

# TILE LIQUIDATORS

2911 Water Tower Place Chanhassen, MN. 55317  
(952) 448-2121

## How To Install Ceramic Wall Tile

The Tile Liquidators sales representatives are trained experts. Which means you will receive all the proper information and instruction on your do-it-yourself tiling project.

### Step #1 Wall Preparation- Tools Needed



**Chalk line**  
Guide for laying out tile



**Carpenter's square**  
Straight edge and squaring tool



**Level**  
Used to establish an even working line



**Backerboard screws**  
1 1/4" screws used to secure subfloor



**Tape Measure**  
Use for accurate measurements



**Fiberglass Tape**  
Tape joints of backerboard

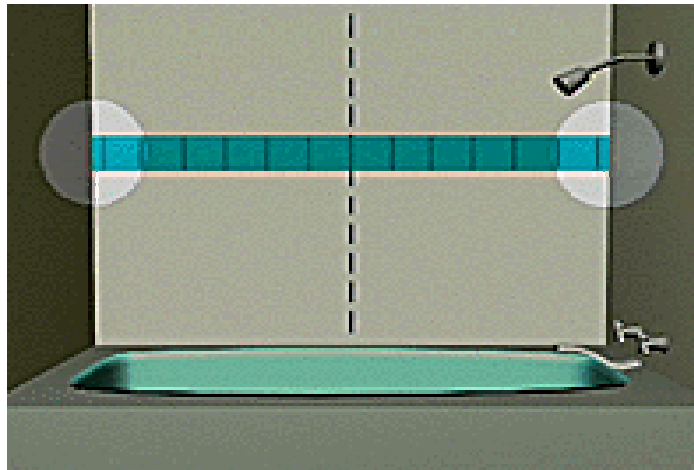


**Durock Knife**  
Use for cutting durock.

How you begin this step will depend on which type of surface you are tiling over. Wall tile can be used over several different surfaces including plaster, drywall, cement block, cement board or existing tile. When using durock you will fill all seams and corners with 100% silicone and tape with a fiberglass mesh tape. When you are attaching the durock to the studs use backerboard screws. On tub surrounds you should run the durock up the wall 3 feet high. On stand up showers you should run the durock 5 feet high. You will have to make sure to leave 1/4" space where tile will meet the top of a tub or shower base by chipping away any material there and then after the tiling is done caulk this space.

## Step # 2 Layout-

First you will need to draw out your guidelines. Take a level and draw a line at the desired height, your base line. As shown in the diagram. This line will carry out around all the walls that you will be tiling. Next you will make sure the tile lays out so that there are no odd cuts where the tile meets the tub or any other permanent fixtures. Planning your starting point and ending point will avoid problems that will occur once the installation actually begins. Pick your starting point, and with a level draw a vertical line at this point. Now you will lightly nail a 1"x2" wood strip to the wall. This strip will hold up the first row of tile so that it does not slip. Next install the second row of tile on the strip and work towards the corners. You can remove the wood strip and install first row of tile.



Please see your Tile Liquidators salesperson for specific details on building a shower pan and tiling shower walls.



### Step # 3 Adhesive- Tools Needed



**Margin Trowel**  
Use to mix and apply  
thinset and grout



**Notched Trowel**  
Use to spread adhesive

For wall tile mastic can be used, however in areas with high moisture we recommend using a white thinset. Mastic is a pre-mixed glue in a pail that you will just need to trowel on. Thinset will be a powder you mix with water and trowel on. Read all packages for proper mixing instructions. Please consult your Tile Liquidators sales representative to find out which size trowel you should be using for your project. Any gaps between the tub and wall or plumbing fixtures fill with caulk.

When applying the adhesive keep the trowel at a 45 degree angle. Be sure to only apply enough adhesive to tile within approximately 10-15 minutes. Any adhesive that may dry before you are able to the tile to it must be scraped off the wall and a fresh batch must be applied.

## Step #4 Setting Tile- Tools needed



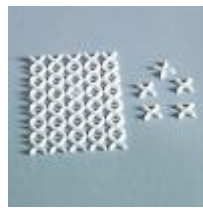
Tile Cutter



Tile Nippers



Wet Saw



Tile Spacers

Begin by setting your first tile at the junction of the center line and horizontal level line you drew. Work your way up this line and out towards the wall. Slightly twist tile into place and push into the adhesive. If any adhesive comes up through the edges of the tile take a damp sponge and wipe if clean. Using the tile spacers will help to keep the tile consistent looking. Stand back and check to make sure the tile is straight and level throughout. Use your nippers or wet saw for any curved cuts or notches that you may need to do around the fixtures.

**Tile must dry for 24 Hours.**

## Step # 5 Grouting- Tools Needed-



**Grout Float**  
Used to apply grout



**Scrub Pad**  
Grout Cleaning Tool



**Grout Sponge**  
Will not leave excess liquid, is very absorbent



**Buckets**  
Used for mixing grout and clean water

Remove all the tile spacers. Begin mixing your grout by taking a bucket and pouring in some grout and adding the flexible latex admixture to it until it is a “peanut butter” consistency. Only mix enough to spread out and work with in approximately a 20 minute time period.

Using the grout float work the grout into the grout joints. Only grout a small section at a time so that you can go back with a damp sponge and wipe off any excess grout from the face of the tile. If you do not get off all of the grout haze after the grout dries for 30 minutes use a dry cloth to buff it off of the face of the tile.

## **Step #6 - Setting Fixtures:**

Use 100 percent silicone to attach ceramic fixtures to the tile walls. Spread the silicone on the back of the fixture and attach to wall. Then use duct tape to secure the fixture until the silicone has dried completely.



## **Step # 7 Caulking-**

Next you will need to caulk around all the ceramic fixtures, along the edges of the tub, and all corners of the walls. This will help to prevent any water from getting in behind the tile and walls.

## Step # 8-Sealing the grout-



Wait for grout to dry for **72 Hours**. Using a small foam brush wipe the sealer down the grout lines, wiping any extra sealer off from the face of the tiles with a dry paper towel. Grout should be sealed every 5 years or more depending on use.