

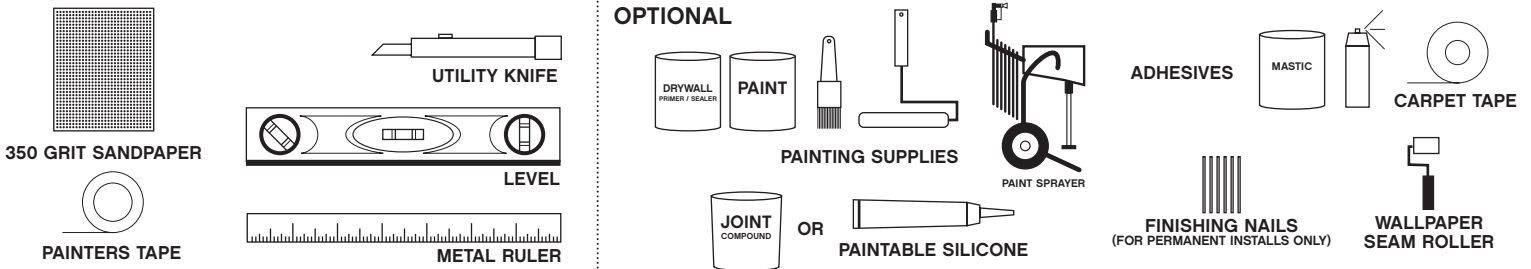
wall flats™

EMBOSSED WALL TILES. SIMPLE, MODERN, VERSATILE, & GOOF-PROOF.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

STOP!!! PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THIS PRODUCT. DIFFERENT INSTALLATION METHODS REQUIRE DIFFERENT PREPARATION.

STEP 1: PREPARATION: ITEMS AND TOOLS NEEDED



STEP 2: INITIAL SURFACE PREPARATION



The product is made to install over smooth flat surfaces. Surface must be clean, dry and free of any loose or crumbling debris. All holes or damage must be repaired prior to installation. **In all instances, the surface must be primed prior to installation of the tiles with a PVA Primer/Sealer.**

A light sanding with a high grit sandpaper could be beneficial before primer is applied. This would be extra important if you are going to primer over glossy plaster or a gloss paint to dull the surface and create a tooth for bonding.

STEP 2: TILE PREPARATION

Let tiles acclimate at least 48 hours in the environment they will be installed in. If you are not planning to paint the tiles, Wall Flats can be adhered to the wall directly out of the box using the supplied adhesive strips. If you plan to paint the tiles and use adhesive strips or spray adhesive, it is recommended to **primer both sides of the tiles first**. The tiles will warp if primer is applied to one side only. The warping will make adhering the tiles to the wall evenly impossible. Painting primer on both sides eliminates this. Tiles must be primed and dry on a flat surface to prevent warping. The primer also allows for maximum adhesion of the tile to the prepared wall surface, and allows the front side to be painted. The tiles can be primed with a brush, roller or sprayer. Pay special attention to avoid excess paint build-up in the grooves of some designs. **If you are installing the tiles using tile mastic, the tiles do not need to be primed. Once the mastic is completely dry the front of the tiles can be primed and painted on the wall.**

Tiles can be spray primed with a PVA Primer/Sealer in bulk on a large flat surface. Surface must be flat to prevent warping. Apply two thin coats of primer to minimize warping opposed to one heavy coat. Flip tiles over and apply two thin coats to the opposite side. If you are going to spray primer the tiles off the wall both sides must be done to offset warping. Spray the backside first and the front side second. This will keep the front surface clean.

BRUSH PRIMING THE TILES



If the tiles will be installed without using the provided adhesive strips, they must be removed before primer is applied.



If you are using the provided adhesive strips, just primer right over them before peeling. Primer the entire back of the tile.



When priming the edges, brush away from the edges. Do not brush toward the tile, as this can cause excess primer build up on the front edges.



Allow back to dry according to the primer manufacturer's suggested drying times. Flip the tiles and primer the front side.



