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# Companion Guide for Voluntary Training Backsplash

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## Standard References

- ANSI A108/A118/A136 - American National Standards for the Installation of Ceramic Tile, Glass Tile, and Stone.
- ANSI A137.1 - American National Standard Specifications for Ceramic Tile.
- TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation - Tile Council of North America.
- ANSI A108.10 - Installation of Grout in Tilework.
- ANSI A118.4 - Standard for Modified Dry-Set Cement Mortar.
- ANSI A118.11 - Standard for EGP (Exterior Glue Plywood) Latex-Portland Cement Mortar.
- TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation - Comprehensive guide for best practices and industry standards.
- NTCA Reference Manual - National Tile Contractors Association
- Manufacturers' Installation guidelines.



# Suggested, Generally Accepted Installation Best Practices for Installing Backsplash

## 1. Preparation:

### 1.1 Inspect the Work Area:

- Ensure the wall surface is dry, clean, and free from grease, dust, or loose particles.
- Verify that the wall is flat and smooth. Use a straightedge to check for any irregularities.

### 1.2 Gather Materials and Tools:

- Ensure all necessary materials and tools are available and in good condition.
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## 2. Layout:

### 2.1 Measure and Mark:

- Measure the area to determine the layout and pattern of the tiles.
- Use a chalk line to mark the center point of the backsplash area. This will serve as a guide for symmetrical installation.

### 2.2 Dry Fit the Tiles:

- Lay out the tiles without adhesive to ensure a proper fit and alignment. Make any necessary adjustments to the layout.
  - Plan for any cut tiles needed at the edges or around obstacles such as electrical outlets.
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## 3. Surface Preparation:

### 3.1 Prime or Seal (if necessary):

- Apply primer or sealer to the wall surface if recommended by the tile or adhesive manufacturer. Allow it to dry completely.



# Suggested, Generally Accepted Installation Best Practices for Installing Backsplash (cont.)

## 4. Adhesive Application:

### 4.1 Mix the Adhesive:

- Mix the tile adhesive according to the manufacturer's instructions until it reaches the proper consistency.

### 4.2 Apply the Adhesive:

- Use a notched trowel to spread the adhesive evenly on a small section of the wall, starting at the center point.
  - Hold the trowel at a 45-degree angle to create ridges in the adhesive for better tile adhesion.
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## 5. Tile Installation:

### 5.1 Place the Tiles:

- Press the first tile into the adhesive at the marked center point, applying firm pressure to ensure full contact.
- Continue placing the tiles, using spacers to maintain consistent grout lines.
- Check the alignment regularly with a level and adjust as needed.

### 5.2 Cut the Tiles:

- Measure and cut the tiles to fit the edges and around any obstacles using a tile cutter or wet saw. Wear the appropriate PPE when cutting the tiles.
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## 6. Grouting:

### 6.1 Mix the Grout:

- Mix the grout according to the manufacturer's instructions.

### 6.2 Apply the Grout:

- Use a grout float to spread the grout over the tiles, working it into the joints at a 45-degree angle.

### 6.3 Clean any Excess Grout:

- After allowing the grout to set for the recommended time, use a damp sponge to clean any excess grout from the tile surfaces.



# Suggested, Generally Accepted Installation Best Practices for Installing Backsplash (cont.)

## 7. Finishing:

### 7.1 Final Cleaning:

- Once the grout has cured, perform a final cleaning of the tile surface to remove any haze.

### 7.2 Seal Grout (if applicable):

- Apply a grout sealer, if recommended, to protect the grout from stains and moisture.
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## 8. Inspection:

### 8.1 Final Check:

- Perform a thorough inspection to ensure all tiles are securely attached, grout lines are consistent, and there are no defects.

### 8.2 Documentation:

- Record any deviations from the plan and how they were addressed. Document the materials used, including batch numbers and installation dates.
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## 9. Cleanup:

### 9.1 Remove Tools and Materials:

- Clean all tools and equipment and remove any leftover materials from the work area.

### 9.2 Dispose of Waste:

- Dispose of any waste materials according to local regulations.