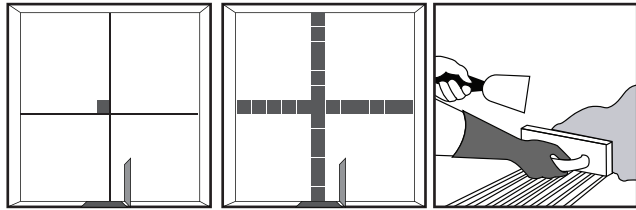


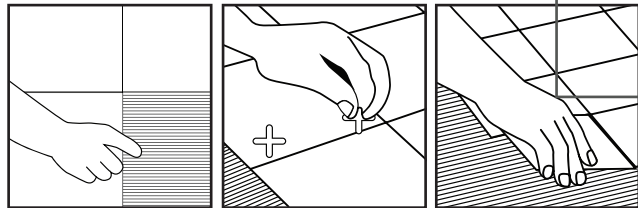
Laying floor tiles



Set out lines at right angles to doorway and centre of room. Tiles should start at the centre of the floor, working out to the walls.

Place a row of loose tiles along each line. Reposition the guide lines to avoid small cuts around the perimeter.

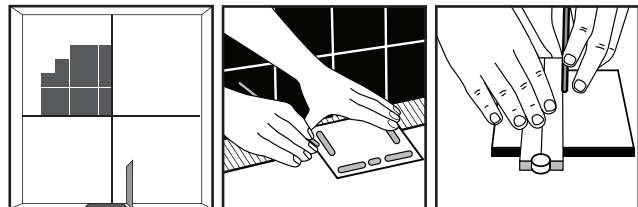
Starting at the centre of the room spread a m² of adhesive using a notched trowel and work to walls.



Start tiling at the centre of the floor, working out to the walls.

Use tile spacers to create even spacing between tiles. Remember to remove before grouting.

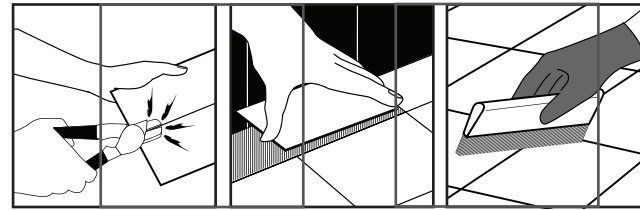
Lift the occasional tile to check for full coverage of adhesive on the back of the tile. No voids should occur underneath the tiles.



Tile out from the centre mark to the edges, keeping lines straight and spacing even. Leave cut tiles until last.

Put the tile to be cut upside down in the gap near the wall. Mark where to cut. Allow for spacing.

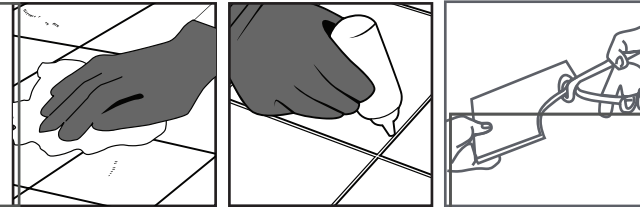
Score line with a tile cutter on the face of the tile.



Use a tile cutter to snap the tile on the scored line. Various sizes of tile cutters are available at Tile Africa.

Apply adhesive on the back of the tile and place against the wall. Press firmly into place.

Work grout well into the joints using a rubber squeegee.



Remove the excess grout with a damp sponge. Allow the grout to dry and then polish with a dry cloth.

After the grout has cured, use grout sealer over the grout joints.

To cut a curved shape in a tile, draw the shape first. Use tile nippers to cut small bits until the curve has been achieved.

Tips on cutting tiles

It is always best to leave the cut tiles for last - always lay all your full tiles before you lay the cut tiles. Rather measure twice, cut once. The detail is in the planning, and if you planned well, everything will work out perfectly.

