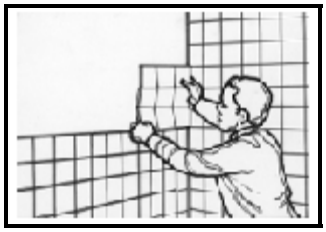

Install & Replace Ceramic Wall Tile

From Truevalue.com

Ceramic tiling looks great behind stoves, framing sinks, surrounding bathtubs and lining shower walls. It's a great decorative accent that is also durable, easy to clean and very practical for surfaces that are exposed to water. If you only need to replace a tile, go straight to Step 6.

Tools & Materials Checklist

- ☐ 1/2 In. cement wallboard or water-resistant wallboard
- ☐ Carbide blade or circular saw
- ☐ Hammer
- ☐ Galvanized wallboard screws
- ☐ Fiberglass tape
- ☐ Tile adhesive (thin-set or mastic-type cement)
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Level
- ☐ Notched trowel
- ☐ Tiles
- ☐ Tile spacers
- ☐ Tile cutter
- ☐ Tile nipper
- ☐ 80-grit sandpaper
- ☐ Glass cutter
- ☐ Drill
- ☐ Carbide bit
- ☐ Plumber's putty
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Grout
- ☐ Rubber-bottom float or sponge
- ☐ Latex or silicone caulk
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Utility knife

Step 1. Install Cement Wallboard
Ceramic tile can be installed on just about any clean flat surface, but make sure it can support the weight of the tile. If you have doubts that your surface will support the tile, it is best to install a 1/2-inch cement wallboard before tiling. Cement wallboard is sturdier than most types of wallboard, but still light enough so that it can be installed almost anywhere. Cement wallboard is used mostly when tiling a wall, and is usually not necessary for tiling tubs or sinks since they are supported with plywood. Using a carbide blade or circular saw, cut the cement wallboard to fit your area. If you are using mastic-type cement, face the cement wallboard with the smooth side out. Face the textured side out when using a thin-set adhesive. Using a hammer, drive galvanized screws into the wallboard 6 inches apart to fasten.

Step 2. Tape Wallboard Seams
Use the fiberglass tape (recommended by the tile manufacturer) to tape the board seams and the joints where the cement wallboard meets the original wall. If you are using mastic cement as an adhesive, fill the joints with thin-set adhesive to avoid water damage.

Step 3. Draw Reference Lines
Using a level, draw reference lines over a 3-feet-by-3-feet area. The lines should be horizontal and perpendicular to ensure no tiling errors. Each line must be level and they should look similar to a grid. If you are installing sheets of tile, each reference line will be the length and width of each sheet of tile. These lines will guide you in installing your tile straight.

Step 4. Apply Adhesive
Using a notched trowel, spread the adhesive over one square area, not going over the reference lines of that area. Use the flat side of the trowel to apply the adhesive and then use the notched edge of the trowel to form ridges in the adhesive.

Step 5. Press Tiles into Place
Press the tiles or sheet of tiles into place, using spacers between each to keep the grout gaps uniform. After applying each tile or sheet of tile, check if it is straight with a level. Repeat this process until the entire area is tiled.

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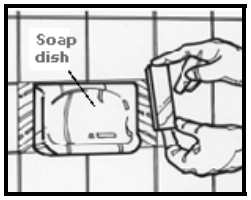

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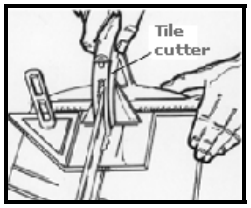

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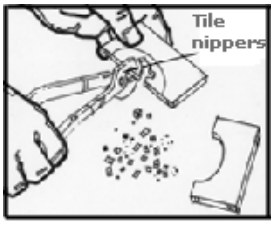

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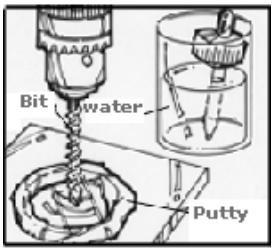

E

Step 6. Cutting Tiles:

To Fit Around the Soap Dish
If you are tiling a wall in your shower, be sure to leave out enough tiles to attach the soap dish to the wall (Diagram A). The amount of tiles left out will be proportional to the size of the tile. Center the soap dish in the open space and cut tiles with a tile cutter (Diagram B) to fit on each side of the dish.

To Fit Around Pipes
To tile around pipes and wall mounted faucets, use a pencil to mark the tile where it needs to be cut and break out the marked piece with tile nippers (Diagram C). Smooth the edges with 80-grit sandpaper.

To Cut Tile:
Here are a few ways to cut tile so it fits perfectly around pipes or faucets:

- **Rent a Power Tile Cutter**. Cut the tile in half before using a tile nipper to nip out the center to fit the pieces around the pipe.
- **Use a Nail Instead of a Tile Cutter.** First, score the tile down the center with a glass cutter, then place the scored mark over a nail and press down to break the tile (Diagram D).
- **Use a Drill.** You will need to make a big enough hole in the tile to fit around the pipe. Use a carbide bit and a ring of plumber's putty (Diagram E) in the spot you will be drilling. Fill the ring with water so the tile does not get too hot and shatter.

Step 7. Distribute Grout Over the Tiles
Once all of the tiles are adhered to the area, apply grout. Cover the tiles with grout using a rubber-bottom float or a sponge and wipe on a diagonal. Sweep the float across the tile to remove any excess grout. If you are tiling a shower or bathtub remember to make sure the grout includes a waterproofing agent.

Step 8. Fill the Joints with Caulk
If you are tiling a bathtub or shower wall, fill the tub with water so it is heavy enough to pull the tub away from the tile. Using latex or silicone caulk, fill the joint area between the tile and tub. Put soap on you finger so the caulk does not stick to it and smooth the caulk into the groove. After the caulk dries, trim the excess away with a utility knife.