

Glass Tile Installation Guide

Tools

- Diamond disc for cutting mosaics
- 1/16 - 3/16 V Notch Trowel
- Grout Float
- Level Finish Nails
- Sponge
- Bucket
- Non-Sanded grout

Step 1: Substrate Preparation: The substrates need to be clean, compact, perfectly flat and free of dirt and cracks. Nylon or wire brush can be used in cleaning the residues on the surface. If the brush cannot remove the entire residue use bead blasting or sand blasting. Fix all the uneven area of the surface; leveling compound might be needed to make the surface perfectly flat. Small cracks can be fixed using crack suppression membrane or patch. Consult an engineer for an assessment of large cracks because this might cause problem in the future. Make sure enough time is given to let the substrate settle (as per manufacturers recommendation). Do not install the mosaic tiles directly over plywood or drywall.

Step 2: Laying Mosaic: Before starting the installation inspect all mosaic sheets and make sure that material is in good condition and no defects. Identify the starting point where to start guidelines that will help the lay out to be straight and symmetrical while installing. The size of the trowel depends on the thickness of the mosaic tiles, thinner the material the smaller the trowel. The mosaic, unless otherwise specified by the customer, is usually laid on white mastic or thinset to avoid altering its color. White thinset is usually recommended to use for the glass and other light or transparent product to avoid discoloration of the background.

Once the starting grid has been marked, using the flat side of the v-notched trowel apply a layer of thinset and use the notched side to go over the thinset to make uniform depth. Make sure to apply only enough adhesive to area that you can tile within 15 mins because it dries very quick.

Once the adhesive is spread over the surface start laying down the mosaic sheets.

Using grout float press the mosaic sheet against the surface to guarantee perfect adhesion. Using the same tool correct any alignment errors by lightly tapping the sides of the sheet. If the sheet starts to slide down, place few finish nails on the last grout line on the top to keep it in place and move on the next tile.

After one section is done, use damp sponge to clean up any residues of the thinset that squeezed up between tiles. Thinsets usually require at least 24 hours for curing, for more time check the manufacturers recommendation.

Step 3: Grouting and Final Cleaning: Before applying grouts make sure that the adhesive is set and firm and the tiles are clean. Non-sanded grout is the recommend grout to use for mosaic sheets due to small grout joints. Never use sanded grout on polished glass mosaics this will scratch the material. Never use Epoxy grouts for the glass mosaic tiles, unless specified by the manufacturer.

Using grout float apply the grout on the tiles. Use vertical and horizontal stroke to spread the grout. Apply a little pressure to make sure that all the joints are well filled.

While the grout is still fresh, stroke diagonally the long edge of the grout float to remove excess grout and then wipe it with wet sponge to clean.

Once the grout is set and dry and if there is still residue use nylon brush to clean and then apply grout sealer according to manufacturers instructions.

****Cutting Mosaics Using Wet Saw: When cutting mosaic on a wet saw, put a tile or a piece of hard plastic down on the cutting tray. This is necessary to keep the mosaic from falling in the wide opening on the blade channel tray to be able to make a good straight cut.