QEP

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR TILE INSTALLATION
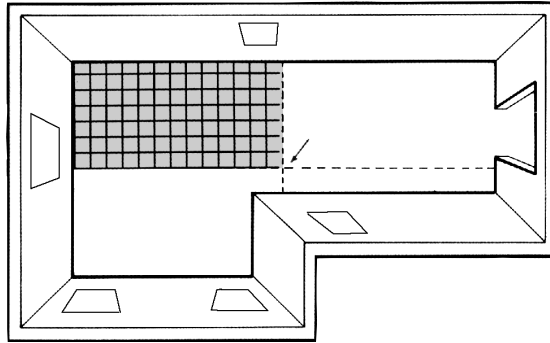
THIS KITS INCLUDES THE BASIC TOOLS NEEDED TO SHAPE, SET AND GROUT CERAMIC TILE

PREPARATION

Use a Floor Scraper to remove any debris from the subfloor that cannot be easily wiped free (i.e., old adhesive, residue, etc.) with a broom or cleaning solution. Clean the subfloor of grease, paint or anything that would inhibit adhesive or thinset bonding. Patch any cracks and level the subfloor before beginning tile installation. Subfloors in poor condition can eventually crack the tile and grout.

Prior to installing tile, remove any baseboard molding and doors. If needed, use a jamb saw to cut the bottom of jambs to allow the tile to slide underneath instead of the tile being cut to fit around the door jamb. This will leave a more finished professional end result. Reattach or replace molding and doors after job is completed and grout is fully dried.

Begin your installation along the chalk lines, working from the center out, one quarter section at a time. (Remember to leave yourself a way out of the room without stepping on the newly set tiles). Typically, all the outside edge tiles are cut last and laid at one time. (Leave a 1/4" space around the perimeter for expansion that will later be covered by molding).

ADDITIONAL TOOLS YOU MAY NEED

- Adhesive
- Cheesecloth
- China Markers
- Contour Gauge
- Grout
- Jamb Saw
- Mixer
- Rubber Mallet
- Safety Goggles
- Scraper
- Spacers
- Suction Cup
- Wet Tile Saw or
- Tile Cutter
- Tile Nippers

INSTALLATION

Applying the Adhesive

Thinset is used to adhere tile to the floor. Use the thinset manufacturer's recommendation for the best coverage. The trowel notch size is usually based on the tile size and type that you are installing. There is a Double Sided Trowel with 2 types of notches (3/16" X 5/32" V NOTCH and 1/4" X 1/4"X 1/4" SQUARE NOTCH) included in the installation kit for thinset application for tile up to 16" x 16". Hold the trowel at a 45° angle to the wall or floor (see image A1). Use Margin Float to smear thinset into hard to reach areas (see image A2). Apply evenly. The trowel should give you proper thickness and coverage.
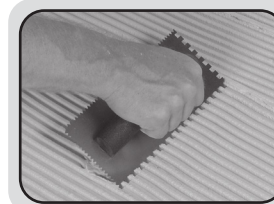
CAUTION: Apply no more than 25 square feet at a time. Some adhesives dry faster than others so use the directions provided by the manufacturer to be sure.

For Floor Tiles

Set each "whole" tile with a slight twisting motion and press firmly into place. Do not walk on the floor for at least 24 - 48 hours. See adhesive manufacturer's recommendations.

Using Tile Spacers

1. When setting tile, place at least two spacers vertically between the tiles. The spacers should be set "tombstone" style and not laid flat in the corners of the tile (see image B). When using large format tiles, Tile Leveling Clips and Tile Leveling Wedges should be used to keep tiles aligned and level (see image C).
2. Continue setting the next tile against the spacers and repeat this procedure.
3. Wait until the adhesive has set up according to the manufacturer's instructions before removing spacers.

NOTCHED TROWEL
The ridges made by the notches allow the adhesive to spread evenly across the back of the tile to hold the tile firmly.

A1.

MARGIN TROWEL
The margin trowel helps spread thinset in hard to reach areas. Store on side of bucket by hook.
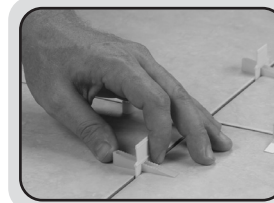
A2.

SPACERS
Use between tiles to provide uniform grout lines. Available sizes range from 1/16" to 1/2" wide.

B.

CLIPS & WEDGES
Use to easily level, align, space and hold large tiles.

C.

TILE CUTTING OPTIONS

After tiles have been set, you will have to cut and fit the remaining border and corner tiles.

Tile Cutters and Tile Saws

Both manual tile cutters or tile wet saws are used to cut tile. Manual cutters (see images D) offer dust-free cutting and do basic straight cuts of wall and floor tiles. Tile wet saws are used for larger projects, harder tile and where notch cuts are required. Make certain that you use a tile cutter or saw that will handle the tile size and thickness you are installing.

