: For bathtub walls, staple roofing felt. For walls in dry areas, clean wall.
- **2**: Fasten WonderBoard® Lite to studs.
- **3**: Fill gaps with FlexBond, embed mesh tape, smooth with trowel.

### Basic Tools for Surface Prep

- [ ] Notch Trowel
- [ ] Knee Pads
- [ ] Scoring Knife
- [ ] Backerboard Screws
Measuring, laying out & cutting the tile

For Floors

1. Mark centerlines of the floor. Use a 3-4-5 triangle to check for square.
2. Do a dry run to determine tile placement and cuts. Place a row of tiles along each line using spacers.
3. If the space at the wall is less than 1/2 tile, shift centerline to eliminate small cuts. This will allow wider tiles at both walls.
4. Work in chalked grids (typically 2 tiles by 2 tiles), allowing space for grout joints.

For Countertops

1. Begin layout by positioning the front edge tiles (bullnose or v-cap) along the front of the countertop.
2. Do a dry run by placing as many full tiles on the countertop with spacers as necessary. If the countertop abuts a wall, lay cut tiles against the wall.
3. For straight countertops, mark centerline of the countertop or sink, then lay tiles so cut pieces behind sink are the same width. Avoid less than half-width cut tiles by shifting the layout 1/2 tile left or right.
4. For L-shaped countertops, lay full tiles at inside corner. Set bullnose or v-cap pieces in place to ensure correct amount of overhanging pieces.

For Walls & Showers

1. Mark centerlines of the wall with a china marker.
2. To determine tile spacing and cuts, lay it out on the floor first, placing a row of tiles along each line using spacers. Then replicate the measurements on the wall.
3. If the space at the wall is less than 1/2 tile, shift centerline to eliminate small cuts. This will allow wide, even tiles at both edges.

For Cutting Tile

1. After setting your full tiles, go back to set tiles requiring cuts. Mark cuts with a grease pencil or china marker.
2. Make straight cuts using tile cutter or wet saw. Notched or curved cuts and v-cap or quarter round tile cuts require a wet saw.
3. For unique shaping, use tile nippers to cut away small pieces of tile.

Basic Tools for Cutting Tile

- Wet Saws
- Tile Cutters
- Tile Nippers
- Hole Saw
Different tile types need to be bonded to your surface with just the right kind of mortar. We can help you choose the materials for a project that will be beautiful for years to come.

### For Porcelain & Ceramic Tile

**FlexBond® Crack Prevention Mortar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Notch Trowel Size</th>
<th>Coverage Per Bag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 8&quot;</td>
<td>1/4&quot; x 1/4&quot; x 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>90 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8”–12&quot;</td>
<td>1/4&quot; x 3/8&quot; x 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>60 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12”+</td>
<td>1/2&quot; x 1/2&quot; x 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>45 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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All CUSTOM® thin-set mortars provide approximately the same coverage per 50 lb. bag.

### Setting the Stone or Tile

1. Clean surface of contaminants.
2. Add cool water.
3. Add mortar.
4. Mix 5 minutes.
5. Spread mortar on surface.
6. Apply mortar 10 sq. ft. at a time.
7. Set tile into place.
8. Wipe with damp sponge.
9. Wait 24 hours before using surface.

### For Stone

**Marble, Granite & Travertine Premium Medium Bed Mortar**

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All CUSTOM® thin-set mortars provide approximately the same coverage per 50 lb. bag.

### Side Note

Use white thin-set mortars with white or translucent tile or light colored grout. Otherwise, use gray thin-set mortars.

### Basic Tools for Setting

- [ ] Notch Trowel
- [ ] Margin Trowel
- [ ] Tile Nippers
- [ ] Tile Spacers
- [ ] Grout Sponge
Grouting your stone or tile

The material between the joints and borders of your tiles is just as important to your project’s final look. We offer a wide range of colored grout and long-lasting caulk so you can create a seamless floor or wall treatment.

Fusion Grout

Fusion Pro™ Single Component Grout™

- MIN 1/16” – 1/2”
- MAX 1/16” – 1/2”


- Unsurpassed stain resistance
- No sealing required
- Contains Microban® to inhibit mold and mildew growth

For Grout Joints 1/8”–1/2”

Polyblend® Sanded Grout

- MIN 1/8” – 1/2”

Polyblend® Non-Sanded Grout

- MAX 1/8”

Grouting the Tile Joints

1. Clean grout joints.
2. Add cool water.
3. Add grout.
4. Mix 5 minutes.
5. Apply grout with float.
6. Remove excess grout from surface.
8. Remove haze with cheesecloth.
9. Wait 16 hours before using surface.

Coverage applicable for grout joint widths 1/8” to 1/4” for Sanded Grout; 1/16” to 1/8” for Non-Sanded Grout; 1/16” to 1/2” for Fusion Pro Grout. Amounts rounded to ensure proper coverage.

Selection

Choose from 8 colors of Fusion Pro Single Component Grout and 29 colors of Polyblend Grout to complement your installation.

Basic Tools for Grouting

- Grout Float
- Margin Trowel
- Grout Sponge
- Microfiber Towel
- Cheesecloth
Now that you’ve got the look you love, make sure it lasts. Sealing your stone, tile and grout protects the surface from water-based and oil-based stains.

Sealing

SurfaceGard® Sealer

Protect your stone, tile and grout.

Grout Sealer

Penetrates grout to protect against stains.

Look for this icon on products that qualify for a Lifetime Warranty

More choices, more how-to at homedepot.com