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# ODYSSEY

Fixing Guide



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## WELCOME TO THE FIXING GUIDE FOR THE ODYSSEY FLOOR TILE COLLECTION.

Fixing information for Odyssey Tapestry Collection Wall Tiles can be found in the ceramic wall tiles section of the Original Style Fixing Guide at [www.originalstyle.com/guides/](http://www.originalstyle.com/guides/).

## INTRODUCTION

### ODYSSEY - TILES INSPIRED BY JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

The Odyssey Primo and Grande collections of tiles, borders and corners in various patterns and colours are really versatile – they will look good in modern and traditional settings, and they are beautiful enough to place in living rooms and bedrooms, as well as hallways, conservatories, dining areas, bathrooms and kitchens. You can use them with underfloor heating too. They are suitable for outside spaces as well, taking the inside out – or seamlessly bringing the outside into your home. To enhance small spaces you can simply add a border edging to a plain tiled floor, install a small rug (a pattern framed by a border), or discover the way the patterns repeat over a larger area. The options are endless, limited only by your own imagination. Welcome to Odyssey – we hope you enjoy the journey.

## **Odyssey Primo Floor Tiles 151 x 151 x 9mm/6" x 6" x 3/8" are made to order**

The smaller Odyssey tiles, borders and corners are made to your specific and individual order. Please check delivery times with your stockist to avoid disappointment if they need to be installed for a specific date. The Odyssey Primo range colours co-ordinate with some of the tiles from our Victorian Floor Tiles collection. These plain colour Victorian Floor tiles are specifically made to co-ordinate with the Odyssey Primo range colours. If you require any of these plain tiles to complete your installation, please order them at the same time as your Odyssey Primo tiles, as they will be made to match. Please ask your Original Style stockist for a brochure or visit [www.originalstyle.com](http://www.originalstyle.com). This will ensure that tile colours will be as closely matched as possible. However, we cannot guarantee against some colour variation. Please note that, due to their bespoke nature, confirmed orders cannot be cancelled and product returns are not accepted (statutory rights reserved).

## **Odyssey Grande Floor Tiles 298 x 298 x 8mm/11 3/4" x 11 3/4" x 5/16" and 300 x 300 x 9mm/11 7/8" x 11 7/8" x 3/8" are stock items**

If you require plain tiles to complete your installation, please order them at the same time as your Odyssey tiles, to ensure that the tile colours will be as closely matched as possible. However, we cannot guarantee against some colour variation.

These guidelines include information to help with:

- Calculating how many tiles required
- Preparing and planning for the installation
- Marking out the work area
- Fixing, grouting and sealing
- Cleaning and maintaining your finished installation

This guide is suitable for the following Original Style products:

Odyssey Primo and Grande (For more detailed guidelines regarding complex pattern installation, please refer to the Victorian Floor Tiles Fixing Guide).

## BEFORE YOU START: THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB

These tools will help you complete your tiling project to a professional standard. You may already have some of them. Others can be bought or hired but they are all widely available.

<b>Adhesive Spreader</b>	The notched edge of this tool ensures an even spread of adhesive.
<b>Chinagraph Pencil</b>	Use this for marking any tiles that need cutting. A chinagraph pencil will not stain the tiles and will resist being washed away when using a water-fed cutting machine. Never use a felt tip pen because they can permanently mark your tiles.
<b>Drill</b>	Use a masonry or tile drill bit.
<b>Electric Water-Fed Diamond Wheel Cutter</b>	A diamond wheel cutter is the best way of cutting difficult tile shapes. These are available from tool-hire companies, tile shops, or DIY stores. Follow the manufacturer's advice regarding protective goggles, masks and gloves.
<b>Eye Protection, Gloves and Dust Mask</b>	It is vital that you use all possible protection when using any cutting instructions/machinery. Always use personal protective equipment as advised by the HSE. Visit <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk">www.hse.gov.uk</a> for further health and safety advice.
<b>Gauging Trowel</b>	For removing the grout from its container, or the vessel used for mixing the grout. Use it to place adhesive onto a trowel.
<b>Grout Finishing Tool</b>	This tool is run along the grout lines before they set completely to give a consistent, neat finish. This tool is a must to ensure professionally finished grout lines. A piece of dowel or a lollipop stick can work just as well.
<b>Notched Trowel or Adhesive Spreader</b>	The notched edge of these tools ensure an even spread of adhesive.
<b>Spacers</b>	These small pieces of plastic are inserted between the corners of the tiles or mosaic sheets to provide consistent spacing. Push them in side-on so they are at right angles to the surface, and place them at regular intervals to maintain the spaces, and remove them before the grout is applied.
<b>Spirit Level / Laser Level</b>	One or both of these tools will be necessary to ensure that your tile installation is level.
<b>Sponge</b>	For the removal of grout residue and for smoothing joints. It is always best to purchase new sponges and grouting tools as old tools may have adhesive or grout residue on them which could scratch your tiles.
<b>Squeegee or Rubber Trowel</b>	Used for spreading grouting compound into the spaces between the tiles.
<b>Steel Ruler</b>	A steel rule is an essential toolbox item, as all successful tiling depends on accurate measuring.
<b>Tape Measure</b>	For accurately measuring floors and tiles.
<b>Tile Cutter</b>	A scribe and snap machine for straight cuts.
<b>Tile Gauge</b>	A device for accurately positioning your tiles.
<b>Tile Nippers</b>	A specialist tool for 'nibbling' away unwanted sections of tiles.
<b>Wedges</b>	These are wooden or plastic for minute tile adjustment.

