

GLASS TILE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

At Island Stone, our glass tile is a testament to our unique design and high-quality materials. Installing our glass tile is an excellent way to bring a sense of refined adventure to a space through our handmade and kiln-fired glass tile. Don't be intimidated by the installation, take your time and the finished installation will turn out beautifully!

Some quick notes before your get started:

- Our glass field tile is installed similarly to high-grade porcelain tile, but less forgiving of poor preparation and workmanship.
- Glass expands more than ceramic so ensure you have adequate expansion control joints including the perimeter.

Maximum distance between joints:

- Internally 20-25 feet (6-7.5 meters).
- Externally 8-12 feet (2.5-3.5 meters).
- Grout joints should be a minimum 1/16 inch (1.5-2 millimeters).

Thinset

When using a notched trowel, it is important to flatten the ridges when installing the glass tile. If you don't flatten the thinset ridges, you may be able to see them through the edges of the tile because the majority of our glass tile is back-painted.

Note: You may need to allow extended drying times.

- When installing our glass field tile, follow the same steps as you would when installing porcelain tile. Clean the back of each glass tile with a clean, dry cloth and then back-butter each tile using additional thinset to ensure even coverage and contact with the setting bed. Island Stone glass mosaics do not need to be back-buttered prior to installation.

Cutting Tiles

When making straight cuts, we recommend "score and snap" tile cutters. Those with a "T bar" lever action from above are the best. We like the Sigma brand cutters. We have found that tile cutters using a point to split the tile often result in chipping.

Cutting Tips From the Pros

- Glass cuts better when warm.
- Drilling requires water-cooled machines of low revolution speeds.
- Water-swivels fitted with hollow diamond core bits are best.

If you have anymore questions about cutting techniques or other information, contact the experts at Island Stone for all the answers!

Grout

The finish of your tile will determine the kind of grout you should use during installation. We put together a little guide to make your life easier.

- Matte/Satin Finish: unsanded or sanded cement-based grout.
- Beach Finish: sanded cement-based grout.
- Gloss Finish (except Spindrift Pattern): unsanded cement-based grout or urethane-based grout.
- Spindrift Gloss Finish: sanded cement-based grout or urethane-based grout.

Remember: Use care when grouting gloss finish with sanded grout to avoid scratching.

Our glass tile is back-painted which means the edges are transparent, so it is important to use a grout color that matches the color of the tile, or is slightly lighter. The color of the grout can influence the final color of your tile. Make sure you are grouting only after the thinset has cured to make a strong bond.

Grout Cleaning

After completing the grouting process, extra care is required when you clean up to ensure there is no grout haze. Be sure to pay special attention to glass with a textured surface or if modified grouts have been used. Grout left on the surface will shadow on the tile back. Additionally, grout on a textured surface can be hard to see if the surface is damp, so it's best practice to double-check after it dries. For example, the Beach, Cascade and Lava Glass finishes may require extra cleaning.

Cleaning Grout Haze - Pro Tips

(Sulfamic acid is a mild cleaning acid available at your local tile showroom or hardware store under the brands of AquaMix or TileCare. Follow the safety directions.)

- Do not wait longer than 1 day for the final cleaning, as hardened grout is extremely difficult to clean off!
- Apply a properly diluted sulfamic acid solution to tile surface using a brush or spray bottle. Follow manufacturers instructions to insure proper solution mix.
- Allow the solution to sit for 2 minutes or more before rigorously scrubbing the surface of the glass with a small scouring sponge or a small brush.
- Clean with water and a clean sponge.

TCNA

All installations of Glass Tile should meet or exceed the guidelines and specifications as outlined by the Tile Council of North America. Refer to www.tileusa.com