3 Steps to a Beautiful Tile Surface!

1. Prepare the surface
2. Set the tile
3. Grout and caulk

Tools You May Need:
- Shovel
- Trowel
- Rubber Band
- Pencil
- Grout Float
- Rubber Brick
- Notched Trowel
- 1/2 in. Drill
- Grout Sponge

3. Grout and caulk

1. Grout and Caulk before you start
- Follow the instructions recommended by the manufacturer—make sure you order the correct color and type of grout and caulking.
- The type of grout you select must be appropriate for the job.
- Caulk at wall intersections, around tub, fiberglass or acrylic showers.

Fiber reinforced water resistant gypsum backerboard
- Glass mat water resistant gypsum backerboard
- Fiber cement backerboard

1. Prepare the Surface
- Lay out one vertical row and one horizontal row in a “square” to make sure they are square.
- After the waterproofing membrane has dried, find the area center point and use a straight edge to check the intersection of the horizontal and vertical center lines, allowing for grout lines up to 1/2 in. wide for floor tile. Do the same if your tiles are 1/8 in. This is called a story pole.

1. Choose your setting materials:
- TEC® Skill Set™ Glass Tile Mortar.
- Both of these solutions come in a wide array of designer colors and are recommended. Tile should be clean and dry.
- Place a second loose tile over the first and align it with the last full tile (see picture 2).

2. Set the Tile

2. Apply the Mortar and Install the Tile
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for cutting glass tile. The tools and techniques may be different than the instructions in this guide.
- Make sure tiles are firmly set before grouting.

2. Special Instructions for Glass Tile Installations
- Apply the grout to the joints first, then to the joints and to the mortar bed. Allow to cure for at least 24 hours before grouting.

2. Grout and Caulk
- Caution: If adhesive or thin-set oozes from joints, remove it from the joint using a tile spacer. Follow the instruction’s recommended drying time—make sure mortar is dry and tile is grouted. Instead, use caulk (see Caulking Section).

1. Install Sheet Tile:
- If tiling a tub surround, find the lowest point of the tub line and measure up from the floor to the desired height of the tile (see picture 4).
- If the mortar or adhesive starts to “skin-over” on the surface before you lay the tile on it, scrape it off and complete one quarter first before going to the next. If the mortar or adhesive is not correct, do not lay the tile on it.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR GLASS TILE INSTALLATIONS:
- For straight cuts, use a tile cutter. "Polish" the edges with a grout float.
- SPECIAL GROUTING TIPS:
- For a second clean up, use the sponge to wipe the surface diagonally first, then parallel to the grout joints. Grout should be firm, not soft. If there is grout haze and tool the joints.
- For a third clean up, use the sponge to wipe the surface horizontally, then vertically, then horizontally again. Grout should be firm, not soft. If there is grout haze and tool the joints.

Caulking Section:
- “Wait” No.1° If grout is not completely adhered to the substrate, wait 24 hours before grouting.
- “Wait” No.2° If grout is not completely adhered to the substrate, wait 24 hours before grouting.

1. Special Instructions for Glass Tile Installations
- The TEC® Skill Set™ Glass Tile Mortar is a non-sag, low-temperature cure thin-set for glass tile. TEC® Skill Set™ Glass Tile Mortar.

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2. Caulking
- Caulk at wall intersections, around tub, fiberglass or acrylic showers. Due to variations in wall runs, each shower wall will require a unique caulking plan. Refer to TCNA handbook for shower wall installation.