## BEFORE YOU START: GLOSSARY OF TILING TERMS

<b>Adhesive</b>	The glue used to fix tiles to the substrate. There is a wide choice available, so always ask your stockist for advice on your particular project and type of tiles.
<b>Grout</b>	A hardening compound used to seal the joints between tiles. There is a wide choice available, so always ask your stockist for advice on your particular project and type of tiles.
<b>Movement joint</b>	Where tiles meet another surface, such as a bath or shower tray, the joint is filled with silicone sealant, not grout, to allow for minor expansion and contraction. Movement joints eliminate stress transferring from the substrate.
<b>Pointing</b>	Where grout is mixed to a thicker consistency than usual and applied into the joints with a squeegee, pressed in firmly and finished off with a grouting tool to give a neat finish. Any excess is removed using a damp sponge and the surface wiped clean.
<b>Screed</b>	Sand and cement floor.
<b>Silicone sealant</b>	A material with elastic and waterproofing properties used to fill movement joints instead of grout.
<b>Solid bed</b>	A method of tiling where the adhesive is applied to fully serrate the substrate and the back of the tile.
<b>Substrate</b>	Any surface on to which tiles are laid.
<b>Thin bed adhesive</b>	A layer of adhesive applied to a depth of less than 5mm / 1/4".

## SELECTING YOUR TILES

This is obviously the most important and enjoyable task! With such a large range of patterns and colours to choose from, you may like to order some samples to see how they fit in with the rest of your furnishings and decorations.

## SUITABILITY

Odyssey Primo and Grande wall and floor tiles are suitable for interior and external use, wet and dry walls and most can be used on both wet and dry floors. Please see symbols for individual products in the current Odyssey brochure.

 <b>WALL</b>	Wet & dry walls ( <i>inc.showers and wet rooms</i> )
 <b>FLOOR</b>	Wet & dry floors ( <i>inc.showers and wet rooms</i> )
 <b>WALL</b>	Dry walls only
 <b>FLOOR</b>	Dry floors only
	Internal use only
	Internal & external use

If you are in any doubt about the suitability of Odyssey Primo and Grande and Victorian Floor tiles for your particular requirements, please contact our Customer Services team for advice by emailing [info@originalstyle.com](mailto:info@originalstyle.com)

## SLIP RESISTANCE CURRENT TESTING METHODS

### Pendulum Test BS7976-2 Rubber Slider 4S96

For determining the coefficient of friction under wet and dry shod conditions

Slip potential	Slip resistance value shod dry/shod wet (4S96 dry/wet)
High	0 - 24
Moderate	25 to 35
Low	36+

### Pendulum Test BS7976 Part 2 TRRL (Transport & Road Research Laboratory)

A swinging test apparatus to determine the wet coefficient of friction using TRRL rubber slider in wet barefoot conditions

Slip potential	Slip resistance value barefoot wet (TRRL 55)
High	19 and below
Moderate	20 to 39
Low	40 to 74

### Step treads used internally and Light Reflection Value (LRV)

We recommend the use of Victorian Floor Tile step treads in a contrasting colour to the adjacent pattern if Odyssey Primo tiles are used on steps and stairs. This is to provide an additional, visual reminder of the edge to steps and stairs and to provide additional strength on stair edges. Step treads are available from our Victorian Floor Tile Collection.

