

# TILING A SHOWER WALL

After waterproofing, we need to tile the wall in a shower before we do the floor. Well, almost all the wall. We leave the bottom row out until **after the floor is tiled** because it is important that the floor tiles finish behind the face of our wall tiles. Since the floor in a shower is not level, each of the bottom row of tiles will be cut to suit the slope in the floor. This is why we leave that row until last.

## STEP 1

- Cover the floor with some offcut sheeting or heavy drop sheets. This protects the membrane from damage while we stand on it to tile the walls.

## STEP 2

- Now we have to decide where to start tiling.
- Mark on the wall, the height of 1 full wall tile, from the lowest spot on the floor. This will be outside the shower hob. (the floor is lower here) Place a floor tile in position first, and measure up from there.

## STEP 3

- Measure 25mm down from that spot and make another mark.
- From that second mark, draw a level line accross the wall. This is where the second horizontal row of tiles will commence.

## STEP 4

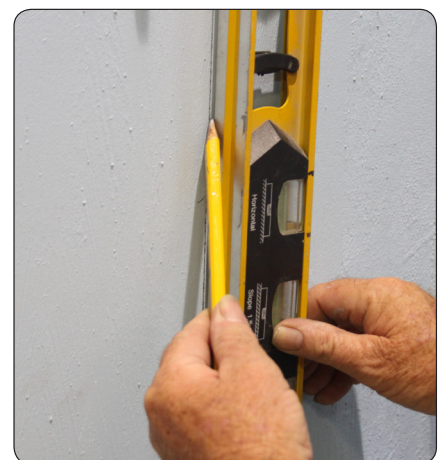
- Set up your Tile Jacks so the top edge of a timber straight edge is at that level. The tiles of the second row will temporarily sit on this timber.

## STEP 5

- So we can decide if we can use a full tile at the wall junction, we need to check that both walls are level and plumb. If they are not, we will need to cut these tiles and start with say a three quarter width, cut tile. This is to keep the tiles level and hide the fact that the walls are out of plumb.

## STEP 6

- Mark the wall where the outside edge of the first tile will finish. Then draw a line up the wall at that point. This marks the first vertical row of tiles.



## TIP

Measure from the second row up so you can finish on a full tile at the top.

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It is now time to start fixing the tiles

## STEP 7

- Spread about 1 square meter of adhesive. Say, 2 horizontal rows across the first wall and 1 vertical row. Remember that we are starting 1 row up from the bottom.

## STEP 8

- With **pre-mixed wall adhesive**, we use a 6mm notched trowel. (check the instructions on the pack) By using a notched trowel, the adhesive is applied leaving little tracks on the wall. Once the tile is bedded into place, these tracks flatten out to give full coverage to the surface. So, a 6mm notch will leave a bed of adhesive after the tile is in place, 3mm thick.
- When applying wall adhesive, we always suggest that the notches run horizontally.

## STEP 9

- Place the tiles in position. As each is placed, give it a firm push and bed it in place with a slight up / down 'wobble' against the notches of the adhesive.

## STEP 10

- Every now and then, it is important to lift a tile after laying into the adhesive. This is to check that indeed, you are achieving 100% coverage of adhesive to the tile. So lever it up and check.

## STEP 11

- As you lay the tiles, use spacers to set the grout joints and to make small adjustments to the tile placement, to keep all joints level and even. When you select the tiles, the consultant will help you with selecting grout joint sizes. Usually with wall tiles, we like to see no less than 3mm.

## STEP 12

- Tile the floor. See fact sheet [How to tile a shower floor]

## STEP 13

- Once the wall and the floor is tiled, its time to cut the tiles to suit the bottom row of the wall and glue them in place. Don't forget, when you cut the tiles for this last, bottom row, to allow for a grout joint above and below the tile. So, effectively it needs to be **6mm** smaller than the space where it will be placed.