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3. Caulking
- Use grout floats to apply grout to the joints before grouting. Grout floats are available in a variety of sizes and shapes, and are designed to apply grout to the joints of tiles. Can be circular motion or brush pattern, and should be used after the mortar has cured and before the grout is "skinned over." Grout floats are made of foam or metal and are available in a variety of sizes and shapes, and are designed to apply grout to the joints of tiles. Can be circular motion or brush pattern, and should be used after the mortar has cured and before the grout is "skinned over." Grout floats are made of foam or metal and are available in a variety of sizes and shapes, and are designed to apply grout to the joints of tiles. Can be circular motion or brush pattern, and should be used after the mortar has cured and before the grout is "skinned over."
Tools You May Need:

- Chalk Line Tool
- Level
- Trowel
- Spreader
- Notched Trowel
- Paper Towels
- Gloves
- Latex Gloves
- Electrical Sander
- Rubber Gloves
- PVA Primer
- Notched Trowel
- Wood
- Fiberglass Mesh Tape
- 3M Scotch Tape
- Stud Finder
- 2" Wide Flathead Screwdriver
- 2" Wide Phillips Head Screwdriver
- Measuring Tape
- 1/2" x 60" Chalk Line
- 1/8" x 60" Chalk Line
- 1/2" Checkered Latex Tape
- Pen Knives
- Liquid Leveler
- 8" Squeegee
- Choir Pitcher
- Adhesive Remover
- Razor Blade
- Paper Towels
- Spreader

Choose your setting materials:

- **TEC® Skill Set™** offers options for a wide variety of tile types including porcelains, marbles, and grays.
- Select the mortar (thin-set) that corresponds with your tile type.
- **H.B. Fuller Construction Products Inc.** provides a wide range of mortars that are perfect for your project.
- **Tub Surrounds** can be installed with a variety of different mortars, depending on the specific requirements of your project.

1. Prepare the Surface

   - Ensure the area to be tiled is clean and dry before beginning the installation process.
   - For smooth surfaces like countertops, use a handheld sander to achieve the desired level of smoothness.

2. Set the Tile

   - Lay the tiles against a straight-edge to ensure the desired level of alignment.
   - Measure and mark the center of the room, and use a chalk line to transfer the lines to the walls.

3. Grout & Caulk

   - Grouting is the process of filling the gaps between tiles with grout and smoothing it out with a grout float.
   - Caulking involves sealing gaps between tiles and the walls or shower base.

4. Finalating

   - Use a sander to smooth out the grout and grout float.
   - For extra smoothness, use a hand sander or sanding block.

5. Final Applying

   - Use a grout float to smooth out the grout and ensure it is level.
   - For extra smoothing, use a hand sander or sanding block.

Special Instructions for Glass Tile Installations

- Glass tile requires special handling and installation techniques due to its fragility.
- Always wear protective gloves when handling glass tile.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cutting glass tile.
- Use a wet saw to cut glass tile, and always handle it carefully.

Product Selection:

- **TEC® Skill Set™** offers a variety of mortars and thin-set materials for glass tile installations.
- Select the mortar (thin-set) that corresponds to the size of the glass tile.

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Caulking & Adhesive

- Use a high-quality, waterproof caulk to seal gaps between tiles and the walls or shower base.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and curing time.

Cleaning & Maintenance

- Regular cleaning and maintenance are essential to maintaining the beauty and longevity of your glass tile installation.
- Use a mild, non-abrasive cleaner to avoid damaging the surface of the glass tile.
- Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive tools that could scratch or damage the glass tile.
1. Prepare the Surface

- Pour enough water-resistant cementitious thin-set mortar into the area to be tilled to cover the entire floor.
- Smooth out the uniform setting bed with the flat edge of the trowel. Tilt the spreader to remove excess mortar so the final bed is 1/8” to 1/4” thick.
- Align tiles with the string line and hammer them in place. The first row of tiles should be centered on the area to be tilled.
- Continue placing tiles on top of the string line until the area is covered. Do not overlap tiles and ensure that the grout line is consistent across the entire surface.
- Once the area is completely covered with tiles, allow 24 hours for the mortar to cure before proceeding.

2. Set the Tile

- Mark the center of the wall and the floor where the tiles will be installed.
- Use a level to ensure that the tiles are straight and aligned correctly.
- Carefully place each tile into position, making sure that it is flush with the surrounding tiles.
- Use a level and a straight edge to check the alignment of the tiles, and make any necessary adjustments.
- Once the tiles are properly set, allow them to sit for 24 hours before grouting.

