

*for design inspiration*



## TILING TIPS+ TERMINOLOGY

0800 289 845  
[tilewarehouse.co.nz](http://tilewarehouse.co.nz)



## TILING TIPS

1. Make sure you have enough tiles to finish the job before starting tiling as more tiles may not always be available.
2. Plan your layout. Avoid small or narrow cuts wherever possible. Plan how one area may flow on from another. The first tile put down determines where every other tile will go.
3. Remember tiles and accessories are not always returnable. Tiles are normally only returnable if faulty or if a prior arrangement is made and noted on your receipt at the time of purchase. If in doubt ask about the return policy before you buy.
4. Make sure you are tiling onto a rigid surface that is flat, dry and dust free. Timber floors may need over-sheeting with cement fibre board before tiling.
5. Always waterproof showers and wet areas before you tile them. Tile installations do not act as a 100% moisture barrier, they are designed to protect the waterproof surface below them and make cleaning easier. There is a good range of waterproofing materials available that are easy to apply.
6. When using sealers and cleaners always test a small area first to determine the results.
7. Check tiles before installation for size, colour and quality. No claims are recognised after fixing.
8. Keep your receipt for future reference; it will have all the details if you ever need them.
9. Keep spares for any future repairs. If you have spares, tiles are very easy to repair.
10. Always work from multiple boxes of tiles to ensure a good blend of shadings. Colour variation is a natural feature of ceramic tiles and other fired products; enjoy it (mention this to your tiler, it's important).
11. Read instructions on all adhesives, grouts sealers and other items before starting. Ask your retailer questions if you have any doubts.
12. Silicone corner joints and where tiles meet skirting and other materials to allow for any movement and temperature contractions and expansions.
13. Clean any glue or grout off tiles BEFORE it dries. Change your cleaning water often so less residue is left.
14. Stay off tiles until glue/grout has properly dried.
15. When using acids for cleaning surfaces and etching, keep pets well away until residue is thoroughly rinsed.
16. Tiles have small variations. Let the size of your grout joints reflect this. If the variation is 1mm, then you want approximately 5 times this variation for the size of your grout joints. Terracotta generally has bigger size variation so a larger grout joint is recommended. Less than .5mm = 3mm grout joint. 1mm variation = 5mm grout joint. 3mm variation = 15mm grout joint.

## TILING TERMINOLOGY

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Adhesive            | Different types are available, depending on what type of substrate you have.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Blade       | Tile Warehouse sell diamond blades that can be fitted to a grinder for cutting tiles.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grout               | Multiple colours are available to match your tiles.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grout Additive      | This is needed when tiling over wooden floors or onto a flexible substrate.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grout Haze Remover  | To remove final haze from grout application, giving you a perfect finish.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grout Sealer        | Recommended for ease of maintenance and colour protection.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grouter             | A tool with a rubber edge to make grouting easier.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nails               | Threadulated clouts for fixing tile underlay.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primer              | Must be used on the substrate before tiling.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silicone            | Used to give a flexible grout joint. Must be used around the perimeter of rooms, wall corners, or where tiles meet other surfaces. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silicone Applicator | Rubber for perfect silicone finish.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth Off          | Liquid used for easy finish of silicone application.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spacers             | Spacers keep your grout lines uniform and make spacing the tiles easier. Recommended 1.5mm on wall and 3mm on floor.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponge              | For cleaning up after applying grout.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tile Cleaners       | For everyday use or heavy duty cleans.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tile Cutter         | We have manual tile cutters for sale or hire.*   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tile Nippers        | Various types available to aid cutting all tiles.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tile Sealers        | Needed to seal porous tiles, slate, terracotta, travertine, marble or granite.   |

\*This service may not be available at some locations.

- Tile Trims                      Used to cover the exposed edges of tiles.
- Tile Marking Pencil              For marking cuts onto the tiles.
- Tile Underlay                      For tiling onto wooden floors where floor joists are more than 450mm apart, or where there is too much movement. Recommended 6mm.
- Tiles                                  Floor tiles can be used for both the floor and wall. Wall tiles can only be used on the wall.
- Trowel                                For applying adhesive. Normally an 8mm or 10mm sized trowel is required for floors and 4mm or 6mm is required for wall tiling.
- Wedges                                Used at the base of wall tiling to get levels correct.

## WATERPROOFING

- Bond Breaking Tape              For applying to corners and joins in substrate before applying waterproof membrane. Recommended 50mm.
- Flexible Sealer                      Generic waterproofing membrane suitable for small projects.
- Hydrathene                         New waterproofing membrane with faster curing time.
- Liquid Flash                        Waterproofing membrane suitable for wet areas.
- Primer                                Must be applied before applying waterproof membrane.
- Reinforcing Tape                    For applying to joins and corners after first membrane coat is applied. Recommended 150mm.