

## Before you start

Inspect the work area and compare it to your plans or drawings, to make sure that you have the correct materials

Measure the work area.

Determine the surface area to be tiled in m<sup>2</sup>.

Determine the size and type of tiles to be used.

Determine the size of joints between tiles.

Determine up to where the laying of full tiles should go e.g. to the threshold of the door opening.

Ensure all surfaces to be tiled are level (Uneven floors can be skimmed or levelled with a self-levelling screed and walls can be evened out with plaster)

Make sure all surfaces are clean and free of dust and contamination.

Ensure all plaster and/or other cement has dried properly.

Cover all surfaces that are not to be tiled to protect them from damage and/ or dust.

## Check your tiles

Check all your tiles according to shade, code and production date. (found on the side panel of each box of tiles).

NOTE: Due to the organic nature of tiles, tiles from different batches may have a slight shade variance so it is best to MIX AND MATCH TILES BEFORE FIXING and to buy tiles from the same batch to minimise shade variances.

Tiles that vary too much can be put aside.

NOTE: Some tiles are designed to have a greater shade variance and each tile may differ. Consult the design advisor in-store before you make your purchase

## Planning



When measuring walls for tiling, keep in mind that few walls are actually true or perfectly square. Thus when measuring, do not depend on the corners for perfect vertical lines against which to align your tiles.

Determine where you are going to put the soap dish or any other special accessory tiles or towel rails and mark their location before you spread the adhesive and position them to minimise or even eliminate the need to cut any tiles that will go around them.

Measure the wall from side to side and mark the centre point. With your spirit level, draw a vertical line through this point. (fig. 1)

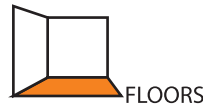
(fig. 1)

Next, measure the wall from top to bottom and mark the centre point. With your spirit level, draw a horizontal line through this point. (fig. 2)

You will now have 2 lines that will act as guides when you start tiling.

If you are tiling around a feature like a bath, worktop or window-sill, select the feature where alignment is most visible and adjust your horizontal reference line up or down to allow a row of uncut tiles above or below this feature.

NOTE: This line should run around the whole room - so plan well. Plan your tile layout by measuring along the horizontal reference line, from centre to end of wall. Mark the position of each tile as you go, including spacing for tile spacers.



To plan your floor layout, find the centre lines on your walls and take them down across the floor. The floor space will be divided into quarters. (fig. 3)

NOTE: When you are tiling the floor only, find the centre point of the floor first.

Starting at the centre mark, place a row of loose tiles along the centre reference lines. Remember to leave room for spacers as well as tile panel movement joints and perimeter joints. (fig. 4)

Cut tiles should be at least half a tile wide.

If cut tiles are too small, move the centre tile so the middle of the tile coincides with the centre mark on the floor. (fig. 5)

Repositioning the tiles will now ensure correct cuts.



BEFORE YOU START

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# Shopping list

We recommend you always use a professional to install your tiles for a professional finish. However, when you are on a tight budget it is not only rewarding, but cost saving as well to do it yourself. Make sure your planning is thorough in order to save not only money, but time and effort. It is always better to do things right the first time.

## You will need the following:

**General trowel:** Used for applying mortar, plaster and adhesive

**Wall trowel:** A notched trowel with 6mm notches that spreads the adhesive evenly on the walls.

**Floor trowel:** A notched trowel with 10mm notches that spreads the adhesive evenly on the floor.

**Tile spacers:** For consistent and even spacing of tiles (for 2mm, 3mm, 4mm, 5mm and 7mm grout lines).

**Tile cutter:** For cutting tiles. Straight cuts. Various types and sizes available.

**Tile files:** To smooth off the sharp edges on cut tiles.

**Tile nippers:** To shape awkward cuts and curves.

**Spirit level:** Handy level with ruler for accurate horizontal and vertical measurements.

**Tile markers:** To mark ceramic tiles prior to cutting and shaping.

**Rubber mallet:** Rubber type hammer to tap and bed the tiles firmly into the adhesive.

**Knee pads:** Provide a little comfort while doing all the hard work.

**Edge trim:** For finishing off the edge of tiles to create a professional finish. Available in different colours and finishes.

**Grout squeegee:** For easy application of grout to walls and floors.

**Grouting sponge:** Ideal for grout application and removal.

**Safety glasses:** Always protect your eyes - wear protective eyewear to avoid dust and fragments getting into your eyes.

**Adhesive:** Choose the correct adhesive for the chosen tile and type of application.

**Grout:** Available in different types and colours, according to tiles.

NOTE: Tile Africa stocks a great range of adhesives, grout and tools from TAL. We offer solutions for various applications in the DIY and contractors' markets.

# Preparation

## Preparation of walls

Allow all new wall and floor substrates to cure completely before tiling. The substrate must be dry and clean, free from all traces of contamination such as dust, dirt, waxes, oils, bitumen, old adhesives, paint, grease, weak cement screeds and renders, shutter release and curing agents, sealing compounds, etc. Flexible backgrounds such as boards and sheets must be thoroughly braced and primed correctly.

## Choose the right product

There are multi-purpose products that cover most situations but not all! When choosing a product you will need to take into consideration various factors including substrate type, type of tile and service conditions, e.g. internal, external, etc.

This will determine not just the adhesive you choose but also the primer additive, waterproofing membrane and grout. Ask our friendly staff at Tile Africa and we will be able to provide the correct information for your particular project.

## Wet areas & waterproofing

Shower enclosures, balconies and areas with high levels of moisture should always be sealed and waterproofed prior to tiling.

A common misconception is that if an area is tiled then it is waterproof. The fact is that tiles and grout do not provide an effective waterproof barrier. An effective waterproof barrier is one that is seamless and does not allow water to penetrate the substrate. Tell our well-trained staff exactly what your intended project is and we will provide the correct information and select the right product for you.

## Grouts and adhesives

We sell and recommend TAL grout and adhesives. These are available in various colours with complete instructions for mixing and application on the packs. Tile Africa staff will be happy to assist in recommending the right adhesive for your installation.

mark the wall for tiling

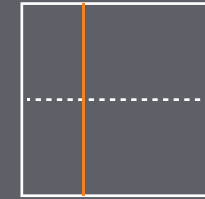


fig. 1

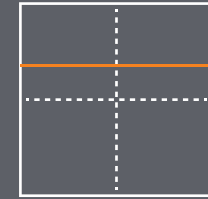


fig. 2

mark the floor for tiling

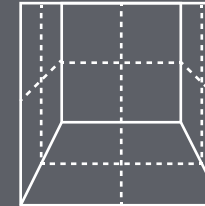
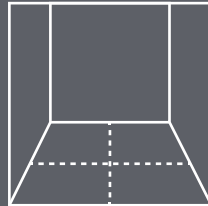


fig. 3



tile from the centre

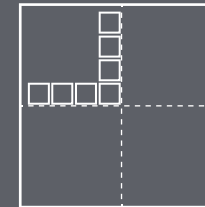


fig. 4

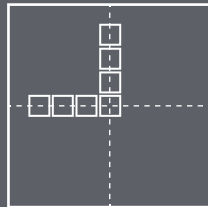


fig. 5