3. Grout and Caulk

- Mix the grout according to the manufacturer’s instructions, using a grout float or a grout bagger.
- Apply the grout to the joints between the tiles, using a rubber grout float or a grout bagger.
- Allow the grout to sit for at least 1 hour before cleaning.
- Clean the tiles using a damp sponge or a soft cloth, and allow the grout to cure for at least 24 hours before grouting the next area.

4. Caulking

- Use a caulking gun to apply the caulking to the areas where the tiles meet the wall or the floor.
- Make sure to apply the caulking in a continuous line, and avoid leaving any gaps.
- Allow the caulking to cure for at least 24 hours before grouting the next area.

5. Final Touches

- Apply a few drops of polish to the grout joints to enhance the appearance of the finished surface.
- Use a soft cloth or a chamois cloth to wipe excess polish off the tiles, and allow the polish to cure for at least 24 hours before walking on the surface.

6. Tiling Tips

- Work in small sections, about 100 square feet at a time, to avoid having to deal with large areas of grout joints that need to be cleaned.
- Use a grout float or a grout bagger to distribute the grout evenly, and avoid leaving any gaps or ridges.
- Use a damp sponge or a soft cloth to clean the tiles, and allow the grout to cure for at least 24 hours before grouting the next area.

7. Troubleshooting

- If the grout joints are too wide, use a grout float or a grout bagger to distribute the grout evenly, and avoid leaving any gaps or ridges.
- If the grout joints are too narrow, use a grout float or a grout bagger to distribute the grout evenly, and avoid leaving any gaps or ridges.
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8. Conclusion

- Tiling can be a challenging process, but with the right tools and techniques, you can achieve beautiful results.
- Remember to take your time and work in small sections, and always check your progress along the way.
- With a little patience and care, you can create a beautiful and functional tiling project that will last for years to come.
**Tools You May Need:**

- **Tools for Shower Walls and Tub Surrounds:**
  - Chalk Line Tool
  - Tape Measure
  - Tile Squares
  - Notched Trowel
  - Grout Float
  - Grout Knife
  - Rubber Gloves
  - Hole Cutter
  - Caulk Gun
  - Mosaic Sheets
  - Paint Roller
  - V-Notch Trowel

- **BEFORE YOU GET STARTED**

  **1. Prepare the Surface**
  - Clean the surface of the tiling area to remove any debris or contaminants.
  - Smooth out any rough areas with sandpaper.

  **2. Set the Tile**
  - Use a square edge or a level to check the flatness of the surface.
  - Make sure the tile is level and plumb before installing.

  **3. Grout and caulk**
  - Mix the grout according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
  - Apply grout to the tile joints using a rubber float or grout float.
  - Clean up any excess grout as soon as possible.

**Special Instructions for Glass Tile Installations:**

- **Product Selection:**
  - Choose grout colors that match your tile.
  - Use a grout float to smooth out any imperfections.

- **Applying the Master and Setting the Tile**
  - Start by applying a master to the wall or floor.
  - Use a straight edge to ensure the tiles are aligned properly.

- **Setting the Tile**
  - Use a notched trowel to apply grout to the joints.
  - Apply grout to the tile joints using a rubber float or grout float.

- **SPECIAL GROUTING TIPS:**
  - Make sure the grout is mixed properly before use.
  - Use a grout float to smooth out any imperfections.

- **Caulking Tub Surrounds**
  - Use a caulk gun to apply caulk around the edges of the tub surround.
  - Use a caulk gun to apply caulk around the edges of the tub surround.

- **Installing Caulk**
  - Use a caulk gun to apply caulk around the edges of the tub surround.
  - Use a caulk gun to apply caulk around the edges of the tub surround.

