

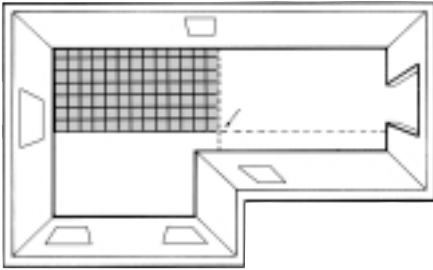


# “How To” Install Ceramic Tile

Wear Q.E.P. Knee Pads (#79021, #79022 or #79024) and Gloves (#21591) to protect your knees and hands

## Preparation . . .

Use a Floor Scraper (Q.E.P. #75007 or #20900) to remove any debris from the subfloor that cannot be easily wiped free (i.e., old adhesive, residue, etc.) with a broom or cleaning solution. Clean the subfloor of grease, paint or anything that would inhibit adhesive or thinset bonding. Patch any cracks and level the subfloor before beginning tile installation. Make sure the subfloor is sound and not “spongy” which could eventually crack the tile and grout.



1. Measure and mark the center point of two opposite walls.
2. Snap a chalk line between these two points to get a center line. Repeat this between the other two walls so you have two lines that cross in the center of the room. Check that the intersection is square with a carpenter's square and adjust if necessary before snapping second line.
3. Lay a row of loose tiles along one line, from the center point to the wall. If the space left between the last tile and wall is less than half a tile wide, move the other center line one-half tile closer to the other wall and snap a new chalk line. Repeat this

along your other center line. This will insure wide, even tiles around the perimeter of the room.

4. Remove any moulding and doors, cut door bottoms and jambs with an Undercut Saw or Jamb Saw (Q.E.P. #62906 or #21600). Reattach moulding and doors after job is completed and grout is fully dried.

5. Begin your installation along these lines, working from the center out, one quarter section at a time. (Remember to leave yourself a way out of the room without stepping on the newly set tiles.) All the outside edge tiles should be cut last and laid at one time. (Leave a 1/4" space around the perimeter for expansion that would later be covered by moulding.)

## TOOL CHECKLIST

- Trowel
- Float
- Tile Cutter
- Nippers
- Spacers
- Grout Sponge
- Tile Pliers
- Mixer
- Wet Saw
- Scraper
- Knee Pads
- Gloves
- Bucket
- Grout Saw
- Grout Bag
- Undercut Saw/  
Jamb Saw
- Rod Saw
- Hack Saw
- Sabersaw

## Installation . . .



### NOTCHED TROWEL

The Notched Trowel is designed to apply tile adhesive to vertical or horizontal surfaces quickly and evenly without mess. The ridges made by the notches allow the adhesive to spread evenly when you press tile into place.

### Applying the Adhesive

Depending on the adhesive and type of tile that is being used, use the adhesive manufacturers recommendation for the correct trowel notch size. QEP offers notched Trowels in Economy, Pro and Mega-Grip grades. Hold the trowel at a 45° angle to the wall or floor (see illustration). Apply adhesive evenly. The trowel should give you proper thickness and coverage. Caution: Apply no more than twenty five square feet at a time. Some adhesives dry faster than others so use the directions from the adhesive to be sure.

### Setting Each Tile

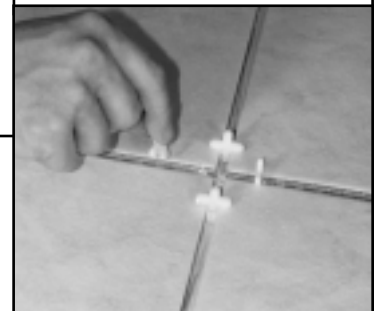
Set each “whole” tile with a slight twisting motion and press firmly into place (do not slide in). A Suction Cup (Q.E.P. #75000) can be used to help position larger tiles.

### For Floor Tiles

To make sure tiles are firmly set, place a flat board across the surface and tap with Rubber Mallet. Do not walk on the floor after it has been tiled. Place a piece of plywood on the floor if you must

walk on it until adhesive is fully set according to directions.

Spacers make grout lines straight and even.



Using Tile Spacers (Use Q.E.P. Tile Spacers, available in a variety of sizes)

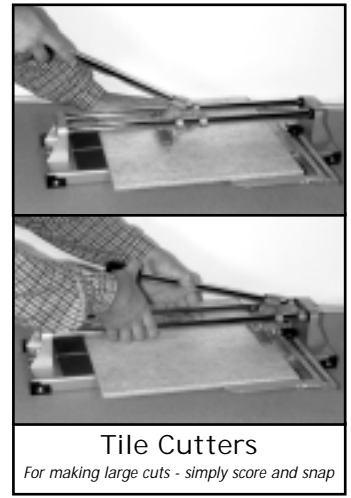
1. Place the first tile into position on the setting line and put a spacer in vertically at each corner.
2. Continue setting the next tile alongside, with its corners against the previous spacers and repeat this procedure. The Spacers should be set “tombstone” style and not laid flat.
3. Wait until the adhesive has set up according to the manufacturers instructions before removing Spacers with Spacer Removal Tool (Q.E.P. #10277).

