

ABOUT TILE

Last month, we talked about establishing a project overview in order to define the elements, the choice of materials, and the size of the tiles so that everything fits well once the project is finished.

Let's start by choosing the method of installation of the tiles. The first option, called the "thin set" is used in 50% of cases, because it is the fastest, least expensive, and most suitable for tiles up to 20 inches by 20 inches. Using this method, an open space is kept between each tile for room to apply the grout. This type of installation must follow the level of the floor without correction of imperfections. In addition, with this method, the joints get dirty very quickly requiring regular and careful maintenance. It should also be noted that the use of smaller tiles gives the effect of a smaller space.



The second option which may be the most attractive, but is also the most expensive, is called the "mud set". It is used specially for large tiles, 24, 30, 40 inches or more. The first step is to extend the cement base for the tiles, with a thickness of $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1 \frac{1}{4}$ of an inch, depending on the corrections required to the existing surface. As the work progresses, a level is used to ensure a perfect slope. The mud set method of installation allows us to bring the tiles closer, virtually eliminating the seal, especially when working with porcelain tile. Marble tile is also installed this way.

If you live in a condo and you plan to resurface your floors, please note that in Florida the building code requires the installation of a sound membrane approved by the city and your condo association. This will entail additional costs.

Finally, if your renovation project requires, for

example, the moving of plumbing equipment and cutting your concrete floor, an anti-movement membrane must be installed after repairing and cementing the opening to avoid movement and cracks in the floor.

For choice of tile, I most often suggest a 24 x 24 tile in all rooms as well as outdoors, your balcony, or terrace while maintaining the same angle of installation.

To get more volume in your bathroom, I suggest installing the same tile on the walls of your shower. You can always integrate a mosaic on the floor, as well as a banner on the walls or in the niche. For the shower or the bath, transparent panels of glass are the best for maximum volume. Inside the shower, you can install a bench and a niche for soap and shampoo. You can also choose to install floating cabinets and recessed lighting to achieve maximum volume, with lots of space.

Should the tile be installed at 45° or at 90° angle?

Today's trend leans toward installation at 90°, giving the sensation of an elongated line. In addition, I suggest that the installation be continuous and without transition. Don't use a wood or marble threshold, but use the same color for all the rooms, including your bathrooms and the rest of your interior.

If you choose tiles that are busy (veining, design, etc.), you should use solid colors for your countertops and vice versa.

The material used for your countertops may be considered for shower sills, and window sills as well. The shower bench can have the same finish as the counters too.

Carpets or throw rugs as well as color accessories will define your spaces.

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