Installation of
FLOOR & LARGE FORMAT TILE

Photo features Rapport™
Panda Marble 12 in. x 24 in. Floor & 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: LAYOUT

- Map out your installation.

- Measure to find the center point of all four walls, and use these points to snap a chalk line across the room in both directions, creating two perpendicular lines.

- Using tile spacers, lay out a row of loose tiles along the center lines in both directions. Leave space for uniform joints.

  TIP: The goal is to work with as many full tiles as possible.

- Divide the room into smaller grids (approx. 2 ft. x 3 ft.) by snapping additional lines parallel to the center line.

3 — STEP 3: CUTTING TILE

- Carefully measure the tiles and mark your cuts with a pencil or felt-tip pen.

- Make straight or diagonal cuts with a tile cutter, curved cuts with a nipper (chipping away small pieces for best results), and full-length curved cuts with a rod saw. Smooth out sharp-cut edges with a carborundum stone.

  NOTE: If you choose to use a tile saw, it is recommended that you use a wet saw to prevent possible exposure to harmful silica dust.

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

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4 STEP 4: APPLYING ADHESIVE

- Mix only enough adhesive or mortar to be used within 30 minutes.

- Refer to the packaging on your adhesive to determine the type of trowel needed for your project. Spread a 1/4 in. coat on the surface of one grid area using the flat side of the trowel.

  NOTE: Do not cover guidelines or a larger area than can be set in 15 minutes.

- While holding the trowel at a 45° angle, use the notched edge to comb the adhesive into standing ridges.

- Remove excess adhesive, leaving a uniform, ridged setting bed.

- For large format tiles, butter the backside of the tile to ensure proper full coverage. Use a medium bed mortar for tiles with a dimensional length greater than 15 inches on any one side.

  NOTE: 90% mortar coverage is recommended.

5 STEP 5: SETTING TILE

- It is recommended that you divide your floor into grids and work from the center out, completing one grid at a time. Set tiles using a slight twisting motion.

  NOTE: Do not slide tiles into place.

- Insert tile spacers, as each tile is set, or leave equal joints between tiles.

- Set your perimeter tiles in place last, leaving a 1/4 in. gap between the tile and the wall.

- Once you have finished setting all tiles in your grid, tap the tiles into place with a rubber mallet or hammer and wood block to ensure a good bond and a level plane.

- Remove excess adhesive from joints with a putty knife or scrub any excess off the tile surface with a damp sponge.

- Do not walk on the tiles until they are set (usually in 24 hours).

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6 STEP 6: GROUTING JOINTS

- Following the instructions on the packaging, make just enough grout to last you for approximately 30 minutes.

- Remove the spacers and begin spreading the grout across the tile surface, forcing it down into the joints with a rubber grout float or squeegee.

- Tilt the float at a 45° angle and move the edge along the surface of the tile to remove any excess grout.

- After waiting 15-20 minutes for the grout to set, use a damp sponge to clean the residue from the surface of the tile.

- After the tile has set long enough for the grout to harden and a haze to form on the top of the tile, use a soft cloth to remove the haze. Wait 72 hours for heavy use.

  NOTE: Make sure to wait three weeks before applying sealers or polishes. If you do intend to use a sealer or polish, please reference the manufacturer's application recommendations.

7 STEP 7: CLEANING

- A thorough cleaning is recommended after the installation is complete to remove all grout residue and construction dirt from the surface.

- Start out by scrubbing the surface of the tile with hot water and a pH neutral liquid cleaner (soapless).

- After scrubbing, make sure to rinse the tile thoroughly with water and remove the excess water with a wet vacuum or a dry towel.

- If any additional residue remains on the surface of the tile, you can consult with the grout manufacturer to take further action.

  NOTE: If a more aggressive cleaning approach is needed, you can use a floor scrubbing machine equipped with nylon pads or brushes.

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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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