

# Installation Guide for Glazzio Tiles

## **General Note about Installation Guide**

*The following general installation and grouting guidelines pertain to most applications. The technical service departments of major setting material companies should be consulted regarding specific installation questions.*

## **INSPECTION**

*The end user is responsible for determining the acceptability of the product. Installation constitutes acceptance of tile order.*

The handmade character of glass mosaic tile creates a degree of artistic variation in shade, color, tone, and size within each sheet of tile.

Open and inspect each carton of tile to confirm shading consistency. Randomly select 5 sheets from different cartons to establish color control during installation. Before installing tile, blend sheets from different cartons to assure random placement during installation. As sheets are being installed, check them against control samples prior to placing them in the setting material to assure acceptable shade variations and quality.

## **Expansion Joints**

Expansion joints are essential for the success of most tile installations. Expansion joint requirements will vary depending on substrate climate and size of installation.

## **Cutting Glass Tile**

Small format glass tile are best cut with specialty glass mosaic tile cutters/clippers, and the larger sizes such as the 4 x 12 crystile series tile are best cut with a wet saw.

Cutting Thick, Etched or Textured 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. **Note: A blade designed for cutting ceramic tiles is coarse and will chip the glass.**

*Hint: When cutting glass on the saw, place the glass with the smooth surface down. 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.* Here are some manufacturers that offer solutions for cutting glass: Makita manufactures a battery operated saw (model 4190DW equipped with 724-950-8V glass blade), contact [Makita at \(800\) 462-5482](tel:8004625482). MK also makes special glass blades for their tile saws (model MK215GL, available from 7" to 12" diameter). Contact [MK Diamond at 800 421-8830](tel:8004218830). A lapidary blade also makes a very clean cut on glass tiles.

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

## **Drilling into Glass Tile**

Drilling a hole requires the use of a drill bit or coring drill that is designed for glass - if the drill and glass tile are not securely clamped in place, drill a small pilot hole through the glass to act as a guide. Always use a proper glass-drilling bit, keep the drill bit and hole lubricated with turpentine or water and drill at very slow speed. Start drilling from the back of the tile, then complete the hole by drilling from the face of the tile. Attempting to drill all the way through the tile from one side will cause the glass to chip off on the exit side of the hole. Important - Drill a hole 1/8" (3mm) larger than any anchors you plan to use. This will prevent the stress transfer from the fixture to the glass tile. Ensure anchors are well secured to the structure and do not allow the fixture to rest on the substrate or the glass.

## **Types of Setting Materials to Use**

Setting material products are available through tile dealers, home centers, and major setting material companies.

Use A white thin-set mortar (2 –component, flexible acrylic thin-set mortar system)

### **Such as:**

Mapei: Adesilex P10 (bright white) nonsag mortar for glass tile. Mix with water or Keraply. **Specifically designed for glass tile.** [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com)

Custom Building Products: MegaFlex Ultimate Thin-Set Mortar (white). No admixture is necessary. [www.custombuildingproducts.com](http://www.custombuildingproducts.com)

Laticrete: 254 Platinum Multipurpose Thin-Set Mortar. No admixture is necessary. [www.laticrete.com](http://www.laticrete.com)

TEC (H.B. Fuller): Super Flex Premium Performance Universal Latex-Modified Thin-Set Mortar. No admixture is necessary. [www.tecspecialty.com](http://www.tecspecialty.com)

## **Installation**

### **5/8" x 2", 3/4" x 3/4", 1" x 1" etc.**

Use enough setting material to assure 100% tile surface coverage but not so much that it will "ooze" above the top of the tile through the grout joints. Use a 3/16" x 5/32" V-notched trowel and do not flatten the "rows" created in the setting material. *Apply only as much setting material as can be covered with tile within 10 to 20 minutes or while surface is still wet and tacky.*

With firm, even pressure apply sheets of tile – *mesh side down* – into the setting material, using a wooden beating block or rubber grouting float to create a flat surface. Carefully align each sheet as it is installed to create uniform grout joints from sheet to sheet. Allow tile to set until firm. Clean excess setting material from the surface of the tile with a damp cloth or sponge while the setting material is fresh.

**Special installation information for Lagoon Series glass tile:** *To achieve a seamless fit from sheet to sheet, individual tiles may need to be adjusted at time of installation.*

### **Further Installation Notes**

Some setting materials manufacturers recommend applying setting material to the back side of the sheet of glass mosaic tile (“back buttering”) with the flat side of the trowel immediately before placement of the sheet into the freshly trowelled setting material on the surface receiving the tile. This extra amount of setting material is recommended to help assure 100% coverage of the tile. It does, however, increase the amount of setting material available to “ooze” up through the grout joints. If too much is applied, the setting material will, particularly on the thinner 3/4" x 3/4" and 5/8" x 5/8" tile, completely fill the grout joints leaving very little or no space for grout.

For Crystile Molding and Chair Rail Series: Apply the setting material on the wall and edges of the tile. **Do not** fully back-butter the tile as the setting material can expand and contract thereby causing the tile to crack.

If 100% tile surface coverage (no voids between the tile and the surface receiving the tile) can be achieved by applying sufficient setting material only to the surface receiving the tile, this “back buttering” step might be *unnecessary*. We suggest experimenting with a sheet or partial sheet of tile before starting the job to determine the best approach for achieving 100% coverage.

### **Water Immersion Applications**

Regarding tile work in swimming pools, fountains, and other continuous water immersion applications, minimum cure time after grouting is 21 days before flood testing or filling with water. Follow setting materials manufacturer’s recommended cure times.

*Shell mosaic tiles are suitable for dry, interior wall applications only. Avoid installation in areas exposed to direct rays from the sun.*

## **GROUTING**

### ***Grout Color***

Grout color plays a major role in the final appearance of any glass mosaic tile job and should be selected carefully. *Grout color that contrasts with the tile color* tends to create a “frame” around each tile.

### ***Grouting***

Grouting may be done after tile is firmly set – approximately 24 hours after installation. Apply grout, unsanded, with a rubber float, making sure that grout joints are completely full and free of voids and pits. Clean the surface with a clean, damp sponge.

Allow grout to set firm or until haze forms on the tile and the grout in the joints sets firm. Use a soft, clean, dry cloth to polish off haze and remaining grout residue. Final cleaning of grout haze and tile polishing is done with clean, dry cheesecloth within 24 hours of grouting.

## **CLEANING & MAINTENANCE**

Normal cleaning of glass mosaic tile can be done with room temperature water and a rag. For a more thorough cleaning and to remove stubborn dirt and stains, use any of the many tile and grout cleaners available through tile dealers or home centers.

Please note that due to the many finishes we have through our vast tile line, if a robust cleaner is needed, test in a small area to prevent damaging the entire tiled area.

Shell mosaics consist primarily of Calcium Carbonate, which reacts with acids including vinegar, acidic foods and carbonated beverages.

We recommend cleaning with a damp cloth or a gentle furniture polish cleaner