



# PEWABIC TILE INSTALLATION GUIDE

## **TILE INSTALLATION**

Typical Pewabic installations are not calculated to have exact grout sizing throughout the installation, nor do they have continuous grout lines.

Each Pewabic tile has its own size and shape. The tiles may vary as much as 1/8" (larger or smaller). The grout size is included in the tile size. For example, a 4"x4" tile is really about 3 3/4" x 3 3/4".

Pewabic recommends the purchase of 5% -10% extra tile, both for use in the installation and to keep for replacement in future years.

## **INSTALLATION TIPS**

Many clients have requested information on the type of mortar and grout used to install Pewabic tile. Have your installer look for these brands or call the nearest commercial tile outlet.

**MORTAR:** Full Flex universal latex-modified thin set mortar – gray color. Mix with water according to manufacturer’s instructions.

**GROUT:** Custom Building Products Polyblend sanded grout.

**GROUT COLOR:** #165 Delorean Gray, or #09 Natural Gray

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- |                 |                     |               |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| *Tile           | *Trowel             | *Grout Float  |
| *Tile Spacers   | *Painter’s Tape     | *Grout Sealer |
| *Thinset Mortar | *Level              | *Damp Rags    |
| *Wet Saw        | *Protective Eyewear | * Grout       |



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### **STEP 1**

Begin by either removing or masking off the fireplace mantel with painter's tape. Tiling over bricks requires that you apply a layer of thinset mortar over the top of the bricks to create a flat surface for tiling. Mix the mortar according to package directions and apply it to the bricks with a trowel. Use the smooth side of the trowel to smooth out the surface and let the mortar set over night.

### **STEP 2**

Measure and mark the center of the fireplace. Mix up a small batch of the thinset mortar. When mixed properly, thinset mortar should resemble the texture of smooth peanut butter. Apply a thin layer of the mortar to the surround and then score the mortar with the notched edge of the trowel. Scoring the mortar will give the tiles something to grab onto and will help it to adhere better. Apply a tile to the center mark and work your way out to either side from there. Give each tile a firm press into the mortar and remember to place a tile spacer next to each tile as you lay them down. Pewabic tiles are designed with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  " grout space. The handmade nature of the product may require slight adjustments to the spacing of each grout joint.

### **STEP 3**

Most Pewabic tile fireplaces are designed to fit your specific dimensions and no cutting is required. All pre cut and edge glazed pieces will have a designation number inscribed on the back of the tile. The tiles position will be called out on the job drawing using the designation number. In the event that cutting on site is required, measure and cut tiles with a wet saw to fit the measurement of the spaces. Use a level to check to see if all of the tiles are plumb. Let the mortar dry overnight.

### **STEP 4**

Remove the spacers. Mix the grout according to package directions. Use the grout float to apply the grout to the open spaces between each tile. Press the mixture in by holding the float at an angle and firmly packing it into the joints. Pewabic recommends Custom Building Products Polyblend sanded grout.

### **STEP 5**

Let the grout set for 2 to 3 hours until it is firm to the touch. Use a damp sponge to wipe the excess grout from the tiles and let it set overnight. After the grout has completely dried, wipe the grout scumming off with wet rags. Apply grout sealer to the grout lines if desired. Pewabic recommends Miracle Sealants 511 Impregnator Sealer.