

SECTION 5

PREPARING THE TILE

For Homax® SPRAY & SET™ Adhesive to bond properly, the wall and tiles must be clean and free of dust. During waiting periods, be sure to clean the back of each tile carefully with a damp, not wet, sponge or rag.

- Clean and dry tile backs completely – do this while waiting for the adhesive to cure after spraying it on the wall, or before back buttering.
- Be sure to check to see if your tiles are suitable for use with SPRAY & SET™ Adhesive.
- Set a tile on a flat surface, if it can be made to rock back and forth, it is not suitable.
- If a tested tile lies flat, it will bond correctly with SPRAY & SET™ Adhesive.
- You will most likely need to cut a row of tiles for trim, corners, borders, etc. Be sure you have your cutting tool handy and extra tiles for this process. Here's a tiling tip: You can set tiles more easily and accurately by placing full tiles on the wall first and then placing cut tiles later.



Be sure to clean and dry tile backs.



Test tiles to make certain they lie flat.

MARKING AND CUTTING TILE

Virtually all tiling projects require some tile cutting. To simplify this job all you need is a little knowledge and the right tools. Snap cutters and wet saws both make good straight cuts in tiles. Additionally, a wet saw allows you to make L-shaped, notch and irregular cuts – not possible with a snap cutter. Also, the edge on a wet saw cut is smoother and will not require a file to smooth the edges of the tile.

One other tool to consider having in your toolbox is a tile nipper. A tile nipper is used to make circular and irregular cuts at the edges of tile.

Which cutting method you choose is up to you – both offer affordable options. Detailed information on cutting tiles is available in DIY books and on a wide array of websites.



Wet Saw



Snap Cutter and Tile Nipper

To help get you started, here are some pointers on cutting tile.

- Mark a straight cut by placing the tile to be cut over the last tile placed in the row or column. Place another tile over it and against the finished edge, allowing for a ¼-inch spacer. Then, mark the tile to be cut along the edge of the marker tile.
- For complex cuts, measure and make a template out of cardboard or thick, stiff paper. Cut out the template and trace it on the tile to be cut.
- Mark holes by holding the tile over the last tile set vertically and marking the sides of the hole where the tile touches the obstacle. Then make your horizontal marks, placing the tile on the tile beside it and again mark the sides of the hole.
- Using a square, transfer the two edge marks to where they meet in the middle of the tile – these are the outside edges of the hole. Trace the hole using some template like a washer.
- You can use any type of cutter you choose, but it is a good idea to ask for a demonstration on how to use a cutter before buying it.
- Snap cutters will make great straight cuts in ceramic tiles, but do not work for stone.
- Wet saws allow you to make straight cuts, notches and even nibble away the edges for irregular cuts. Follow all manufacturers’ directions and warnings when using this power tool.
- Tile nippers are used to make round or irregular cuts at the edges and corners of tile.



When cutting a tile be sure to measure carefully.



Mark holes by holding the tile over previously set tiles.



Use a square to transfer cut marks to your tile.

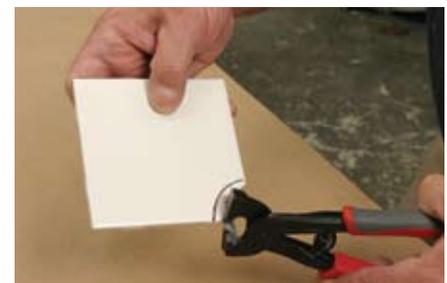
Here are the three most popular tile cutting tools in action.



Snap Cutter



Wet Saw



Tile Nippers