



## Color Appeal Installation Guide

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### Before you Begin:

Glass tiles are designed to provide a lifetime of beauty and use. However they are not designed to be used on floors or counter tops. Installation procedures differ slightly depending on the size of the glass tiles. The following is a general installation guide for glass tiles. As most installations differ in one respect or another it is always recommended to use products from Custom, Laticrete, or Mapei per guidelines supported by the The Tile Council of America Installation Guide (NTCA) revised 2012 [www.tcnatile.com](http://www.tcnatile.com), the National Tile Contractors Association [www.tile-assn.com](http://www.tile-assn.com) and respective installation materials manufacturers' guides for the most up to date procedures.

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Glass tiles may be installed on interior or exterior wall areas, in wet or dry locations but not submerged into water totally. Glass differs from ceramic products, so extra caution and attention to installation instructions is recommended. In every case glass tiles should not be exposed to high abrasion, high impact and thermal shock or installed over flexible surfaces.

**Important-**Many substrates may continue to cure and shrink over a period of months, and a crack suppression membrane prevents shrinkage or movement of the substrate to mirror through the tile. Install only over well-cured, stable substrates. Allow for an expansion joint whenever substrates change. Acceptable substrates would include cement mortar beds, gypsum wall board (dry areas only), and concrete backer boards.

### Step 1:

Use a modified flexible white thin-set mortar (meeting the minimum specifications of ANSI 118.4 or ISO-C2SI) or a 2-component, flexible acrylic thin-set mortar system formulated for interior and exterior wall installations. Using the flat side of a trowel to initiate the bond coat, firmly apply the setting material to the substrate.

### Step 2:

With additional setting material, using a 3/16" x1/4" V-Notch trowel, comb horizontal, full notches in one direction to establish the proper depth of the setting bed.

### Step 3:

Using the flat side of the trowel, flatten the notches to achieve a smooth, consistent setting bed approximately 1/8" thick.

### Step: 4

Apply sheets into the setting bed using light even pressure to establish contact and eliminate any voids.

### Step: 5

To achieve a uniform surface, tap lightly using a wooden beating block and a hammer.

Caution: Do not use rubber floats or steel trowels for this step.

### Step: 6

Apply each subsequent sheet so that grout joints line up and a consistent field is maintained.

Prior to setting each sheet, check the setting bed for skinning (slight drying of the thin set surface). If skinning occurs, remove thin-set and repeat steps 2 & 3.

### Step: 7

To unify the tile surface from one sheet to the next, use a wooden beating block and hammer, again lightly tapping from one sheet to the next.

### Grouting:

Adequate time must be given for bonding materials to dry prior to grouting. This drying time may be extended when membranes or larger glass tile are used. Non sanded grout is recommended on glass, metal, and stone tiles to avoid scratching. Sanded grout can be used; however SPECIAL CARE MUST be used. Sanded grout can easily scratch the surface of glass, metals, and stone. Use only soft rubber grout float, sponge, and cloth. Glass tile should be clean and joints cleared to a consistent depth of bonding mortar prior to grouting. This will help to ensure consistent grout color and shadowing through the sides of the glass tiles. Extended set time is required when grouting glass tiles. Extra time and care should be used to leave no heavy grout haze that would take harsh chemicals to remove at a later time. Refer to grout manufacturer's instructions.

### Cutting:

It is always recommended to use a wet saw with cutting blade designed to cut glass tiles.

### Cutting Thick, Etched or Textured Glass:

Use a diamond blade designed for cutting glass on a wet saw. A blade for cutting glass is thin, has smaller diamonds than a tile blade, has a continuous rim and generally runs at a slower speed.

**Note:** A blade designed for cutting ceramic tiles is coarse and will chip the glass. A ceramic tile cutter is not recommended. Always cut glass tile with the rotation of the blade into the back side of the glass tile. Whenever possible cut edges should be sanded and placed in corners where they can be covered or hidden.

**Cleaning** – for routine cleaning, use a non-abrasive cleaning compound recommended for either glass or tile. Follow rinsing instructions carefully. A grout sealer may be used to facilitate clean up.

### Recommended By Aqua Mix:

Aqua Mix Concentrated Stone & Tile Cleaner  
Aqua Mix Heavy Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner  
Aqua Mix Stone Deep Clean

### Recommended By Stone Tech:

DuPont-Stone Tech Professional Tile and Stone Cleaner  
Stone Tech KlenzAll