

TILING A FEATURE WALL

A Tiled Feature Wall can really look sensational. Firstly we need to work out where we are going to tile...

STEP 1

- Cover the floor with some offcut sheeting or heavy drop sheets.

STEP 2

- Check that the floor is level.
- Mark where the first row (bottom row) of tiles will finish.
- The bottom row will be the row that is cut if the floor is uneven or not level.

STEP 3

- If the floor is uneven, measure 25mm down from that spot and make another mark.
 - From that second mark, draw a level line across 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. See fact sheet [Tiling a shower wall]

STEP 5

- 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.

It is now time to start fixing the tiles

STEP 6

- Brush and prime the wall.

STEP 7

- Spread about 1 square meter of adhesive, ensure that the notches run horizontally.
- 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.



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STEP 8

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

STEP 9

- 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 10

- 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 the appropriate grout joint sizes.

STEP 11

- 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.

STEP 12

- Lastly, don't forget to clean off any excess adhesive from the face of the tiles as you go. Work clean!

Now it is time to grout

GROUT

- When mixing the grout, always add the powder to the water. This ensures a thorough mix and no lumps. Mix to a thick 'paste' consistency.
- Its important to clean the area of any dust and mess. Then, apply the grout.
- Push it into the joints and compress by wiping over at an angle across the joints. Do not apply grout to the corners, where walls meet floors or walls meet walls.
- Remove all excess grout, and allow to dry and for a film to set on the face of the tiles. (about 1 hour)
- When dry, clean up with a damp (not wet) sponge.
- After most of the grout is removed from the tile, buff it over with clean cloths and a 'doodle bug'. Repeat this process three times. Cleaning, buffing and polishing and then repeating that process again, will pay untold dividends to the job.

