

GLASS MIRROR MOSAIC AND TILE INSTALLATION GUIDE

Note

This is intended as a general guide only and is not comprehensive. Some installations require different or more detailed specifications. Please consult a professional tiler, architect or the technical department of your adhesive company to ensure this guide is applicable to your particular circumstances.

Product

Please fully read this guide and inspect each pack carefully prior to installation. Ensure product quality, colour and shading are acceptable. The installer or end user is responsible for determining if the shade and mix is acceptable. Use of product constitutes full acceptance.

Due to the handmade nature of our products a certain amount of variation in colour, shade, tone and size is to be expected and as such do not constitute grounds for return.

Suitability

The products enclosed are not suitable for areas subject to water immersion i.e. swimming pools etc.

Glass products may be installed in areas not subject to high abrasion, mechanical or thermal shock.

Care should be taken when handling mirror glass as edges can be very sharp.

General

The performance of any adhesive depends on the dimensional stability and structural soundness of the tiling substrate. All substrates should be clean, dry, fully cured and free from any contaminants including curing compounds. As glass is a reflective product, any surface inconsistencies will show after the product is installed. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's guide on substrate preparation.

Adhesives and Grouts

The mirror backing on mirror glass can be affected by the alkalinity of cement adhesives. Adhesive manufacturers recommend the use of a fast setting white, flexible polymer modified thin set adhesive that is hydroscopic and suitable for glass mirror tile installation. Mastic type adhesives should NOT be used. Epoxy adhesive will adhere to non-porous glass and is water proof but will not allow for thermal expansion in the product. Adhesive should be applied strictly within the adhesive manufacturer's installation specifications using a notched trowel (typically a 6mm notch trowel). The back of the tile must be clean prior to installation.

The adhesive should be applied first to the surface to be tiled. Only apply enough adhesive that can be covered within 10 minutes or while the adhesive remains wet and tacky. The glass mosaic tiles should be set in place mesh side down and gently tapped to ensure 100% full bedded adhesive contact to avoid voids or trowel marks in the back of the tile. Back buttering the glass product may be necessary. Clean excess adhesive from the surface with a damp sponge before it dries.

Grout colour plays an important role in the final appearance of glass mosaic. Contrasting colours will frame each glass piece. Grout that matches or coordinates will provide an overall smoother appearance. Avoid using sanded grout to prevent possible scratching during installation. Use a suitable epoxy grout or a fast setting flexible polymer modified grout that is suited to glass tile installation. If in doubt contact your adhesive company for recommendations.

Expansion and Control Joints

Existing joints in the substrate should be carried through the tile work. Expansion joints should be installed at all “changes of plane” and where the tile abuts a restraining surface.

Cutting and Drilling

Eye protection and gloves should always be worn when cutting, drilling or grinding glass tiles. Glass tiles can be cut with a ceramic tile cutter, glass cutter, or wet diamond saw equipped with a continuous rim blade. Smooth any rough edges with sand paper or sanding stone. For round holes, drill the back of the tile with a water cooled diamond drill bit and finish the hole from the front to prevent chipping.

Cleaning and Maintenance

Maintain glass tile similar to ceramic products, i.e. avoid abrasive cleaners which may permanently scratch or damage the glass tile. Care should be taken when cleaning to avoid sharp edges and corners. Mirror glass should not be used in areas subject to any heavy impact.