Follow the directions provided with the tile cutter or tile saw for proper results. *(NOTE: When using a tile saw, it is recommended that you use a blade that is designed for the type and hardness of the tile that you are cutting).*

Tile Cutter-Handheld

1. Score the tile to desired size with the built-in, free rolling scoring wheel. (see image E)
2. Place the scored tile line between the metal lower jaw and hard plastic upper jaw and apply pressure. Built-in stops will ensure that you will apply correct amount of pressure for correct results (see image E). A file may be needed to smooth any rough edges.
3. Use safety goggles to prevent injury while making cuts.

Tile Nipper Directions

1. When cutting shapes in tile, first make an outline on paper, cut out the shape or use a contour gauge and use it to trace the shape on to the tile with a china marker.
2. With the tile nipper (see image F), make small cuts or "nibbles" until desired shape is achieved. Use a glass tile nipper (see image G) when cutting shapes in glass tile or a compound nipper when cutting porcelain and other hard tiles. A Tile File may be needed to smooth any rough edges.
3. Use safety goggles to prevent injury while making cuts.

Drilling Holes in Tile

Special Diamond Rimmed Bits are used to drill holes into tile materials. A Diamond Drill Bit is used for smaller holes (see image H). For larger holes, a 1-3/8" Diamond Hole Saw is used (see image I). Both types include a drill guide and water cooling system for quicker, accurate cuts.

GROUTING

Let the adhesive or thinset cure per manufacturer's instructions before you begin grouting (Usually 24 to 48 hours). Mix the grout according to grout manufacturer's instructions.

NOTE: Remember to remove all spacers.

1. Mix a small amount of grout, using the grout manufacturer's instructions. Hold the float at a 45° angle and spread grout diagonally across the face of the tile and into the joints (see image J). Apply grout to approximately 25 ft^2 at a time. Be sure that the grout is forced into the joints so that they are completely filled with no voids or air pockets.
2. Wipe off the excess grout by drawing the edge of a float, holding it at a 45° angle, diagonally across. Remove as much excess grout from the tile as possible being careful not to remove grout from the joints.
3. Wait 15–20 minutes before cleaning. Soak the grouting sponge in clean water* (see image K) and wring it out thoroughly. Wipe the tiles diagonally, removing any remaining grout, while rinsing sponge often. Repeat until the joints are smooth and level with the tiles and the tiles are as clean as you can get them with the sponge. For best results repeat this step over the next two days to allow grout to cure slower and stronger.
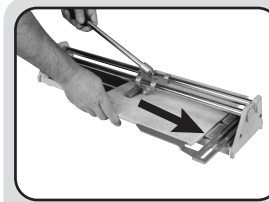
    Be sure not to over wet sponge when cleaning grout, it may pull color out of grout causing uneven coloration.

4. After the remaining grout has dried to a haze, polish it off with a Microfiber Grouting Cloth or cheesecloth.

CAUTION: Keep water off of newly grouted tiles for at least 48 hours.
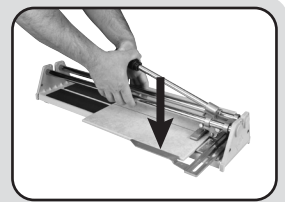
SEALING

It's best to seal your new grout lines to help prevent staining caused by foot traffic. Follow the grout manufacturers recommendation for the best results.

TILE CUTTER
For making large cuts, use a manual tile cutter.
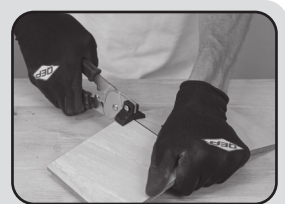Simply score and snap.

D.

TILE CUTTER- HANDHELD
For making smaller cuts, use a handheld tile cutter.
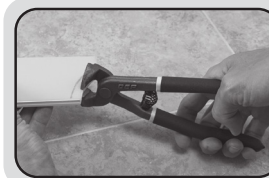Simply score and snap.

E.

TILE NIPPERS
Use Tile Nippers to cut smaller tile pieces, remove points from corners, fit pieces around fixtures, outlets and to make other irregular cuts.

F.

GLASS TILE NIPPERS
Use Glass Tile Nippers in a scissor action to trim glass tile to fit around pipes, cabinets and walls or cut glass mosaics.

G.

DRILLING
Use a Diamond Drill Bit for drilling holes in tile for hanging shelves, shower doors, cabinets, etc.

H.

DRILLING
Use a Diamond Hole Saw for drilling holes for pipes and shower heads.

I.

GROUT FLOAT
Use a Grout Float to push grout into joints between tiles.

J.

SPONGE
Using a Grout Sponge, diagonally wipe the tiles clean.

K.