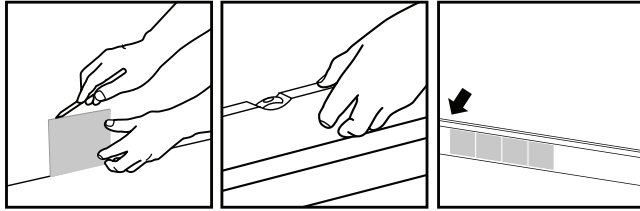


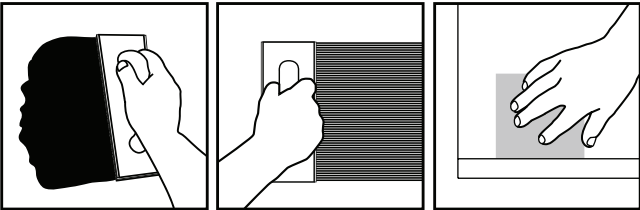
## Fixing wall tiles



Find the lowest point on the floor line and mark the wall one tile high from the floor at this point.

Nail a batten with a straight edge to the wall so that the top of the batten coincides with the mark. Ensure that the batten is horizontal using a spirit level.

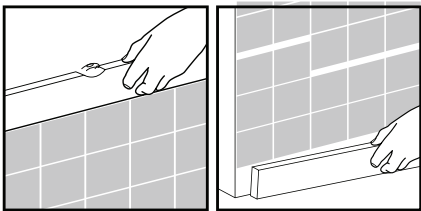
Set out a row of tiles across the wall and adjust so that equal cuts can be made in the corners. Mark the batten where the first tile needs to go.



Use the straight edge of a notched trowel to spread tile adhesive evenly on the wall.

Notch the adhesive with the appropriate notched trowel in a horizontal direction. Do not spread more adhesive than can be tiled in approx. 15 minutes.

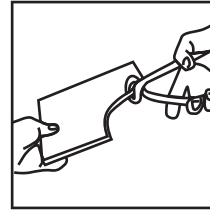
Start tiling from the mark on the batten, placing tiles horizontally. Use tile spacers to ensure even joints between tiles. Remove before grouting.



Check tiling regularly with a spirit level to ensure the tiling is straight. Ensure that good contact with the adhesive is made.

After the adhesive has set, remove batten and fill in bottom row. Allow adhesive to dry before grouting.

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



## Tips

Avoid narrow strips – less than 25mm wide is very difficult to cut. It might be best to replan rows to use one less whole tile with two wider cut pieces at each end. Or increase grouting spaces slightly.

Around pipes, cut tile in two along a line where it meets the pipe's centre. Hold cut pieces to pipe and mark semi-circles to match pipe size. Score lines and nip away waste.

Where basins, baths or sinks meet tiles, seal the joint with a flexible joint sealant.

For large areas, use a rubber float to push grout between tiles. Work upwards and across. Remove diagonally.

Wipe excess grout clean as you work to prevent it setting hard.

Once you have tiled wet areas like showers and kitchens, use a grout sealer to avoid stains and mould forming on the grout.

In corners, cut tiles to fit, measuring each tile individually to allow for variation in the walls and for a fine line of grout. Place the cut edge into the corner leaving the uncut edge on show.



 TILING # 3

WALL TILES

 TILEAFRICA  
OUR HOME IS YOUR HOME

## Wall tiles

Wall tiles are the most durable and long-lasting of all common wall coverings and are ideal for wet areas or rooms. They are easy to clean, and even grout between the tiles can be restored using simple low-cost products.

Tile Africa stocks a wide range of wall tiles in many sizes and colours, plus a range of décor items such as mosaics to complement the tile ranges. Remember that floor tiles can also be used on walls (but not vice-versa).

## Preparation

### Preparation of walls

Walls must be level, firm and rigid. Make sure the surface to be tiled is clean and free from dust, oil, grease, wallpaper and flaking paint, 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 for the correct information for your particular project.

### Wet areas & waterproofing

Shower enclosures and areas with high levels of moisture should always be sealed and waterproofed.

Ask our friendly staff about the best waterproofing membrane best suited for your project.

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.

### Grout and adhesives

We sell and recommend TAL grout and adhesives. The grout is available in different colours, full instructions for mixing and application are on the packs.

Tile Africa staff will be happy to assist in recommending the right adhesive for your installation.

## Before you start

### Level base

It is most important to select a level base for tiling. If tiling is to commence at floor level then nail or screw a batten horizontally, with its straight edge uppermost, one tile width above the lowest point of the wall. Use a spirit level to make sure the batten is level.

### True vertical

At the centre of the wall to be tiled establish a true vertical line with the aid of a plumbline or spirit level and mark this point on the wall. Place a row of tiles against the horizontal batten allowing for the grout line between tiles and make adjustments so that equal cuts in the tiling are made in the corners. The vertical line is then readjusted to the centre.

**Half cuts and bigger** - the set-out is correct. Less than half cuts - the set-out needs adjustment. 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.

### Grouting

Wait until the adhesive has set (usually within 24hrs) before grouting. Mix the grout as per the instructions on the packet. Work the mixture thoroughly into all joints with a rubber squeegee in diagonal motions rather than vertical or horizontal.

Wash off excessive grout with a minimum amount of water and a soft sponge. If you have used a latex additive in your grout, make sure that you clean up properly before the grout dries, then wipe off with a dry cloth. After grouting has been completed and the grout has cured (about 48 hours), grout can be sealed using a Grout Sealer. **DO NOT USE ACIDS TO CLEAN TILES OR GROUT LINES.**

### Flexible joints

It is advisable to use a flexible joint sealant where tiles butt against other materials e.g. toilets, basins, floor or wall junctions and corners. This is because there will always be movement or vibration at these points and the flexible joint will allow for this.

