

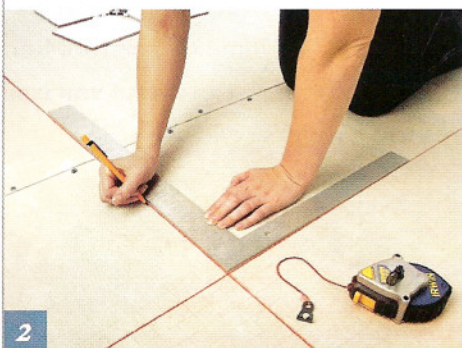
fit to be tiled



ToolRental



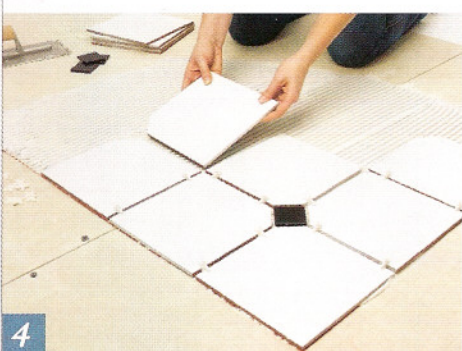
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A step-by-step guide to installing a new tile floor

There are five steps to tiling a floor. You can find more detailed information in *Tiling 1-2-3*, the how-to book created by the experts at The Home Depot, or by attending the Tiling Your Bathroom Floors and Walls clinic at your local store Saturdays at 10 a.m. on January 6, 13 and 20.

STEP ONE:

Ask yourself if your existing floor is a suitable base. If you need to replace or cover the existing surface, laying cement backer-board like Hardibacker® or WonderBoard® will provide a stiff, smooth surface. Take into account the bottom of the door to assure that it will swing clear of your newly tiled floor.

the flat edge of a square-notch trowel, apply mortar by pushing it onto the surface to establish a good bond. Comb the adhesive into straight lines with the teeth of the trowel. Lay your first tile, starting at the center. Before moving on, lift up the tile and check to make sure the back is completely covered with mortar. Set remaining tiles, placing spacers between them. Check the mortar periodically to make sure it remains sticky. After setting all the tiles, lay a piece of 2x4 on top and tap gently with a rubber mallet to level and set them. Wipe off any excess adhesive with a damp grout sponge.

STEP TWO:

All rooms are not perfect rectangles and often contain obstructions such as appliances and fixtures. Make a floor plan on graph paper; then lay out your design with chalk on the actual floor. This allows you to practice layouts, maximize your materials and minimize cuts.

STEP THREE:

Most jobs require cutting a few tiles. To work around fixtures, trace the outline on a sheet of paper, then transfer it onto the tile. Use a snap cutter for straight cuts. A wet saw can accommodate straight cuts, plus L-cuts and notches. Remember to wear a dust respirator, safety goggles and earplugs when using a wet saw.

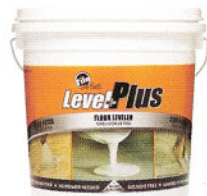
STEP FOUR:

Remove dust from the surface before spreading mortar $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. Using

STEP FIVE:

Let the mortar cure for at least 24 hours before filling in the spaces between the tiles with grout. Remove spacers and clean any mortar out of the joints with a bristle brush. Spread grout by sweeping a rubber grout float over the tiles at a shallow angle. Remove excess with the grout float held at a steep angle. Wipe tile to remove any residue. Remember, unglazed and porous material such as quarry tile needs to be sealed prior to grouting. For others, finish by applying a penetrating sealer 24 hours after applying grout.

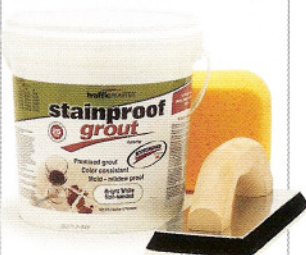
Note to the Reader: Due to differing conditions, tools and individual skills, The Home Depot® assumes no responsibility for any damages, injuries suffered or losses incurred as a result of attempting to replicate this tile project. We always recommend that you check with authorities to ensure that any home improvement project complies with all applicable local codes and regulations. Always read and observe all of the safety precautions provided by any tool or equipment manufacturer, and follow all accepted safety procedures.



Tile Perfect Leveler
Ready to use, just stir and pour to level and patch floor



Premixed Thinset
Premixed, fast drying
Trowel
Notched for spreading mortar



TrafficMaster Stainproof Grout
Premixed in 21 colors. Resists stains, mold, mildew and fading

Pro Premium Rubber Grout Float
Ensures complete grout coverage in corners

Sponges
Perfect for grouting and cleanup



511 Impregnator
Natural-look penetrating sealer