

Grouting Tile

Level of Difficulty – 3-4

Tile should set up at least 24 hours before grouting. Before you begin grouting your tile, use a scraper and a stiff brush to remove any adhesive that is near to or above the surface of the tile. Use a vacuum to remove any dirt or loose material between tiles.

Mixing Grout

Grout comes sanded or non-sanded (wall grout). Non-sanded grout is typically used for small tiles with a grout-line of 1/8" or less. Sanded grout is typically used for larger tile, with a grout-line of 1/8" or greater.

Refer to the package instructions to mix grout. We recommend starting with about a half gallon of water in your bucket and then adding the grout powder to it. Mix grout as you mixed your thinset, but to about the consistency of mayonnaise. Use your putty knife to take some out of the bucket. It should stay on the knife without dripping off. After the grout is completely mixed, let it sit for 10 minutes and then re-mix.

Grouting the Tile

Work in small areas as the grout will start to set quickly and once this begins, you don't want to continue working it. Work from the edges and avoid stepping on tiles that have been grouted. Apply grout between tiles, but not between tile and the edge of a wall or other surface. "Unlike surfaces" will be finished later with a sanded caulk that matches the grout, but allows for expansion and contraction.

1. Use your putty knife to drop a few good scoops of grout onto your tile.
2. Use your rubber float as a squeegee to force the grout into the joints between your tiles. The float should be pulled across the tile diagonally to get as much grout into the joint as possible. *If you run the float parallel to the grout lines, you risk pulling some of the grout back out of the joints.*
3. As you go, use the float to squeegee as much grout off of the surface of the tile as possible, making cleanup easier.
4. Let the grout set up for about 10 minutes. Dip a sponge into a bucket of clean water and wring out as much water as possible. It is important that you do not add any water to the grout lines by using a sponge that is too wet. Clean the tile surface, while tooling the grout line with the sponge, wiping it diagonally with minimal pressure. Rinse the sponge frequently, wringing it out each time.
5. Allow the tile to sit for two hours, then return for a final wipe down. Use a barely damp sponge to wipe the haze from the surface of the tile, taking care not to disturb the grout lines. Rinse the sponge often, wringing out as much water as possible.
6. Allow 24 hours before walking over the floor.