WHAT YOU’LL NEED

Take this into store with you to make sure you get everything in one trip.
For this project the following materials and equipment are required:

MATERIALS:
- Mosaics and smaller tiles (4mm x 4mm V notched)
- Wall tiles (6mm x 6mm square notched)
- Floor tiles flat backed (6mm x 6mm square notched)
- Floor tiles lugged (8mm x 8mm square notched)
- Silicone sealant

TOOLS:
- Beating block and rubber hammer (for floors)
- Notched trowel/spreader
- Mixing tool for cement base (electric drill slow speed, high torque 150-200rpm)
- Mixing paddle OR strong mixing stick for hand mixing
- Dust mask (if cutting with power tool or mixing powders)
- Tile cutters OR scoring tool
- Disposable rubber gloves
- Tile nippers
- Large firm sponge
- Chalk line
- Spirit level
- Hammer
- Tape measure
- Straight edge
- Tile spacers
- Clean rags
- Knee pads
- Safety goggles
- Plastic buckets
- RCD

Mitre 10 Handy Hints:
- To enhance colour of grout and increase stain resistance always use a grout additive when mixing the grout.

STEP 5
Start laying the tiles at the furthest point from the door. Insert spacers to allow for even gaps and easy removal after the adhesive has set.

STEP 6
DO NOT walk on tiles for at least 24 hours.

GROUTING

Before you start, ensure the grout joints are clean and free from excess adhesive. For porous tiles, dampen the joints with water before grouting to avoid dehydration.

DO NOT grout until tiling adhesive has set firmly. Remove all spacers from between tiles before grouting.

Mitre 10 Handy Hints:
- When tiling close to any obstructions, allow a 6mm gap for sealant. Apply the sealant before the grout.

STEP 1
Mix grout to a smooth toothpaste consistency as per instructions on packaging.

STEP 2
Work grout diagonally into joints using a rubber squeegee or grout float. Only grout small areas at a time.

STEP 3
With a damp sponge and working in a diagonal motion, wipe the tiles’ excess grout from surface. Change water regularly.

STEP 4
When the grout has sufficiently hardened in tile joints, polish the tile with a clean dry cloth.

Mitre 10 Handy Hints:
- It is important the correct tile adhesive is used on the correct substrate. Not all tile adhesives can be used on wooden floors.
TILING WALLS

STEP 1
Find a horizontal and vertical line on the wall. Depending on the tiles, begin your layout to allow for no tile cuts at the top, or any visual points on the wall.

STEP 2
Draw lines in grids to allow for tile shape and pattern. The horizontal lines should be drawn every three tiles.

STEP 3
Ensure you use a non-slump wall tile adhesive to allow you to tile from the top of the wall down. Apply the tile adhesive horizontally, using a trowel. Cover no more than one square metre at a time.

STEP 4
Apply tiles by pressing evenly to get a good adhesive coverage. Insert tile spacers to allow for even gaps. The next tile should be placed up against the spacer, making sure not to press too hard, ensuring the joints are free of tiling adhesive to allow for the application of the grout. Check your work to ensure it is plumb, level and square every square metre.

STEP 5
When tiling close to any obstructions/floor/bath allow a 6mm gap for sealant.

STEP 6
Allow tiles to set for 24 hours, then remove tile spacers. If you can't remove all the spacers, don't worry, you can grout over them.

TILING FLOORS

Concrete floors should be crack free and flat. If you find there are cracks, these should be filled with a suitable concrete repair products. Any non-flat surfaces should be levelled with a suitable floor leveller that levels from zero to 25mm.

Wooden floors should be level. If they're not, use a suitable timber floor leveller prior to the application of any fibre cement sheeting.

STEP 1
Identify the floor surface to be tiled. Take note of the concrete or timber floor, if there are any cracks or unlevelled surfaces, these must be remedied before tiling commences.

STEP 2
If the same tiles are being used on the wall and the floor, start by tiling the floor first so you can line up the tiles up to match.

STEP 3
Find the centre of the room and square off the area to be tiled.

STEP 4
Lay tiles out in a pattern suitable to the shape and size of the room and mark out your tile pattern by drawing it on the floor. Apply the tile adhesive making sure it is applied evenly using a trowel. Cover no more than one square metre at a time.

CUTTING TILES

Use a suitable tile cutter for the type of tile that you are using. See the tile cutters specifications for details.

When cutting curves use an angle grinder with a diamond blade or alternatively a pair of hand nips can be used.

For cutting holes, use a drill with a diamond cutter and water. Make sure you only use your drill on a low speed.

STAY SAFE:
- Always wear gloves, goggles and a face mask.
- Dust can be a problem if cutting with power tools.
- Tile chips can get into eyes and cut edges can be sharp.
- Tile adhesives contain chemicals and/or Portland cement which can produce adverse skin reactions.
- Always use an RCD when working with electricity and water.

Tiles can add a great look to floors, walls, splash backs or showers. With a little work, the right tools, and an Easy As guide, tiling is a job that can be tackled with confidence by the average Kiwi DIYer.

Mitre 10 Handy Hints:
- If the floor is cracked, tile either side of crack. If the crack is tiled over, then the tile will also crack.