

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

### 1. VERIFY YOUR ORDER

Is it correct and complete?

### 2. LAYOUT YOUR PROJECT

Arrange your tiles to enhance the variation inherent in their handmade character. Make sure they fit the measurements of the space to be tiled.



### 3. LOCATE CUTS

Find which tiles you need to cut. We recommend a wet saw for straight, clean cuts. Cut the tile glaze side down, to prevent the finished edge from chipping.

## TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Adhesives  
*ProLite® by Custom Building Products™*
- Grout  
*Custom Building Products™*
- Sealer (optional)  
*511 Porous Plus*
- Wet Saw (for clean cuts)
- Notched Trowel
- Rubber Float (for bigger jobs)
- Mixing Bucket

## SELECT SURFACE

Concrete makes the best tile adherence surface and comes in several forms:

**POURED CONCRETE** Do not cover the surface with a sealer.  
**HARDIBACKER™** This ceramic tile backer board comes in many different thicknesses. Score and cut it like sheetrock or with a masonry saw blade.

Unpainted sheet rock or DenseShield™ is the next best surface to adhere tile to. Except for small projects, wood doesn't make for a good tile adhering surface because it tends to warp.

### 4. PREPARE SURFACE

Any surface that tile is adhered to must be structurally sound, dry and free from oil, grease, dust, loose and peeling paint, concrete sealers and curing compounds. Sand any painted surfaces. Clean all surfaces your tiles will be adhered to with a dry towel.

- Fresh Water Bucket
- Sponge
- Toothbrush
- Paper Towels
- Terry Cloth/Old Rags
- Masking Tape
- Rubber Gloves
- Apron



## ADHERE TILE

Clay Squared recommends a thinset mortar. Wear rubber gloves. Mix only as much mortar as you can set in 20-30 minutes.

100% Silicone comes in a tube and works to adhere tiles in small projects. Use silicone specifically for glass tiles as it dries clear.

### 5. MIX MORTAR

Follow manufacturer's directions or pour thinset mortar powder into your bucket and slowly add water, mixing thoroughly with a trowel until mixture reaches a creamy, peanut butter consistency.



### 6. SPREAD MORTAR

With a notched trowel, spread your mortar mixture across the surface to be tiled. To guarantee full coverage on our handmade tile, we recommend that you also thinly back butter the tile (apply mortar to the back of the tile).

### 7. LET TILES SET 24-48 HOURS

## GROUT

The filler between tile joints is not an adhesive but rather a concrete material called grout:

**SANDED** Joints 1/8" and larger. Best with most handmade tile. (Sanded grout will not scratch the glazed surface of your tile.)

**UNSANDED** Joints less than 1/8". Best with most commercial tile.

**EPOXY** The strongest of grouts, it comes sanded or unsanded with added polymer chemicals.

### 8. MASK DIMENSIONAL OR MATTE TILES

Apply masking tape to the face of dimensional or matte tiles before grouting speeds clean up and prevents grout from adhering to unglazed areas. Remove tape once grout has been cleaned.

### 9. FILL JOINTS

Wear rubber gloves. Force grout diagonally into joints with a rubber grout float or gloved hand. Ensure joints are completely filled. Wipe clean with a dry paper towel until haze is entirely gone. Do not use water.



### 10. CURE GROUT 24 HOURS

Allow grout to cure 24 hours before using tiled surface or applying an optional sealer.



**CLEAN-UP** Always clean your hands, tools and buckets with a separate bucket of clean water. **DO NOT DUMP any mortar or grout water in the sink – it destroys plumbing.**



SHOWROOM OPEN 11-5 MONDAY-SATURDAY

34 Thirteenth Ave NE // Minneapolis, MN 55413 // 612-781-6409 [www.claysquared.com](http://www.claysquared.com)

CLAY SQUARED  
TO INFINITY