**Reverso en español**
**Tools You May Need:**
- Brick Saw
- Chalk Line Tool
- Tile Nippers
- Notched Trowel
- Caulk Gun
- Buckets
- Tile Spacers
- 1/2 in. Drill

**Special Instructions For Glass Tile Installations**

- Use TEC Skill Set Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane to prevent water damage and protect adjacent building materials. (See Waterproofing)

**Applying the Master and Installing Tile**

1. Prepare the Surface
   - Lay tiles against a straight-edge. Draw a pencil line at this point. 1/4 in. (or an expansion gap) plus the height of one tile. This is the starting point. Determine expansion joints based on the selection of the grout type. A general rule is to limit expansion joints to no more than 6 ft. from each other. Once expansion joints are set, apply mortar to the area surrounding the joint. A narrow notch of extruded form should be left between wall and floor joints. Apply the extrusion form at a slight angle to allow it to act as a stop. Use TEC Grout Remover to clean excess grout from the area around the joint.

2. Set the Tile
   - Set the tile by breaking the tile into the appropriate number of tiles. 1/4 in. (or an expansion gap) plus the height of one tile. This is the starting point. Once tiles are in place, check them for level and plumb. Use a straight-edge and a level to check. If the problem is unavoidable, try to position them in an inconspicuous area.

3. Grout & Caulk
   - Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for grout recommendations (sanded versus unsanded). Unsanded grouts are used for wall applications. Unsanded grouts are also used for glass tile. Unsanded grouts are not recommended for ceramic, glass, and natural stone because these tile types can have grout joints that are larger and require a stiffer grout. Sanded grouts are used for floors and wall applications that require grout joints 1/8 in. to 1/2 in.

**Select the Grout**

1. Choose a color and texture that corresponds to tile size and type. Grout combinations are available in a wide array of designer colors and are stain-resistant and easy to use.

**Select caulk that matches your grout color.**

**Special Instructions For Glass Tile Installations**

- 1/4 in. (or an expansion gap) plus the height of one tile. This is the starting point. Once tiles are in place, check them for level and plumb. Use a straight-edge and a level to check. If the problem is unavoidable, try to position them in an inconspicuous area.

**Choose your setting materials:**
- TEC Adhesives and Backers are recommended for glass tile installations. TEC Adhesives and Backers are specifically formulated for glass tile applications.

**3 Steps to a Beautiful Tile Surface!**

1. Prepare the surface
2. Set the tile
3. Grout and caulk
TOOLS YOU MAY NEED:
- Tape Measure
- Notched Trowel
- 1/2 in. Drill
- Tile Spacers
- Grout Sponge
- Tile Nippers
- Carpenter’s Level
- Rubber Gloves

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

1. Prepare the Surface

- Select the mortar (thin-set) that corresponds with your tile type. 1
- Mix the mortar according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Apply the mortar to the surface using a 1/4” Notched Trowel.
- Apply the mortar to the back of each glass tile (known as back buttering). This ensures even distribution of mortar and helps ensure the tile is coated with mortar.
- Cut the glass tiles to fit the area using a glass cutter or wet saw.
- Use a glass cutter to score and snap the tiles, or cut with a wet saw to achieve a straight cut.
- Use a straight edge to guide the cut of the glass tiles. A straight edge provides a straight line for the glass cutter to follow.
- For areas prone to water damage, such as shower and tub surrounds, apply TEC® Skill Set™ Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane to prevent water from leaking behind the tile. Note: Refer to the appropriate manufacturer’s instructions (spacing, joint taping, etc.) for specific installation instructions.

2. Set the Tile

- Lay out one vertical row and one horizontal row in a rectangular grid pattern.
- With the flat edge of the trowel, apply adhesive or thin-set mortar to the surface and to the back of each glass tile.
- Apply the mortar in a staggered pattern to ensure an even distribution of adhesive or thin-set mortar.
- Use a straight edge to guide the cut of the glass tiles. A straight edge provides a straight line for the glass cutter to follow.
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3. Grout & Caulk

- For shower and tub surround applications, tile up to the ceiling if possible.
- Apply grout to the joints between the glass tiles using a grout float or rubber float.
- Use a grout float or rubber float to smooth the grout into the joints and remove excess grout.
- Allow the grout to cure according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Clean the grout from the glass tiles using a grout cleaner and sponge.
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TEC® Skill Set™ Glass Tile Mortar. 2

OR

TEC® Skill Set™ Power Grout™ or DesignColor™ Grout with Grout Boost® additive are highly recommended.

