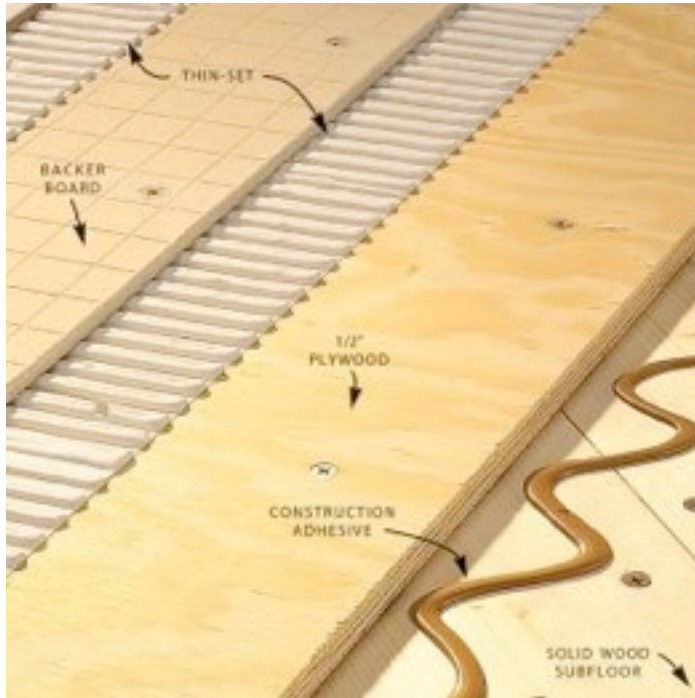


How to Tile

Preparing the Floor:

Preparing the floor is the most important step of the job because if done wrong the tile can be ruined very quickly. If you are tiling on concrete though it is very easy but for wood it is a totally



different story. The first step to getting a wood floor ready is to make sure that nothing is sticking out like nails and staples. Then nail or screw down any spot that is slightly spongy, although you have to make sure you hit something solid like a beam. Then you put down half inch plywood and nail it down well this step tends to tie all the rooms together. You really don't have to put down adhesive but you can if you would like to. when you are putting down the plywood make sure that the seems don't line up and that they don't end at doorways. The reason you don't want the seems to line up is because that makes a weak spot. And the reason for not having the seems fall at the door ways is to tie the rooms together. the larger the piece of plywood the less seems their is which means that the floor is more solid. Then

comes the quarter inch backer board the same rule applies here, the less seems that line up the better. The backer though you do not have to worry about trying to screw into beams because there is a layer of half inch plywood under it. So you just screw were the little screw spots are usually marked by a small round indent in the backer. There is no need to be shy on the screws because this is what keeps your floor solid. think of it this way if your floor is solid there is less chances of the tile cracking and tile cracking tends to mean more money to replace the cracked tile. so screwing in a few extra screws will not do any harm.now the floor should be ready to tile unless your floor is un-level and in which case you can mix some leveler down if it is really bad.

Tools Needed for Tile Laying and how to use Them:

There is quite a few tools needed for tile work. Here is a list of tools you need, trowel, mixing pan/bucket, hoe/right angle drill , tile saw, tile scorer, hand scorer, adjustable wrench (optional), squeegee, mop and water bucket, and a rough buffing pad. The trowel (right) is the most important it is used for spreading out the thin-set and normally with half inch notches for the ground.



You use the trowel kinda like a jumbo butter knife. Depending on how you mix it you can use a right angle drill with a mixer on it in a bucket or a hoe in a mixing pan. I find that the right angle drill is the fastest and easiest way to mix a batch of thin-set. Then there is the tile



saw (left) which is very useful and can make many cuts possible. It normally has a ten inch diamond blade. The diamond blade is meant to cut hard stone like objects like tile, granite, pavers, and much more. When cutting tile the saw will spray water onto the blade from the water pan to keep the blade cool. Keeping the blade cool is very important because if you do not, the blade will get ruined much faster. If the blade is being sprayed the blade can last up to three-hundred times longer than it would if you were to cut stuff dry. The blade is

almost always stationary on a arm that over hangs the water pan. The platform on the saw is where you set the tile to be cut. To cut a tile you put it down on the platform line up your mark where you want to cut it with the tile saw blade. The hardest tools to use is the tile scorers (right/left). The reason it is so hard to use is because you have to physically score the tile with a tiny little sharp blade. If you do not push hard enough down onto the tile you will break it unevenly when you try to snap it on your score mark. Never score a tile more than once because that can cause the same problems too. The little table under the arm for the tile scorer is where you . The little hand tile scorer(right/left) is a little bit easier to use but it is mainly used for making slightly rounded cuts or small bathroom tile. The scorers are best when the tiles are soft because the score goes much deeper into the tile meaning that there is more chances of the tile snapping where you would like it to. So all in all the tile saw is the best for cutting



tile. The most messy of the tools is the squeegee (left) and it is for filling all the cracks in between the tile. To use the squeegee it must be clean along with the tile so the mess that you have to clean up is smaller. After making sure everything is clean you can scoop up a



small amount of thin-set and squish it into the cracks between the tile then wipe it as clean as you can with the squeegee. Keep repeating this until all the cracks are filled with thin-set. You may have to fill the cracks more than once if you used soupy thin-set to fill in the cracks because it tends to get sucked in, under the tile which is not bad at all because that means that there is less of a chance of your tiles cracking but this is a very minor problem. After squeegeeing there is the cleaning part and it involves a sponge. The sponge (right) is easy to use, anyone knows how to use it. To clean the thin-set off the tile you just use a wet sponge. Clean out the sponge often so there is less of a haze after it dries. When it is done drying you can get rid of the haze by just using a buffer pad.





This is the most recent of my tile projects and it took me about three weeks to finish. The picture to the right is of the bathroom at about half way done. I still had another wall to tile and all of the cracks to fill. The checkered look on the wall and shower floor is little black and white tile. I do not put the little tile in individually luckily because they come in 1x1 ft. sheets. Then there is the black stripe around the bathroom right above the checkered pattern the tile there is 3x6 in. In the corners of the shower I put granite shelves that are slightly sloped forward so that the water runs off them but the soap bottle still stands up on its own. The last pattern in the room is the



zig-zag pattern right above the black stripe all the way up to the ceiling in the shower. I also put a tile trim around the window and had the zig-zag pattern come up right to it so the window trim kinda stands out. All around the inside of the window is tile. All of the tile used for the window is the same tile used for the zig-zag pattern which is the white 3x6 tiles.