



HOW TO TILE WITH LARGE FORMAT TILES ONTO WALLS

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WHAT YOU NEED

Large format tiles are generally any tile greater than 300mm x 300mm. Large Format tiles increase the weight of the tile and will therefore require stronger adhesives that cure more quickly and more precision is required in the laying process.

Tile Considerations

The tiles should be dry and the tile backs should be free from dust, wax and any other contamination which may affect the performance of the tile adhesive used.

Additionally, the weight of tiling should not exceed that which the background can support.

20kg/m² for plaster
32kg/m² for plasterboard
30kg/m² for plywood

What To Use

Preparation: Universal Bonding Agent

Adhesion: Dunlop Set Fast Plus, with Dunlop Flexible Additive where required.

Grouting: Dunlop Flexible Wall Grout or Dunlop Floor & Wall Grout with Dunlop Flexible Additive where required.

Finishing: Dunlop Silicone Sealant with Microban®

Before You Start

Prepare the background so that it is sufficiently flat to allow the specified flatness of the finished tiling.

Ensure the area to be tiled is suitable for tiling.

It is important that the area is free from dirt or any other loose material. Remove by thoroughly dry brushing.

Ensure the area is also free from deposits of oil, grease and other materials which may reduce adhesion.



TOP TIPS

PREPARATION

Ensure that the walls have been adequately prepared before tiling commences. The walls must be flat, clean and dry. Any dust, dirt, oil, grease or any other loose material must be removed by mechanical means.

Concrete - must be at least 6 weeks old.

Cement:sand render - must be at least 2 weeks old.

Gypsum plaster – the plaster must be allowed to dry out for at least 4 weeks. Tiles should be fixed to a plaster finish coat only and must be free from dust. Where a plaster finish coat has a smooth, shiny, polished surface it should be thoroughly dry brushed with a stiff bristled brush. Apply 2 coats of Dunlop Universal Bonding Agent (diluted 1 part Dunlop Universal Bonding Agent with 2 parts of water) and then allow the primer to dry. Ensure first coat is dry before applying the second coat. Allow second coat to dry before moving to the adhesion stage.

Gypsum plasterboard backgrounds - ensure that boards are minimum 12.5mm thick, dry, securely fixed at 300mm centres maximum and are rigid with no protruding fixings. Ensure the face intended to receive the decorative finish is exposed. Apply 2 coats of Dunlop Universal Bonding Agent (diluted 1 part Dunlop Universal Bonding Agent with 2 parts of water) and then allow the primer to dry. Ensure first coat is dry before applying the second coat. Allow second coat to dry before moving to the adhesion stage.

Plywood – the plywood should be a suitable grade (WBP or marine grade), a minimum of 12mm thick and screw-fixed at 300mm centres maximum horizontally and vertically.

Tile Backer Boards – the boards must be sufficiently thick and screw-fixed at 300mm centres maximum horizontally and vertically. The weight of tiling should not exceed that recommended by the board manufacturer.

Existing glazed tiles - Thoroughly degrease the tiles ensuring that there is nothing that may hinder adhesion to the surface. Ensure that the existing tile finish is sound and well bonded and that the underlying surface can support the extra weight.

ADHESION

1. If there is potential for background movement (eg. onto plasterboard, plywood and tile backerboard) or if you are tiling onto existing glazed tiles, always mix Dunlop Set Fast Plus with Dunlop Flexible Additive (diluted 1 part flexible additive with 1 part water).

2. Immediately after mixing, spread the adhesive paste onto the background using a suitable trowel. Large format tiles may require the back of the tile to be coated with a skim of adhesive.

3. Do not spread more adhesive than can be tiled within 10 minutes when using a rapid setting adhesive.

4. Press/push tiles firmly into position with a twisting/sliding action ensuring that good contact is maintained with the back of each tile. In wet areas ensure that the tiles are fixed as far as possible in a solid bed of adhesive free from all gaps or voids.

5. Clean off surplus adhesive from the tile face and from the tile joints.

6. Do not fix in temperatures below 5°C or damp conditions.

7. Allow the adhesive to fully dry out before grouting.

GROUTING

1. Allow adhesive to set according to the recommended drying times (on packaging). Make sure all joints are clean and dry.

2. Check the potential risk of staining by applying the grout to a few tiles in a small area. If discolouration occurs apply a suitable sealer and repeat the trial until the surface is fully sealed.

3. Please use a suitable wall grout such as Dunlop Flexible Wall Grout (Use Dunlop Floor & Wall Grout with Dunlop Flexible Additive when tiling onto timber).

4. Work in small areas. Completely fill the tile joints with the grout using a grout-float or rubber squeegee and compact well. Remove any excess grout from the surface as work proceeds.

5. Allow about 10-15 minutes for the grout to dry sufficiently before cleaning off the tile surface with a dampened sponge.

6. Once the grout has hardened, polish the tile surface with a clean dry cloth. Alternatively, give a final wash down with clean water and a dampened sponge.

7. Leave to dry for a minimum of 24 hours.

FINISHING

Movement joints will be necessary and should be filled with Dunlop Silicone Sealant with Microbar®. In general they should be located:

- Over existing and/or structural movement joints.
- Where tiling abuts other materials.
- Where tiling is continuous across junctions of different background materials.
- In large tiled areas at internal vertical corners and at 3m to 4.5m centres horizontally and vertically.
- Where stresses are likely to be concentrated, for example any changes of alignment.



TOP TIPS

Important: Full instructions for surface preparation and product usage appear on all Dunlop packaging. To make the job easy and worry-free, please ensure you follow them.

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FROM START TO FINISH

Make sure you have everything you need. Below is a quick checklist of the products and tools you will need to make the job simple and easy from start to finish.

Checklist

- Tiles
- Tile trim

Dunlop Products

- Dunlop Universal Bonding Agent
- Dunlop Set Fast Plus Adhesive
 - Dunlop Flexible Wall Grout*
- Dunlop Silicone Sealant with Microban®

Tools And Equipment

- Wall Tile Spacers (2 or 3mm)
 - Spirit Level
 - Tile Cutter
 - Tile Nippers
 - Tile Saw
 - Tile File
- Suitable Notched Trowel
 - Grout Squeegee/Float
 - Sponge



Please contact Dunlop Helpline for further information: 01782 591120