

Why Prepare?

Preparing your substrate which you are adhering the tiles to is one of the most important tasks to get right. If you don't get the surface flat, clean and firm, the tiles could break, jut out, lift off or you could end up with a squeaky floor.

Applying to a painted surfaces:

When applying to a painted surface, strip the paint all the way back or simply cover it with cement sheeting.

Applying to existing tiles:

You can tile over existing tiles if they are still solid. If applying to high gloss porcelain, you may need to grind the tiles which creates a rough surface, or paint on a bonding agent prior to the adhesive. On most other tiles, a good adhesive will work fine. But be aware that this will reduce the amount of space available in your room.

How to remove existing tiles:

Rip them off using a hammer and chisel.

TIP: If your floor and walls are solid you could hire a jackhammer for a day which would be a lot quicker.



WARNING

Houses pre-dating 1980 may have asbestos please consult a professional for the right advice!

Disclaimer: The information contained in this fact sheet is general information only. If you need advice, you should seek professional advice based on your own circumstances.

PREPARATION

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Tiling Fact Sheet



Preparing the substrate

Ensure substrate is level:

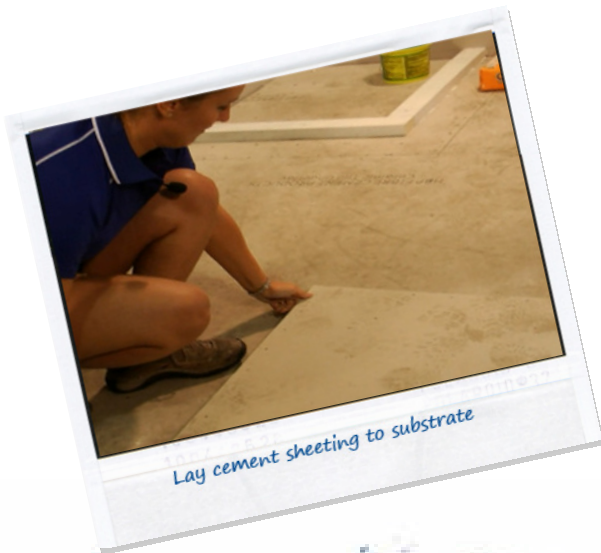
Use a straight edge such as a piece of steel or a spirit level to see if there are any gaps. If your floor is level, you can move onto sheeting, if not, you need to level the floor.



Using a spirit level to ensure your substrate is level

Apply sheeting:

Lay your cement sheeting over the floor. Apply water/moisture resistant plasterboard to the walls. As an alternative to plaster board, use cement sheeting .



Lay cement sheeting to substrate

Screw sheeting to flooring:

Screw the sheeting down instead of using nails so that the floor does not lift up or squeak. **TIP: Add a little Liquid Nails to give it that extra contact.**

Sweep and vacuum before you start tiling to ensure the area is grit free.



Screw in sheeting

Priming....

We recommend that you prime the surfaces. Primer is a liquid that assists the adhesive process. Just paint it on and it should take about 30 minutes at room temperature (20 degrees) to dry. (further Information on priming is available in more detail from the "How to prime and waterproof" video and fact sheets.

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Waterproofing and seal internal joints:

Use a National Tiles sealant around internal joints, and paint on 2-3 coats of class 3 waterproofing membrane. Final thickness when dry should be between 0.5 and 1.5mm thick depending on the waterproof membrane used. This is the same for around the shower, bath and splashbacks for sinks.



Note: Please refer to Waterproofing Video and fact sheets for an in-depth guide on how to apply.

Please refer to the adhesive guide for the appropriate adhesive recommended for your job.



Choosing Grout:

When you are selecting grout, the National Tiles website offers great examples of what colour grout goes with each colour range. Check out the online gallery for inspiration. The smaller the tiles you have the more grout you will need.

Grout quantity guide: For example, a 20m² room of 300mm x 300mm tiles, purchase a 15kg bag of grout.



National Tiles recommendations and tips:

- When you are using a water proofing membrane or large format tiles like a 300mm x 600mm or 600mm x 600mm do not use pre mixed glue, use cement based adhesive such as Grants CB250 with LA100 additive to ensure you have a secure bond. Drying time is usually 24 hours.
- Like painting, tiles are a finish. If the surface you put tiles on is not strong, level or straight, you will get a poor finish.