



check the tiles are flat. If needed, remove and adjust the amount of adhesive, being careful not to leave it too late or the adhesive will set.

Note: Lippage is inherent in all installations and may be unavoidable due to tile tolerances.

**Grouting or walking on floor tiles** should not be done for at least 24 hours, unless a rapid set adhesive has been utilised, to prevent the chance of disturbing the tiles before they have completely bonded with the adhesive. Force the grout into the joints using a grouter, removing the surplus grout from the surface with a sponge and water. Be careful not to leave a grout residue on the tiles.

#### **Shower Bases**

Shower bases should have a gradient of 1:80. That is to say, in an average shower base of 800mmx800mm, there should be a gradient of 10mm – 14mm. This is to allow for complete drainage of waste water

#### **Cutting Tiles**

Generally, floor tiles are harder to cut than wall tiles. Modern tools make most cutting requirements simple. Just ask your tile merchant to advise you on the best method for your application.

Your Australian Tile Council Member

#### **Disclaimer:**

This pamphlet is to be used as a guide only. It is the responsibility of the consumer to seek professional advice through your tile merchant for individual applications.

# Did you know?

**About**  
**the following**  
**Tiling Facts**

The Australian Tile Council are, among other things, dedicated to providing the consumer with the information necessary to make an informed decision about who measures, supplies and fixes the tiles for any tiling job.

Tiling is seen as something that the amateur or 'handy person' can easily do but even experienced 'handy person' are wary of laying tiles. Ultimately, if you want your job to look professional, then engage the services of a **fully qualified tiler** (that is to say a fully accredited tiler with trade papers), who has the knowledge to accurately assess the needs of the job, can quote appropriately, and troubleshoot where necessary.

To provide quality to the consumer, only qualified tradespersons should be recommended by tile merchants and other industry bodies.

What we want to promote is that certain requirements should be met, that the standards are adhered to and that the finished job not only looks good, but will stand the test of time.

### Wall Tiling

**To calculate your area** in square metres, multiply the length by the height of each wall to be tiled. When ordering the quantity of tiles add an extra 5% - 10% for wastage.

**You will need an even flat surface** for tiling. Prepare properly as this is a vital part of the process and failure to do so may result in an unsatisfactory finish.

**Cement render** should be left for 4 weeks and be thoroughly dry before tiling. Old plaster is suitable, provided it is sound. Plasterboard is suitable, provided it is well supported with the board being a minimum of 10mm thickness and 12mm off the floor.

**Planning your layout** is essential. Choose your starting point to create a balanced visual appearance.

**Trowelling** should be done horizontally. Spread the adhesive onto the wall, working in small areas at a time. Tiles must be fixed before the surface of the adhesive forms a skin. The tile is then adjusted to its position with an up and down movement so that full coverage is obtained to the back of the tile. The size of trowel to be used should be approximately as follows:

Tile:	Trowel:
152mm x 152mm	6mm x 6mm notch
200mm x 200mm	8mm x 8mm notch
250mm x 250mm	10mm x 10mm notch
300mm x 300mm	12mm x 12mm notch

### Wall Adhesives

There are many different types of adhesives available on the market. As the substrates or conditions of any project may vary, it is imperative that you seek the advice of your tile merchant as to which type of adhesive to use. Importantly, always follow the instructions of the manufacturer. As per the Australian Standards 3958.1, wall tiling in residential areas require a minimum adhesive coverage of 65%, wet areas should have a minimum of 90% coverage, and external walls require 90% coverage.

**Do not begin grouting** for a minimum of 16 hours after fixing. Using a sponge and water, clean joints making sure they are free of adhesive. Be sure to use the correct grout for your application; ask your merchant. Fill the joints using a flexible spreader or grouter, forcing the grout into the joints. Use a sponge to remove excess grout from the face of the tiles, making sure to leave the grout joints as full as possible. Polish with a dry cloth.

### Floor Tiling

**To calculate your area** in square metres, multiply the length of the room by the width of the room. When ordering the quantity of tiles, add an extra 5% - 10% for wastage.

**The proper preparation** of the surface will make the fixing easier, quicker and ensure a better finish. The surface should be flat with a tolerance of 4mm over a distance of 2 metres. Before commencing tiling, make sure you have waterproofed your wet areas; consult your tile merchant.

**New concrete** is recommended to be one month old per 25mm thickness, and completely dry prior to tiling. It should also be a wood float finish, flat and free from dirt and grease. Wooden floors must be rigid, stable and capable of extra load without flexing. Generally speaking, it is advisable to prepare a wooden floor with a ceramic tile underlay.

**Expansion joints** should be used as per Australian Standards 3958.1

### Floor Adhesives

Generally, it is advised to use normal or rapid setting adhesives. However, always consult your tile merchant for detailed advice and **always** follow the manufacturer's instructions. Mix the adhesive as per the manufacturers' instructions and spread with a notched trowel. Place each tile into the adhesive firmly, with a backward and forward movement to ensure a solid bed and preventing any voids under the tile. Be careful to remove any surplus adhesive from the tile surface and joints with a damp sponge or cloth.

Work in small areas of about 1 square metre at a time so that the tiles are fixed before the adhesive forms a skin. Occasionally, use a spirit level or straight edge to