

ARTISTRY IN MOSAICS

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS for Ceramic Tile Mosaics

1. You will need: White Ceramic Tile Thin-set, Polymer Modified grout, 3-buckets (one for water, one for thin-set, one for grout) 1-Lg. & 1-Sm. smooth sponge, level, pencil, hand mixer, towels, rubber gloves, trowel and a razor knife.
2. Make sure the surface that you are installing on is clean and mostly dry if possible.
3. Release vacuum-sealed mosaic from cardboard backer by cutting around outer edge of mosaic with razor knife. Leave the plastic on the face of the mosaic for now. The screen backing will stay on the back of your mosaic through the whole process.
4. Choose a location for your mosaic. Do not allow the back of mosaic get wet at this point.
5. AIM mosaics may be installed on a curved surface, but bear in mind that grout spaces will open in a convex installation or close when installed on a concave surface, and there are limitations to how far the mosaic will flex before grout spaces are closed completely, making it difficult to properly grout. Also bear in mind that mosaics installed on pool wall less than 24 inches down from waterline will experience a prism effect from the water. The closer to the waterline they are the more 'squashed' they will appear when viewing them from the pool deck.
6. Hold your mosaic up in a location you like. (Keep in mind how your mosaic will look from many different views) Then trace an outline approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from outside edge of mosaic with a construction pencil.
7. Make clear guide marks on the pool shell at a few of the main points of the mosaic to aid re-positioning. Make them far enough out as to not get covered by thinset bed.
8. For larger mosaics, you may want to cut your mosaic in half or in sections for easier handling and placement if you are alone.
9. Slowly and carefully remove vacuum seal plastic by peeling it back from mosaic. Watch for any pieces stuck in the plastic after unpackaging.
10. Trim away any excessive screen remaining around mosaic.
11. For INDOOR or covered area applications: Apply a generous layer of "Ceramic Tile Mastic" to the back of your mosaic (right on top of the

screening) but not so much mastic as to allow the mastic to push through and between the pieces not allowing room for the grouting stage of this process. Allow Mastic to dry for at least 2-4 hours, preferably overnight before grouting.

12. For OUTDOOR or POOL installations: Mix thin-set according to manufacturer's instructions. Apply a ½" thick bed of "Ceramic Tile Thin-set" inside the outline that you traced in step six. Your thin-set bed should be moist but not runny and able to support the weight of the mosaic without settling. Take care to not to allow the surface of your thin-set bed to dry out before you lay on the mosaic. Allow thin-set to dry for at least 2-4 hours, preferably overnight before grouting.
13. The idea is to end up with the face of your mosaic raised about ½" high from the surface of the pool shell to allow for proper plaster thickness when floated. For wall applications, the face of the mosaic should be the same height as the waterline tile.
14. Position your mosaic over thin-set bed and press mosaic into place making sure to apply light and even pressure to all pieces while keeping the pieces flat.
15. Using a damp sponge, carefully wipe off any excess Mastic or Thin Set from all painted mosaic surfaces while still partially wet.
16. Grouting: Once your thin-set has set up properly, use a modified sanded grout in color of your choosing. Mix grout according to manufacturers instructions. Apply grout generously over the entire face of the mosaic, pushing down and completely filling all grout joints with your fingers or rubber float. Then, in a circular motion use a damp sponge rinsing your sponge often. Wipe all excess grout off of the face of the tiles. Allow your mosaic to dry for 15 minutes or so. Then, with a clean soft towel buff your mosaic to a polished shine.
17. For "Surface" or "Over plaster" applications: After grouting all the internal seams of your mosaic, begin applying grout along all the outer edges with your fingers. Then with a sponge, work the grout up onto the sides of your mosaic and into a beveled edge around all of the exposed sides of your mosaic. When completely grouted and beveled, remove all excess grout using a circular motion with a damp sponge rinsing your sponge often. Allow your mosaic to dry for 15 minutes or so. Then, with a clean soft towel buff your mosaic to a polished shine.
18. Stand back and ENJOY!