

Suggested installation procedure for D&W Ceramics tile.

In any case where this suggested installation procedure might conflict with current ANSI standards. The ANSI standard should take precedence. These standards are available for purchase through TCNA and ANSI.

Surface preparation.

All framing or structure over which tile is to be installed should be square, plumb, and as flat as possible. Utilizing an approved backerboard or substrate material, the material should be free of loose debris, grease, oil, or other substances that would prevent proper adhesion. The substrate or backerboards should be securely affixed in accordance with the manufactures instructions. If installing in a wet location and the area behind the backerboard / substrate needs to be kept dry a waterproofing crack prevention membrane should be applied prior to tile installation.

Layout.

For an efficient layout, start by marking the center point of each of the walls in the room. Next, snap chalk lines between the center points of opposite walls to pinpoint the center of the room. Make any necessary adjustments to ensure that the intersection creates perfect squares.

Starting at the center point, lay a row of loose tiles along the center lines in both directions, using tile spacers as you go to for even, uniform joints. Once you reach the walls, you'll need to cut tiles for a proper fit. If the cuts needed are smaller than half of a tile, you can adjust the center line by snapping a new line a half-tile size closer to the wall. If necessary, repeat this step along the intersecting center line for a precise design.

To make a large room more manageable, divide each section into smaller 2' x 3' grids by snapping additional lines parallel to the centerlines.

Adhesive.

As a general rule of thumb, be mindful to mix only enough of the adhesive to be used within 30 minutes. Using the flat side of the trowel type recommended on the adhesive package, spread a 1/4" coat on the surface of one grid area without covering the guidelines.

After doing so, hold the trowel at a 45-degree angle and use the notched side to comb adhesive into standing ridges. When you remove the excess adhesive, you leave behind a uniform, ridged setting bed for your tile. As another rule of thumb, do not spread a larger area of your adhesive than can be set in 15 minutes.

Setting tile.

Begin by installing tiles in the center of the room, one grid at a time, finishing each grid before moving to the next. Within each grid, it will help to start with the first tile in the corner and work outward.

Using a slight twisting motion, set tiles one at a time and avoid sliding them into place. Be sure to either insert spacers as each tile is set or leave equal joints between tiles. Save the perimeter tiles in each grid for last, leaving the ANSI recommended gap between the tile and wall.

Lastly, allow your hard work at least 24 hours to set before walking on it.

Grouting tile.

After carefully reading and following all instructions and precautions on the grout package, make only enough to use in a 30-minute period. Remove the tile spacers and spread grout on the tile surface, use a rubber grout float to force it down into the joints.

Tilt the float at a 45-degree angle and with the edge of the float, remove the excess grout from the surface immediately. Now tilt the float at a 90-degree angle and scrape it diagonally across the tiles.

Once you've let the grout set slightly for around 15 to 20 minutes, use a damp sponge to clean any residue from the surface and smooth the grout joints. Make sure to rinse your sponge frequently and change the water when needed. Polish with a soft cloth when the grout has dried and haze forms on the tile surface. Give your newly grouted floor 72 hours before any heavy use and at least three weeks before applying sealers or polishes.