## Cutting Tiles

After the whole tiles have been set, you will have to cut and fit the remaining border and corner tiles.

### Tile Cutters and Wet Saws

To save time and to make large and multiple cuts, use a Tile Cutter such as Q.E.P.'s 12" "Model B" Tile Cutter (Q.E.P. #10267) 13" Maestro 13™ Tile Cutter (Q.E.P. #13000), 14" Monocottura Tile Cutter (Q.E.P. #14000), 17" Pro Ball Bearing Clinker Tile Cutter (Q.E.P. #21044) or the 20" BRUTUS Tile Cutter (Q.E.P. #10552). For larger rooms, use a Wet Saw such as Q.E.P.'s 4" Portable Wet Saw (Q.E.P. # 60084), 7" Portable Wet Saw (Q.E.P. # 60085), or 10" Trim-Line Dual-Speed Wet Saw (Q.E.P. # 60010). Follow the directions provided with the cutter or Wet Saw for proper results.



#### TILE NIPPERS

Use Tile Nippers to cut smaller tile pieces, remove points from corners, fit pieces around fixtures, outlets and to make other irregular cuts.

Tile Nipper Directions (use Q.E.P. Tile Nippers, #32015 or #10003)

1. In shaping tiles, first make an outline on paper, cut out the shape and then trace it on the tile with a China Marker (Q.E.P. #38776).
2. With the Tile Nipper, make small cuts or "nibbles" until desired shape is achieved. (Note: use Q.E.P. Tile Pliers #10004 to score and snap glazed wall tile).
3. For straightedge cuts, nip small bites along the length of the tile.
4. Use Safety Goggles (Q.E.P. #78501) to prevent injury while making cuts.

Tile Plier Directions (use Q.E.P. Tile Pliers, #10004 - For use with wall tile only)

1. Using a ruler, make a China Marker line (Q.E.P. #38776) on the glazed surface of the tile to be cut.
2. Use the ruler to guide the cutter by placing it along the marked line. Hold the tile cutter firmly with the scoring wheel against the ruler.
3. Slowly make a single straight score, by drawing the cutter along the ruler towards yourself. Make sure the score runs the whole

length of the cut without gaps and that the cutting wheel runs off the edge of the tile. Use the tile pliers wheel to break the glaze on the tile.

4. Place the tile, scored side up between the jaws of the tile cutter, with the score line in the center of the jaws.
5. Squeeze the handles together firmly. The tile should break cleanly along the scored line.

Rod Saw/Hacksaw/Saber Saw (use Q.E.P. #10008, #10030, #10013 or #10014)

These cutting tools are used to cut out half circles for faucets, pipe outlets and toilet bowls.



## Grouting

Let the adhesive or thinset cure per manufacturers instructions before you begin grouting (Usually 24 to 48 hours). Mix the grout according to package instructions with a Mixer (Q.E.P. #75001, #61204 or #61205). Remember to remove all Spacers.

1. Use a Grout Bag to spread grout directly into the joint (Q.E.P. #76000) or a Grout Float (Q.E.P. #10060, #10061, #10062, #10063 or #10074) to spread grout diagonally across the face of the tile, and thus into the joints. Apply grout to only 25 square feet at a time. You can use an old toothbrush handle for narrow joints and corners. Be sure that the grout is forced into the joints so that they are completely filled with no voids or air pockets.



Using a Grout Float



2. Wipe off the excess grout by drawing the edge of a Float, holding it at a 45° angle, diagonally across. Remove as much excess grout as possible.

3. Wait 15-20 minutes before cleaning. Soak a Grouting Sponge (Q.E.P. #70004 or #70005) in clear water and wring it out thoroughly. Wipe the tiles diagonally, removing any remaining grout and rinsing Sponge often. Repeat until the joints are smooth and level with the tiles, and the tiles are as clean as you can get them with the Sponge. For best results repeat this step the next two days to allow grout to cure slower and

stronger. \*Be sure not to overwet sponge when cleaning grout, it will pull color out of grout causing uneven coloration.

4. After the remaining grout has dried to a haze, polish it off with a soft cloth or Cheesecloth (Q.E.P. # 76030) following manufacturers directions. \*Caution: Keep water away from newly tiled surfaces for at least 48 hours.

## Sealing

Seal grout lines, after it has cured per manufacturers recommendation, to keep grout looking its best, protect your grout and prevent liquid absorption, which may cause grout staining.

1. Fill Q.E.P. Grout Sealer Applicator Bottle (#10279 or #19999) with a water-based silicone sealer at full strength, do not mix with water.
2. Simply follow the grout lines with the applicator tip to apply the sealer. Wipe clean any excess on the tile.

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