Installation of
COUNTERTOP & WALL TILE

Photo features LuxeCraft™
Charm 3 in. x 6 in. Wall Tile

REQUIRED TOOLS

- ☐ Chalk Line
- ☐ Tape Measure
- ☐ Tile Cutter (if cutting is necessary)
- ☐ Tile Spacers
- ☐ Mixing Paddle
- ☐ Notched Trowel
- ☐ 5-Gallon Bucket
- ☐ Rubber Mallet
- ☐ Rubber Grout Float
- ☐ Sponge

1 STEP 1: SURFACE PREPARATION

- Tile may be installed over most structurally sound substrates.

- First, you will need to clean the surface that you plan to tile, ensuring that the area is smooth, dry, and free of wax, soap scum, and grease.

- Any damaged, loose or uneven areas must be repaired, patched and leveled.

- You must make sure to remove any items that may interfere with installation such as moldings, trim, electrical covers, and appliances.

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2 STEP 2: WALL LAYOUT

NOTE: Please skip to step 2.1 if you are installing on a countertop.

- Start by measuring the square footage of the wall you are planning to tile, making sure to take into account any switches and outlets.

- Find the center point of the wall, using a level to draw a plumb line in the wall's center.

- Lay out a row of loose tiles across the bottom of the wall from the center line, leaving uniform joints between tiles.

- Once you have this initial row of loose tiles laid out, measure to determine what cuts need to be made so that all tiles fit into the working area.

   NOTE: Tiles can be butted together leaving a consistent 1/16 in. joint automatically.

2.1 STEP 2.1: COUNTERTOP LAYOUT

- Begin by installing your counter trim. Next, set a line of full tiles from that first row, working back so that all cut tiles will be placed along the back row against the wall.

   NOTE: Trim pieces are available for use around recessed appliances.

- Snap parallel chalk lines on the substrate as needed to keep rows straight.

   NOTE: Tile countertops should have a tile backsplash at least 4 in. high for protection.

   TIP: For backsplashes, align joints with the countertop tile.

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3 STEP 3: CUTTING

- It is recommended to use a diamond blade, as blades designed for ceramic tile will chip the stone and/or glass.

  NOTE: Cut edges should be placed in corners where they can be hidden.

4 STEP 4: DRILLING

- If drilling a hole in the tile is necessary, it is recommended to use a drill bit that is specially designed for glass, metal and stone.

  NOTE: The tile must be securely clamped into place to prevent movement of the tile during the drilling process.

- When drilling the hole, keep the bit and hole lubricated to prevent chipping.

- Drill from both sides of the tile, starting with the back and drilling half of the depth of the tile.

- Turn the tile over and complete the hole. This will prevent the glass, metal and stone from chipping as the drill bit exits the tile.

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5 STEP 5: INSTALLATION

- It is recommended to use a white thin-set mortar with a flexible acrylic additive or a white polymer fortified thin-set mortar.

- Apply this mixture with the manufacturer's recommendations of a notch trowel (typically 3/16 in. x 3/16 in. V-notch).

- Knock down the trowel ridges with the flat edge of the trowel to produce an even layer of the thin-set mortar.

- Spread only enough thin-set to install a few sheets at a time. Back-butter each sheet with the flat edge of the trowel. Be sure to achieve full coverage on the back of the tile.

- Carefully press into the thin-set, leaving even spaces in between tiles. A grout float can be used to tap the tiles into place. Allow for movement joints where the tiles abut restraining surfaces and around the perimeter of the installation.

  NOTE: We recommend allowing a 1/8 in. joint between tiles.

- If stone, seal prior to grouting.

  NOTE: For more information on proper sealants, please reference Step 8.

6 STEP 6: GROUTING

NOTE: If you are installing a natural stone wall tile, please make sure to seal the wall tile before and after grouting. You can reference Step 8 for more information on proper sealants.

- Using the instructions on the package, make enough grout to use in about 30 minutes.

- Remove tile spacers and spread grout on the tile surface, forcing it down into the joints.

- Tilt the float at a 45° angle and remove excess grout from surface immediately with the edge of float.

- Tilt it at a 90° angle and scrape it diagonally across the tiles.

- Wait 15–20 minutes for the grout to set slightly, then use a damp sponge to clean excess grout from the surface and smooth the grout joints, rinsing the sponge often. Be careful so as not to wipe grout out of the grout joints.

- Let the tile dry until the grout is hard and a haze begins to form on the tile surface. Finally, polish with a soft cloth, and wait 72 hours for heavy use.

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7 STEP 7: CLEANING

- The complete removal of grout and construction dirt after products have been installed will improve daily maintenance.

- Clean successfully by scrubbing the installation with hot water and a pH neutral liquid cleaner (soapless), followed by a thorough rinsing. Finally, remove the rinse water with a wet vacuum or dry toweling.

- If some residue remains, futher cleaning will need to be done in consultation with the grout manufacturer.

- For more aggressive cleaning, scrubbing machines equipped with nylon pads or brushes should be used. Wet vacuuming of the suspended dirt and grout is recommended.

  NOTE: Natural stones may darken when wet or when in contact with humidity.

8 STEP 8: SEALING (STONE TILE ONLY)

- Penetrating/impregnating stone sealers are a no-sheen, natural-look sealer that can be water-based or solvent-based.

- A premium, natural-look, penetrating impregnating sealer is the best choice when you are wanting to maintain the natural color of the stone. A stone enhancer sealer is often used when a darker, enriched, or highlighted character is desired.

- Make sure the brand you have chosen is formulated to provide maximum stain protection for stone products.

- Stone products should be tested periodically to ensure that the sealer is working effectively.

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(A) GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Back-butter is the spreading of a bond coat to the back of a tile before placing the tile to ensure a strong bond with the thin-set mortar.

Balanced cuts are perimeter tile cuts of equal size that are installed on opposite sides of the working area or on either side of a miter.

A **butt joint** is the thin joint created when tiles are installed side by side without the use of spacers or gout.

The **grout** is a mix used for filling tile joints-most commonly created from a cement base.

The **mortar** is a mixture of cement paste and fine aggregate used to bond masonry together.

Plumb means perpendicular to true level.

The **substrate** is the underlying support or base of the tile installation.

(B) LEGAL

ATTENTION / ATENCIÓN / ATTENTION

Do not dry cut using motorized equipment due to the potential for exposure to harmful silica dust. Use a wet saw or a score and snap tool when cutting is necessary during the installation process.

No corte en seco usando equipo motorizado debido a la posibilidad de exposición a polvo dañino de sílice. En caso de que sea necesario cortar durante el proceso de instalación, usar una sierra de corte en húmedo o una herramienta cortadora manual.

Ne pas couper à sec à l'aide d'un équipement motorisé en raison du risque d'exposition à la poussière de silice nuisible. Utiliser une scie à eau ou un outil à inciser et rompre lorsqu'il faut couper pendant le processus d'installation.

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