

Quick Guide

HOW TO

Install Aluminum Mosaic Tiles

Tools & Materials

- > Tiles
- > Grout
- > Rubber grout float
- > Bucket and sponge
- > Painter's Tape
- > Mortar/Adhesive
- > Tape measure
- > V-notched trowel
- > A pair of scissors

Before Installing

The surface needs to be firmly fixed, flat, clean, dry, free of dust, oil, and sealers to ensure proper adhesion. Wet areas require appropriate substrates as waterproof membrane systems.

Prepare the wall: clean, take the measurements to determine the number of tile sheets needed (add 10% to account for waste and future repairs in case you need). The same process works for field tiles such as aluminum subway tiles.

Inspect each tile for any imperfections before installing it.

Use a square and level to draw gridlines to ensure straight and even installation. Use tape to mark installation area.



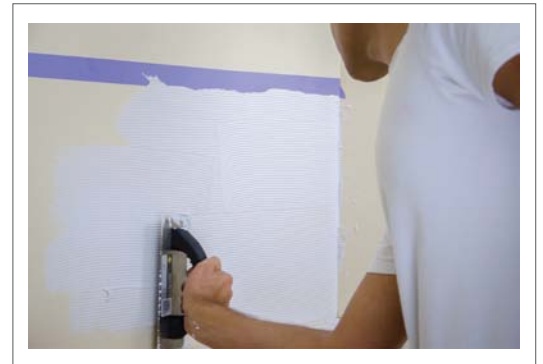
Step 1: Apply Mortar/Adhesive

Apply mortar/adhesive to the wall using the flat side of a v-notch trowel. Now, using the v-notched side, rake the mortar/adhesive to create ridges of the proper depth and size.

TIP

Never use Ceramic Tile Mastic for the installation of aluminum and glass mosaic tiles. Use a thin-set modified with polymer or latex, compliant with ANSI 118.4 and recommended for glass or vitreous tile installation by the manufacturer.

Mortar/adhesive dries quickly, so be careful and spread only as much adhesive as you can tile in about 10-15 minutes.



Step 2: Apply Mosaic Tile Sheets

Start placing the mosaic tile sheets to the wall. Begin your installation at the most visible part of the wall and work outwards from there. That is a safe way to guarantee that the most visually exposed part of the wall is well centered.

Use a rubber grout float on the tile sheets to apply light and even pressure to ensure grip with the adhesive.

TIP

Before applying grout, make sure that the desired area is completely covered with tiles and that you've allowed the mortar/adhesive to set as the manufacturer recommends. It usually takes about 24 hours.

Cutting the metal chips

You are going to need a tile wet saw with the appropriate blade for cutting metal. Before start cutting, protect your eyes, and cutting must be performed slowly to avoid the buildup of high temperatures, which could discolor the surface of the tile.

TIP

Cut the tiles facing up.



Step 3: Applying Grout

Apply the grout with a rubber grout float working diagonally across the tile. 3D or Split-Face Aluminum Tiles with no grout joint does not require grout and therefore is not recommend for outside areas where it is subject to heavy humidity and dust. Force grout into the joints until they are full. Use a grout float to take off any excess grout. Allow the grout to set for 7-10 minutes (check manufacturer's recommendation).

Step 4: Cleaning

To remove excess grout, and clean any haze from the surface of the tile use a damp sponge. A proper sponge for tile-jobs is recommended due its rounded edges and texture. You can find it at any hardware or tile store.

Repeat the process, using fresh water each time, until the tile surface is free of grout.

NOTICE: This information is offered as a guideline only. No warranty is implied. For best results, hire a professional tile installer experienced in the application of aluminum mosaic tile.