



Mosaic Tile Designs Installation Guide

Required Materials List

- High Performance Polymer Modified Thin-set meeting ANSI 118.15 specifications
- High Performance Polymer Modified Grout meeting ANSI 118.7 specifications
- Clean potable water
- Mixing containers
- Electric Drill and Mortar mixing paddle
- 1/4" notch trowel and grout float
- Grout sponge
- PPE- Gloves, Safety Glasses and proper work clothes
- Misc- Marking utensil, soft terry cloth towels, razor knife

General consideration for surface preparation suggests that surface should be 28 days cured and be structurally sound, clean and free of any standing moisture, wax, oil, paint particles, curing agents or foreign matter.

1. Remove vacuum-sealed mosaic from cardboard backer by cutting around outer edge of mosaic with razor knife. Most mosaics will be attached to screen mesh, which allows for it to be better supported and will provide proper spacing guidance. You may consider trimming the packaging plastic to include this screen to ease installation. Leave the plastic on the face of the mosaic for now. The screen backing will stay on the back of your mosaic through the entire process.
2. Choose a location for your mosaic. (Do not allow the back of mosaic to get wet at this point) 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.
3. Hold your mosaic up in a location that you like. Consider how your mosaic will look from different angles. With final position chosen, trace an outline approximately 1/4" away from outside edge of mosaic with a construction pencil. Make clear guide marks on the pool shell at a few of the main points of the mosaic to aid in re-positioning. Make them far enough out

as to not get covered by thin-set bed. Note for larger mosaics, you may want to cut your mosaic in half or more sections for ease of handling.

4. With the location chosen and area marked you can now prepare and set your mosaic. Slowly and carefully remove vacuum seal plastic by peeling it back from mosaic. Watch for any pieces stuck in the plastic after unpackaging.
5. You are now ready to prepare a setting bed and place your mosaic. Thin-set should meet or exceed High Performance Polymer Modified Thin-set ANSI 118.15 specifications. First, mix thin-set according to manufacturer's instructions. Make sure your placement area is surface saturation dry (damp but not puddling) so that the substrate does not remove vital moisture from your setting material needed for adhesion and curing. Then apply a 1/4" thick bed of thin-set inside the outline that you traced. Your thin-set bed should support the weight of the mosaic without settling. The idea is to end up with the face of your mosaic raised about 1/2" high from the surface of the pool shell to allow for proper plaster thickness when floated by the plaster installers. For wall applications, the face of the mosaic should be approximately the same height as the waterline tile. Note that the mosaic tile is approximately 1/4" thick.
6. Take care to not allow the surface of your thin-set bed to dry out (this is called 'skinning over') before you lay on the mosaic, if it does you will need to scrape off the entire bed and reapply. Position your mosaic over thin-set bed and press mosaic into place using your guide marks and making sure to apply light and even pressure to all pieces while keeping the pieces flat. Remove and discard excess thin-set not supporting the mosaic and from grout joints. With a sharp razor knife, trim off any support screen you may have left. Use a damp sponge to carefully wipe off any thin-set from all mosaic surfaces. Refer to setting material manufacturing guidelines for curing and set times before next step of grouting.
7. For grout, be sure to use a High-Performance Polymer Modified Grout meeting ANSI 118.7 specifications. Mix grout according to manufacturer's instructions. Apply grout generously over the entire face of the mosaic with a grout float, pushing down and completely filling all grout joints. Then, in a circular motion, use a damp sponge to wipe all excess grout from the face of the tiles, rinsing your sponge in water often. Allow your mosaic to dry for 15 minutes or so, a light haze will appear. With a clean soft towel buff your mosaic to a polished shine.

Next, stand back and ENJOY!