APPLYING THE MORTAR AND INSTALLING TILE

- For grout applications, lay out one vertical row and one horizontal row in a rectangular grid pattern.
- With the flat edge of the trowel, apply adhesive or thin-set mortar to the surface and to the back of each glass tile.
- Apply the mortar in a staggered pattern to ensure an even distribution of adhesive or thin-set mortar.
- Use a straight edge to guide the cut of the glass tiles. A straight edge provides a straight line for the glass cutter to follow.
- For areas prone to water damage, such as shower and tub surrounds, apply TEC® Skill Set™ Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane to prevent water from leaking behind the tile. Note: Refer to the appropriate manufacturer’s instructions (spacing, joint taping, etc.) for specific installation instructions.

INSTALLING Caulk

- Caulk at wall intersections, in all grout joints, and along all vertical joints.
- Caulk is important for sealing any gaps in the installation to prevent water from seeping behind the tile. Note: Refer to the appropriate manufacturer’s instructions (spacing, joint taping, etc.) for specific installation instructions.

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BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Tools You May Need:

- Tape Measure
- Grout Sponge
- 1/2 in. Drill
- Tile Nippers
- Caulk Gun
- Tile Spacers

1. Prepare the surface

- Reverse en español tile applications.
- Choose your setting materials:
  - Approved substrates listed above
  - Unsanded grouts are used for wall applications
  - Sanded grouts are used for floor applications

2. Set the tile

- Make sure tiles are firmly set before grouting.
- For glass tile applications, use TEC Glass backed tile only. Visit www.tecspecialty.com for glass tile bulletin.

3. Grout & Caulk

- Follow the instructions on the package as they are specific to the product.
- For areas prone to water damage, use 100% Silicone caulk is recommended.

Special Instructions for Glass Tile Installations

1. Prepare the Surface

- Dry-lay the tiles to determine the layout and pattern. Trade or subtract grout during voids to maintain a consistent pattern. Determine the maximum void size to maintain a consistent pattern.

2. Layout - Shower Floors:

- Mark the cut line on the "sandwiched" tile (see picture 3). Allow 1/4 in. (or an expansion gap) plus the height of one tile. This is a protective paper facing on the tile, soak it to remove bubbles and making sure 100% of the back of the glass tile into the bed of mortar on wall, pushing out any air.

3. Install Sheet Tile:

- With the flat edge of the trowel, apply adhesive or mortar to the wall behind the tile. (see picture 4) to maintain joint strength.
- Now go back and "comb" the material with the notched edge.
- Lay a second loose tile over the first and align it with the last full wall to see how many tiles are needed, adjusting it horizontally and vertically to find the best layout. Avoid layouts that create tile cuts that are less than half the tile width.

4. Grout & Caulk

- Clean the sponge frequently and wring out as much water as possible.
- For a second clean up, use a damp sponge for the clean-up steps, otherwise you will likely just grout haze and tool the joints.

5. Install Caulk

- Etch Prep products. Before installing, etch the substrate with the Etch Prep product. This will allow the Caulk to bond to the substrate. Follow the directions on the package as they are specific to the product.

6. Caulk at wall

- Caulk at wall OR+

Caulk at wall 1/2" minimum

4-6 hrs.

7. Caulk at intersections

- Caulk at intersections

3-4 hrs.

8. Grout & Caulk

- Clean tools with warm, soapy water while adhesive is still wet.

9. Trim, Caulk & Grout

- Follow the instructions on the package as they are specific to the product.
- Grout haze and tool the joints.

GREAT TIP

- Do not cut into the joints of the sheet tile when trimming, as it can result in adhesive issues.
- Etch Prep products. Before installing, etch the substrate with the Etch Prep product. This will allow the Caulk to bond to the substrate. Follow the directions on the package as they are specific to the product.

The TEC Skill Set Guide: How To Project Guide

Shower Walls and Tub Surrounds

1. Prepare the surface

- Reverse en español tile applications.
- Choose your setting materials:
  - Approved substrates listed above
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