



#### **STEP 1: SURFACE PREPARATION**

- Tile may be installed over most structurally sound substrates.
- Make sure the surface is clean, smooth, dry and free of wax, soap scum and grease.
- Any damaged, loose or uneven areas must be repaired, patched and leveled.
- Remove any moldings, trim, appliances or anything that could interfere with installation.



#### STEP 2: MEASURE

- Start by measuring the square footage of the wall you are planning to tile, making sure to account for any switches and outlets.
- Find the center point of the wall, using a level to draw a plumb line along the wall's center.
- Lay out a row of loose tiles across the bottom of the wall from the center line leaving uniform joints between tiles.
- Once you have this initial row of loose tiles laid out, measure to determine what cuts need to be made so that all tiles fit into the working area.











## STEP 3: CUTTING

- Keep the protective backing on while cutting the tile.
- A ceramic tile cutter is not recommended if any cutting is necessary. It is recommended to use a diamond blade. It is important to use the proper blades because blades designed for ceramic tile will chip the stone.
- If a wet saw is needed, ensure that the mosaic is dry before adhering it to the substrate.
- A utility knife can be used when cutting along the joints
- NOTE: Cut edges should be placed in corners where they can be hidden.



## STEP 4: DRILLING

• If drilling a hole in the tile is necessary, it is recommended to use a drill bit that is specially designed for glass, metal and stone.

NOTE: The tile must be securely clamped into place to prevent movement of the tile during the drilling process.

- When drilling the hole, keep the bit and hole lubricated to prevent chipping.
- Drill from both sides of the tile, starting with the back and drilling half of the depth of the tile.
- Turn the tile over and complete the hole. This will prevent the glass, metal and stone from chipping as the drill bit exits the tile.









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## STEP 5: INSTALLATION

- Use a level to ensure the floor and/ or counter is level against the wall.
- Remove a small portion of the protective backing and lightly stick the corner of the tile into place. Once the tile is in position, apply pressure evenly down the sheet of mosaic while simultaneously removing the protective backer.
- NOTE: For a stronger bond, remove the protective backing. Apply 3/8" size bead of polyurethane adhesive on all four corners and center of the mosaic. The adhesive needs to be applied 2" away from the edge of the mosaic. This step will allow a small range of movement for placement correction
- Ensure that an 1/8" gap is left between the mosaic and adjoining surfaces (cabinets, countertops, walls, floors and ceiling).



• A grout float can be used to tap the tiles into place.

NOTE: When positioning and placing the mosaic, make sure the tile alignment is correct before applying any pressure. After pressure is applied, the mosaic will be permanently bonded to the substrate. Removal of the tile may cause damage to the substrate.

- Use a silicone or flexible caulk to finish the edges.
- A stone sealer is recommended to protect the stone pieces.

NOTE: For more information on proper sealants, please reference Step 7.











#### STEP 6: CLEANING

- It is recommended to use a non- abrasive cleaner to prevent scratching of the tile.
- NOTE: Tiles that have been scratched prior to or during installation are the customer's responsibility.
- NOTE: Natural stones may darken when wet or when in contact with humidity.



## STEP 7: SEALING (STONE TILE ONLY)

- Penetrating/impregnating stone sealers are a no-sheen, naturallook sealer that can be waterbased or solvent-based.
- A premium, natural-look, penetrating/impregnating sealer is the best choice when you are wanting to maintain the natural color of the stone. A stone-enhancer sealer is often used when a darker, enriched, or highlighted character is desired.
- Make sure the brand you have chosen is formulated to provide maximum stain protection for stone products.
- Stone products should be tested periodically to ensure that the sealer is working effectively.











#### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Back-butter** is the spreading of a bond coat to the back of a tile before placing the tile to ensure a strong bond with the thin-set mortar.

**Balanced cuts** are perimeter tile cuts of equal size that are installed on opposite sides of the working area or on either side of a miter.

A **butt joint** is the thin joint created when tiles are installed side by side without the use of spacers or gout.

The **grout** is a mix used for filling tile joints-most commonly created from a cement base.

The **mortar** is a mixture of cement paste and fine aggregate used to bond masonry together.

**Plumb** means perpendicular to true level.

The **substrate** is the underlying support or base of the tile installation.

## LEGAL

#### ATTENTION / ATENCIÓN / ATTENTION

Do not dry cut using motorized equipment due to the potential for exposure to harmful silica dust. Use a wet saw or a score and snap tool when cutting is necessary during the installation process.

No corte en seco usando equipo motorizado debido a la posibilidad de exposición a polvo dañino de sílice. En caso de que sea necesario cortar durante el proceso de instalación, usar una sierra de corte en húmedo o una herramienta cortadora manual.

Ne pas couper à sec à l'aide d'un équipement motorisé en raison du risque d'exposition à la poussière de silice nuisible. Utiliser une scie à eau ou un outil à inciser et rompre lorsqu'il faut couper pendant le processus d'installation.