When priming the edges brush away from the edges. Do not brush toward the tile this can cause excess primer build up on the back edges.



Once the tile is completely dry, lightly sand the edges with a 350 grit sandpaper to remove any excess primer build-up.

TIP BURNISH TAPE DOWN BEFORE PRIMING TO ENSURE NO PRIMER GETS UNDER THE TAPE

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STEP 3: CHOOSING AN INSTALLATION METHOD

Wall Flats can be installed using the supplied adhesive tabs for a semi-permanent installation. This is only recommended for short-term solutions. By adding some double-sided adhesive tape in key areas, the peel-and-stick method extends short-term use and corners and edges are easier to control. For permanent installation, a wall tile mastic adhesive is recommended. Choose your method based on this information and follow the manufacturer's directions accordingly. By priming the walls, you will create a barrier between the adhesives and the wall surface. This will help minimize damage if removed.

FOR A PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION DOWNLOAD "PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS" AT WWW.INHABITLIVING.COM. THIS TYPE OF INSTALL REQUIRES SOME PROFESSIONAL LEVEL TOOLS.

STEP 4: INSTALLING WALL FLATS

You must now determine if your installation will be wall-to-wall, a floating design (leave an even border all around to avoid cutting), a strip of tiles, etc... It is important to have this well-thought-out before beginning. If you are unsure, lay the tiles out on the floor or draw a grid on the wall to help you decide.

USING THE SUPPLIED ADHESIVE STRIPS

If you are using the supplied strips, the tiles simply peel-and-stick. Peel the white covering off the tape, ensuring not to lift the tape as well. The tile is ready to be placed on the wall. This method is semi-permanent and recommended for smaller installations, floating art pieces or for tiles that will be up for a short time. Stubborn corners may need to be addressed with additional double-sided carpet tape.

ADDING ADDITIONAL ADHESIVE STRIPS

For smaller residential and office projects, you can avoid using tile mastic by adding additional adhesive strips (such as double-sided carpet tape). The additional tape should be installed after the tile is primed to ensure maximum adhesion. Some of the newer design already address this with additional tape already applied.

USING A PERMANENT ADHESIVE

For permanent installations, most commercial applications and tricky climatic conditions you should use a Wall Tile Mastic. Following the manufacturer's instructions for trowel size, set and dry time. If you notice a tile with a slight bow, it can gently be flexed to help it lay as flat as possible before adhering to the wall. If you have trouble with a stubborn corner, tack them down with a finishing nail and leave in until dry. Fill small holes with joint compound or white paintable silicone.

You will need to pay close attention to the edges and ensure they are as close to 100% flat as possible. You can use a wallpaper seamer roller for this. For problem areas tack down with finishing nails until adhesive is dry and fill small holes with joint compound later. Also take care in making sure the tiles are butted as tightly as possible to one another. This will help minimize seams.

Mastic will likely get on the roller and the tiles during installation, keep a damp rag handy to wipe off. It does not hurt the tiles or the roller. Minimize wiping as much as possible on tiles that have not been primed prior to going on the wall. Blot as much as possible and wipe excess when needed. Excessive wiping with a damp rag on unprimed tiles can cause the tiles to ball up small amounts of pulp.

TIP

USING FINISHING NAILS TO TACK DOWN STUBBORN AREAS IS A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE A GOOD ADHESION. LEAVE THEM IN UNTIL TILE ADHESIVE IS DRY AND REMOVE CAREFULLY AFTERWARD. THESE SMALL HOLES CAN EASILY BE FILLED WITH TILE ADHESIVE, PAINTABLE SILICONE, WOOD FILLER OR JOINT COMPOUND.

ALTERNATIVE ADHESIVES

Spray adhesives also works well. Make sure you use a permanent adhesive, not a spray mount. We have tested 3M Super 77™ with great results. This product needs to be used in a well ventilated area. Greater bonding occurs when both the wall and tile were sprayed. **When spraying the tile only, this is the best way for imposing minimal damage to the wall while providing excellent adhesion.** Not recommended for commercial applications. Follow instructions for set up times. Velcro™ would also work in an application such as trade shows, window merchandising or temporary applications. Keep in mind-if using Velcro™, the seams will not be able to be finished. Make sure you plan this into your design. Treatments like using tile spacers when installing will play up the modular look, and allow you to treat the seams like a tile grout line effect (do not actually grout this product).

