

Tiling works in bathrooms

The floor surface is prepared for tiling- underfloor heating is installed, waterproofing is in place, the primer is applied - it means that the next step is to lay the tiles. Here is a brief guide to the tiling work in bathrooms with focus on the correct bathtub installation and tiles glueing on floors and walls.



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Planning the area for tiling

The necessary step before getting to the tiling is to plan the optimal tiles layout on a given surface. To achieve the harmony it is best to lay tiles symmetrically. To get evenly tiled walls, it is required to plan a vertical line that runs in the middle of the surface. This line indicates where to start tiling. Elements cut on both sides should be larger than half the width of the tile.

In the case of walls, corners, posts etc. it is always recommended to start tiling with the entire tile, leaving any possible tiles cuts at internal angles. If the two vertical surfaces are in different heights, it is advised to layout whole tiles first at the bottom of the wall and finish also with the whole tile.

After marking the height, we start from the top with the entire tile - the cut tile will be in the lowest row. In places for a radiator, we divide the wall surface so that the cut tile is in the middle. Eventually, the elements are cut to the same width and placed on both sides of the wall.

For floor tiling, we also use the axis - it should run parallel to the longer wall. From the designated line we start laying with a joint or from the inside of the entire tile. In the passages leading to adjacent rooms, the arrangement of tiles on the floor should



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take into account the regular course of joints. It is recommended to lay cut tiles under the door opening.

Preparing the tiles

Once the layout for tiles has been done, we can proceed with cutting required tiles according to dimensions needed. The tile cutter has to be adjusted to the desired size, and then tile can be cut by lightly

pressing it and marking the edge of the cut. The cut elements should always be at least half the size of the tile. We lay the tile along the marked line and press the lever or use pliers to break the material. The side cut has to be measured and marked, and then cut with an angle grinder. Possible holes, eg for valve connections, are cut out with a grinder with a round diamond pad.



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In the case of very hard ceramic tiles, one should give up the cutter, mark the cutting line and then, carefully tapping the other side of the tile with the hammer along the designated line, remove the unnecessary fragment. Sharp edges should be sanded with a diamond pad or grinder.

Laying tiles on the wall

It is necessary to choose the appropriate tiles adhesive. To do so we need to take into account factors like the type of tile - its format, colour, degree of deformability, as well as the conditions on the site and the investor's expectations. Likewise, environmental issues such as low emissions of volatile substances may also be a significant criterion. Contractors need products that offer not only quality but also the fast application. There are various types of adhesives available on the market. We highly recommend the gel adhesive technology offered by Atlas Geoflex products. It allows the tiles to be fixed either on thin or thick layer of adhesive but also it can level the uneven surfaces. This significantly reduces the duration of tiling works. More about gel adhesive technology can be found in IBB Builder March 2018 edition https://view.publitas.com/ibb-builders-merchants/ibbbuilder_mar_2018/

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It is recommended to follow the manufacturer's advice on the adhesive usage, but the general rule is to mix mechanically the adhesive with the clean water until a homogeneous, lump-free consistency is obtained. Then leave for 3-5 minutes and mix again.

The finishing strip is set at the required height as the top edge of the tiled wall. The smooth side of the trowel, pressing strongly against the substrate, we apply a thin layer of adhesive contact, and then we make a comb layer with a trowel. We put the tile on the newly spreaded comb layer, move slightly diagonally and return to the final position. The next tile is applied to the edge of the previous one, we press and move, we return to the final position. In this way, we eliminate the accumulation of adhesive in the joint.

Laying tiles on the floor

Specialists recommend applying the adhesive layer with comb trowel - both on the tile and on the floor surface. Apply adhesive to the tile, place it at the required area and press gently. In the corners, insert the tiles under the wall tiles. Check if tiles are levelled with a spirit level, and remove any excess

of adhesive regularly. In order to obtain an even surface when laying the mosaic, tiles should be pressed with a rubber pack, keeping in mind the required angles in the shower corner.

Tiling the bathtub

Designers' creativity in arranging bathrooms and wet rooms is wide thanks to the broad range of tiles and sanitary units available on the market. One of the noticeable trends in recent years are free-standing bath tubes, while in smaller rooms, space-saving solutions are gaining popularity. In order to integrate a bath tube in the walls covered with tiles it is necessary to build the construction on which tiles can be placed. It can be made of cellular concrete blocks, alternatively you can easily use timber joists and boards. Cut the boards to the required size and fix them together with screws or nails.

Depending on the absorbency of the boards used, a suitable primer should be used before we proceed with tiling. In the next step apply the adhesive both at the tile as well as to the board surface and at the tangent edges of the boards. Place the tile and control its position with a spirit level, remove excess adhesive with a trowel or sponge. When tiles are glued properly it is time for grouting.