## SHADE VARIATION, TILE COLOURS AND PATTERNS

Some base tile shade variation may occur between tiles of the same background colour because they are made from naturally occurring raw materials and are fired at very high kiln temperatures during manufacturing. Natural pigments are also used in the decorating process and these are subject to shade variations from tile to tile as well. Some ink colours complement the base tile colours although they may not match them exactly. Pattern edges may vary slightly from tile to tile due to the printing process.

Before fixing it is important to lay tiles out in a good light to ensure that any shade differences and variations are evenly distributed before installation. No liability for shading issues can be accepted after installation.

NB We do not recommend mixing Primo and Grande tiles in the same installation. This is because of size differences, and the Grande base colours do not closely match the Primo base tile colours.

## HOW MANY TILES WILL YOU NEED?

Tile size	Per square metre	Per square foot
<b>Wall tiles</b>		
152 x 152 (6" x 6")	43	4
<b>Floor tiles</b>		
151 x 151mm (6" x 6")	44	4
298 x 298 (11 3/4 " x 11 3/4 ")	11.3	1.0
300 x 300mm 11 7/8" x 11 7/8"	11.1	1.0
	Per linear metre	Per linear foot
<b>Floor tiles</b>		
151 x 151mm, 151 x 75mm, 151 x 53mm 6 x 6", 6 x 3", 6 x 2"	6.6	2
298 x 298 (11 3/4 " x 11 3/4 ")	3.3	1
300 x 300mm 11 7/8" x 11 7/8"	3.3	1

Approximately based on a 2-3mm (1/16 - 1/8") grout gap

Once you have decided which pattern/border/corner you will be using, calculate how many you will need by measuring the area to be tiled.

To calculate the number of tiles required, first decide which size tile you want. If you have any problems calculating the number of tiles required please do not hesitate to email our customer services team at [info@originalstyle.com](mailto:info@originalstyle.com)

Calculating the tiles you may require is the easy part. On the floor, measure the length and multiply by the width.

If the shape of the area to be tiled is a simple square or rectangle you can simply calculate the area of each tile and divide it into the area of the floor or room. This assumes that the area being tiled is square at the edges, if not you will need to allow some extra for part tiles.

Otherwise, the easiest method is to make a scale drawing of the floor on a piece of graph paper, draw the outline of each tile (including borders and corners where appropriate) and add them up.

We recommend that you allow for part tiles, wastage and any imperfections by adding at least 5 per cent to the total for mosaics and 10 per cent for larger tiles. It can be a false economy to only order the exact quantity. You may break some tiles when cutting or you may end up with awkward shapes that take more tiles than anticipated. There is nothing worse than getting near the end of the job only to find that you are short of one or two tiles, especially as colours can vary between different batches.

## SIZE VARIATION

Please see tile sizes in Product Guide section in the Odyssey brochure. Dimensions provided are nominal. Due to the nature of the clay firing process tile dimensions may vary by up to +/- 0.6% up to a maximum of +/- 2.0mm from the work size.

## PREPARATION

The secret to a perfectly laid floor is to lay the tiles as flat and as evenly as possible. To do this successfully you need the firmest, flattest and driest possible surface to work on. Some surfaces are ideally suited for tiling, others require a certain amount of preparation first, and a few are totally unsuitable.

### Storage

Please store all Original Style tiles and any fixing materials such as grouts and adhesives in a cool and dry storage area. All tiles must be dry before installation and Original Style cannot guarantee that any products will be delivered completely dry.

### Important Note

All surfaces must be allowed to dry out completely before tiling. Failure to do this can result in moisture being trapped behind the tiles which can react with some tiles causing them to deteriorate over a period of time.

Tiles are completely inflexible. With this in mind, it is important to ensure the substrate will not move otherwise cracking or de-bonding will occur. If there is movement in the substrate, we strongly advise that you seek professional advice before proceeding any further.

Please look at [www.schluter.com/6\\_1\\_ditra.aspx](http://www.schluter.com/6_1_ditra.aspx) for further information.

**ALL** floors must be primed prior to installation.

Sand and cement (screed) floors must be completely dry. Allow seven days to cure then another 14 days to dry. Please be aware that certain installations may require a longer drying time, due to thickness of the screed, humidity within the room and weather conditions. Use a hygrometer to test for moisture.

**Anhydrite screed and asphalt surfaces:** always seek professional advice before installing over anhydrite screeds and asphalt. The laitance (dusty surface) must be removed and special sealers must be used prior to tiling.