PLACING THE TILES ON THE WALL



Regardless of the adhesion method, the tiles go on the wall the same way. The initial tiles that are placed into position need to be as straight as possible. Take extra care when placing these tiles. Use a level to ensure proper alignment and take wall straightness and other obstacles into account early on.

The tiles should be placed next to each other if desired, paying special attention to fitting them as close as possible to minimize the seams. On a wall-to-wall install, when at all possible, work across the wall, moving toward the corner from the top, to minimize cutting, and to have the cut tiles fall in more inconspicuous areas. If you work from the center out, keep in mind the tiles that fall at the top, bottom and both edges will need cut. Plan your design well to ensure desired results are what you expect. **Remember—measure twice and cut once.**

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CUTTING THE TILES

If a wall-to-wall installation has been chosen, you will probably need to cut some tiles. Please follow the instructions below for cutting. The tiles will cut with a standard utility knife. Make multiple passes on the tile, cutting deeper each time, as this will help to ensure a straight cut. Cut one tile at a time. Before attempting any other cutting method, first test on a scrap tile.



Carefully measure the area for the tiles and translate those measurements to the panel. Measure twice, cut once.



For tiles with more dimension, using painter's tape to ensure a straight cut is very helpful and recommended. On less dimensional tiles a metal straight-edge works well.



Follow your line with a shallow cut, and cut deeper with each pass.



Pull away cut piece.



Using a 350 grit sand paper, lightly sand the cut edges.



If using the double-sided tape for installation, additional tape will need to be added along edges where cuts were made.

CUTTING WITH POWER TOOLS

We have tested and had great results cutting the tiles with power tools like table and miter saws. It speeds up installs and allows you to cut multiple tiles at a time. After the tiles are cut this way lightly sand edged to remove any raggedness. When using power tools like this always follow manufacturers suggestions for equipment use and safety precautions.

FILLING GAPS

With a modular product, it is inevitable that you may have some seams you want to fill. If your wall is not completely straight, a tile is slightly out of position or you come to a corner where you have to cut a tile there might be a small seam, **do not worry. These are easily addressed with joint compound, paintable silicone or tile adhesive.** Address seam issues before finish painting and after priming. Make sure you are happy with the tile adhesion before applying because it will crack or pull out of the joints if the panel is pulled away from its position. Allow proper dry time, and reapply if needed. Sand the seams lightly with a 350 grit sandpaper if needed, and brush away debris with a slightly damp rag.

TIP

After the mastic is on the wall and once the tile is ready for application, place the tile about 1/4" to 3/8" below and beside desired placement. Slide the panel snugly into place allowing the excess mastic to squish out of the seams. Quickly run your finger down the seam to remove excess mastic. Following dab and lightly wipe with a damp rag. These methods will help to fill the seams and remove gaps.

FINAL SANDING (OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED)

After all tiles are up and the seams have been filled, we recommend a quick, light and gentle sanding over the entire wall. This will help ensure a smooth surface for painting by removing any foreign debris accrued on the panel during the installation process. Use a 350 grit or higher sand paper.

STEP 5: PAINTING WALL FLATS

Wall Flats are now ready to be painted. If you followed the preparation and installation instructions carefully, you should now have a tile wall ready to accept a latex paint. Pick your color and finish and you are ready to go. The tiles can be brushed, rolled, sprayed or some combination thereof. When using a tile mastic, spraying the tiles is fine. In this instance, multiple light misting coats is preferred to one heavy coat, to avoid over saturation of tiles. Follow the paint manufacturer's instructions on the paint chosen for number of coats, climactic and environmental conditions, dry times, etc... If you are using professional painters or wall covering installers, work with them to achieve desired effect.

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