To get the correct measure for the cut tile: Place a loose tile over the last full tile in the row (this is the tile you will be cutting). Place another tile on top, and slide it to touch the wall.

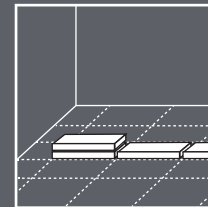


fig. 6

It will still overlap the first loose tile. Take into consideration the spacer width. Using the edge of the top tile as a guide, mark the middle tile with a line.

When you cut along this line, the piece of tile that stuck out will fit in the space against the wall. (fig. 6 & 7)

Use the tile cutter to cut a straight line. First score firmly along the marked line, then break the tile.

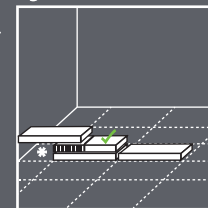


fig. 7



TILING #2

FLOOR TILES

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Tiling tips

Make sure you **have enough tiles** to finish the job before you start tiling as the same tile may not always be available. Check tiles before installation for size, colour and quality. No claims are recognised after fixing.

Plan your layout. Avoid small or narrow cuts wherever possible. Plan how one area may flow on from another. The first tile put down determines where every other tile will go.

Make sure you are tiling onto a **rigid surface that is flat, dry** and dust-free. Timber floors must be thoroughly braced and primed correctly.

Always **waterproof** showers, balconies and wet areas before you tile them. Tile installations do not act as a 100% moisture barrier. There is a good range of waterproofing materials available that are easy to apply and are compatible with tile adhesives.

Keep your receipts for future reference; they will have all the details if you ever need them in making future purchases.

Always **buy an extra 10%** to keep for future patching and replacement

Always work from multiple boxes of tiles to ensure a good **blend of shading** (mention this to your tiler, it's important). Colour variation is a natural feature of ceramic tiles and other fired products -enjoy it

Read instructions on all primers, adhesives, grouts, sealers and other items before starting. Ask your retailer questions if you have any doubts.

Clean any glue or grout off tiles BEFORE it dries. Change your cleaning water often so less residue is left.

Do not walk on the tiles until glue/grout has properly dried.

When using sealers and cleaners always **test a small area** first to determine the results. When using acids for cleaning surfaces and etching, keep pets well away until residue is thoroughly rinsed.

Setting out the job

The setting out of the tiles is one of the most important parts of the job. Set out from the centre and work out towards the edges of the room. This will compensate for walls that may not be square and make the job look more balanced. Find the centre of the room and then lay a row out in each direction to help determine where to place the tiles from the centre point that will give you the most even border and the largest cut tiles when you reach the walls. Try to avoid small or narrow pieces whenever possible.

If you are laying a border tile first, find the centre of each edge. Then either centre a border tile or a grout joint on the centre line to see which will give you the best layout when you reach the corner of the room.

Laying a $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ plain tile around the perimeter and then the patterned border before filling in the central area with plain tiles on the diagonal means your border and your tiles do not have to be the same size. Tiles laid diagonally will generally use 5% more tiles than tiles laid square to the room.

Don't forget to allow space for grout joints as well as tile panel movement joints and perimeter joints. For grout joints you would allow approximately 5mm between ceramic floor tiles, 3mm between porcelain, marble and granite tiles and 6mm between extruded tiles.

For handmade terracotta, slate or irregular-sized tiles, it is a good idea to allow for a joint at least 3-5 times the variation in the size of the tiles. You don't want to have a 5mm joint in one place and nothing in another.

Tile panel movement joints and perimeter joints should be a minimum of 5mm wide. Movement joints should be located in both directions at maximum 5-metre centres in both directions for interior surface bed applications, and maximum 3-metre centres for suspended or exterior applications.

As a buying guide, work out the nett area and then add 10% extra tiles for square laying and 15% extra for diagonal laying. This should give you enough tiles for cutting and some spares. The waste percentage may vary if your room has lots of odd angles or is an unusual shape.

