



GLASS INSTALLATION & SPECIFICATIONS

MATERIAL INSPECTION:

The acceptability of the product must be done by the responsible party prior to installation. Un-mounted tile you should verify color acceptability prior to installation. Inspect and compare to one another on a white background.

No adjustments will be made after installation.

SUBSTRATE:

Glass tile should be installed over a **clean, sound, and flat concrete substrate**, with a steel trowel and a fine broom finish, free of contaminants including curing compounds.

Substrate should be free of cracks and in water areas should be waterproof. If necessary, use the installation material manufacturer's membrane for crack and water protection.

Glass tile is reflective product; and inconsistencies in your substrate will show up after the tile is installed.

Approved surfaces for setting:

- Fully cured concrete substrate
- Properly installed cement backer board
- Gypsum Board-ASTM C1396/C1396M/Dry Areas Only

SETTING MATERIALS:

To avoid adversely affecting the color of glass tile, a consistently white thin-set mortar, modified with polymer or latex is required for installation.

INSTALLATION OF TILE

- Glass tile must have a minimum 1/16" grout joint and should not be butt set.
- Wipe the back of the tile and substrate clean with a clean damp sponge. This will help achieve 100% mortar coverage.
- The thin-set adhesive should first be applied to the surface to be tiled. With the flat side of trowel using scraping motion, work the adhesive into good contact with the surface to be covered. Then, a second time, go back with more setting material using the notched side of the trowel to achieve an even depth setting bed, and finally once more lightly through with the flat side of the trowel to smooth out the linear notched grooves. Only apply as much adhesive as can be covered within 10-15 minutes, or while the adhesive surface is still wet and tacky.
- A trowel having v-notches approximately 3/16" is recommended; held at a 45-degree angle to the substrate, when combing through the setting material as discussed above.
- To insure adequate coverage and full contact to the tile it is recommended to lightly back butter the tile with a thin continuous layer of mortar. Taking care not to scratch the glass surface with the trowel. Back buttering is required for semi-transparent glass tile exceeding a 2"x2" dimension. Glass tile shall then be set in place and tapped gently with a grouting float to insure 100% full bedding and a true surface. Tile shall be aligned to show uniform joints and then allowed to set until

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firm before grouting (See drying time below). Please remember glass tile is semi-transparent and may take long than the usual method.

- Any thin-set mortar that has pushed up into the joints must be removed. Scraping the joint with a wooden shim (the width of the grout joint) will work best and won't damage the glass.

Drying Time:

Glass tiles are non-absorbing; the moisture in the setting materials cannot migrate into the glass, it must evaporate slowly through the grout joints. This process requires a longer cure time. Allow the mortar to dry at least 36 to 48 hours before grouting.

Grout selection & Grout color:

We suggest using non-sanded grout. It's important to use a non-sanded grout with glass tiles, as sanded grouts can potentially scratch the glass surface. This grout should only be used with grout lines between 1/16" - 1/8" (1.5 mm - 3 mm). If you are considering larger than 1/8" grout lines with your subway tiles consider using a sanded grout. However, we must caution you do run the risk of scratching the glass. We recommend playing it safe and avoiding the larger grout line

Grout color plays a major role in the final appearance of any glass mosaic or glass tile job and should be selected carefully.

Cutting Glass Tile:

Always wear eye protection when cutting, drilling or grinding glass tile.

Small format glass tile are best cut with specialty glass mosaic tile cutters/clippers (score and snap), and larger sizes such as 3x8, 3x12 etc. are best cut with a wet saw.

When cutting glass tile, use a diamond blade designed for cutting glass on a wet saw. A blade for cutting glass has smaller diamonds than a tile blade, has a continuous rim and runs at a slower speed. To maintain consistent smooth cuts and before the cuts become coarse, re-dress the diamond blade with an abrasive dressing stone, or replace the blade. ***A blade designed for cutting ceramic tiles is coarse and will chip glass.***

When cutting glass on the saw, place the glass with the smooth surface down, and avoid stress to the last portion of the cut by cutting slowly and by pushing the glass with a scrap piece of wood placed across the entire rear surface of the glass.

Cut edges are very sharp and should be smoothed with carbide paper or a "white stone" available at tile dealers.

Drilling holes:

If possible, drill holes before installing the tile and drill from both sides. Use a diamond tipped core bit with a low speed drill. To avoid stress transfer from anchor and/or bolt to the tile keep the hole at least 1/8" larger than need; otherwise this stress may cause cracks and/or chips.