

DIY - Laying Tiles on a Kitchen Wall

Important steps to take when tiling your kitchen splashback wall.

Before you start

- Kitchen walls are generally plaster so they need to be covered in fibrous cement sheeting (ie. tile underlay) before laying tiles. The wall must be sound, flat and clean. All dust and other contamination must be removed to provide a key for the adhesive.
- Carefully check that the kitchen benchtop is level as this will be your starting point for tiling. In addition, check that any vertical corners are at right angles to the benchtop.
- Prime the surface of the wall using a good quality primer. Allow to dry.
- Bond the tiles to the wall using a pre mixed adhesive
- You must apply the adhesive using a 6mm x 6mm notched trowel to ensure that your final adhesive bed thickness is 2-3mm after curing. If the tiles have lugs or buttons on the rear use a 10mm x 10mm trowel to ensure that the lugs are not directly touching the tile underlay.
- Wait 24 hours prior to grouting to allow the adhesive to dry. Mix the grout powder with water to achieve a lump free, toothpaste consistency.
- Apply the grout with a grouting tool and clean up the residue every 1-2 m² with a clean sponge washed out in clean water. Do not work the sponge too heavily in to the grout. This will avoid dragging grout out of the joints. Be careful not to spread too much grout before cleaning the tiles as it becomes harder to remove the grout as it dries
- Allow another 24 hours before cleaning the grout smear off with a clean white cloth
- Seal the grout to protect it from cooking grime etc.

The splashback is now ready to use.

Guidelines courtesy of Davco Construction Materials Pty Ltd