**Timber and joist floors** must be rigid and solid without movement. The best way to achieve this is to lay marine plywood boards measuring 15mm/5/8" or thicker over the entire floor, screwing it down every 150mm/6" in each direction. Before screwing the marine ply down, apply PVA to the reverse and sides (but not on the surface to be tiled). We advise employing a tiling professional to tile onto all wooden surfaces, as it is essential that any movement or flexing in the floor is removed and special flexible adhesives are used.

**Old stone, or quarry** tiles are best removed. If this is impossible or impractical, and they are completely sound, they should be thoroughly cleaned of any contaminants i.e. dirt, grease, oil, waxes etc. Vinyl tiles should always be removed. If tiled over they can sweat and cause debonding of the adhesive.

### IMPORTANT:

Do not lay tiles directly onto a bed of wet sand and cement. This may give rise to efflorescence on the surface of some tiles. Efflorescence (which is a natural chemical reaction) is the name for a whitish bloom that can appear if there is moisture within the tile.

## **Underfloor Heating**

Underfloor heating is an excellent and extremely efficient way of heating, either as the sole source of heat in a room or as a backup to an existing heating system. There are two types, electric and piped water. The electric method is extremely simple to install. A length of wire and rolled out mat is laid out on the substrate prior to tiles being fixed. A wall mounted thermostat enables complete control over the temperature. Natural stone, Victorian floor tiles and ceramic and floor porcelain tiles can be used effectively with underfloor heating systems providing expansion joints are incorporated. These absorb thermal expansion and contraction between the tiles and adjoining surfaces. Electric underfloor heating will heighten the floor by approximately 5-6mm / 1/4", so this should be planned into your installation.

### **NB The underfloor heating manufacturers' guidelines must be followed.**

When installing underfloor heating, please note that the adhesive and grout manufacturers' instructions must also be followed. It is very important to obtain all information concerning installation, particularly regarding delay times before and after installation, before the actual work begins. If the installation is done incorrectly, the tiles may be subject to cracking, due to thermal expansion and contraction, and drying.

Underfloor heating should not be switched on until 28 days after installation of the tiles, to allow the adhesive to cure fully. On the first day after the 28 day curing period, turn up the heating to 5°C and then raise it by 5°C per day for the next five days.

## **PLANNING**

It is important to plan the installation of your floor or wall before starting to fit any tiles. Here are a few of the main areas to think about whilst in the planning stage:

### **Which adhesive and grout should I use?**

There is a range of adhesives and grouts to choose from, some are better suited to certain types of surface than others. Before starting your installation, please read the section on adhesives and grouts below.

### **Sealing Tiles**

Tiles need sealing before installation; again you may have to allow time for sealants to be applied and drying time. Please refer to the section below on sealing before starting your installation.

### **Protecting your installation**

We advise that you do not install any tiles until heavy construction has been completed. In between the installation and putting a floor into service, it is important to protect the tile and grout in order to avoid construction related cleaning problems. Do not use plastic covers as this may induce sweating and discoloration by not allowing the grout and bedding material to dry adequately.

### **Protecting your tiles**

Before installation, please make sure you store any fixing materials and your tiles in their packaging in a clean and dry area.

# INSTALLATION

Before installing any Odyssey tiles please read the guidelines below. We strongly recommend that our tiles are laid by an experienced professional tiler. The satisfactory installation of all ceramic tiles depends on their application to a sound, level surface and use of the correct adhesive for that surface. Laying directly into wet cement is not recommended. Detailed guidelines on fixing are set out in BS 5385: Part 3: 2014.

## The key to success is to:

Gather together all the tools, tiles and materials you need before you start.

Thoroughly prepare the surfaces to be tiled; time spent on this will save time later.

Keep the work area clear and clean as you go along.

Work methodically and avoid mistakes by allowing sufficient time for each task.

This guide is not intended to be a definitive guide to fixing tiles. If you are uncertain about anything having read this guide you should consult a professional tile installer.

## PLEASE NOTE

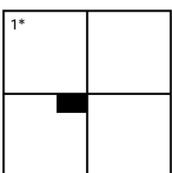
It is the responsibility of the purchaser of Original Style products to adhere to the following guidelines in accordance with the British Standards Institute series BS5385 parts 1 to 5.

To store products in adequate, clean, dry and secure space that is free from frost and moisture

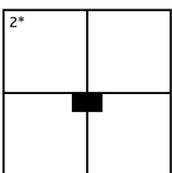
To ensure that installation is carried out in adequate artificial lighting conditions

# MARKING OUT THE WORK AREA ON THE FLOOR

Begin by taking a good look at the room. Establish the centre of the room by measuring the midpoints of two opposite walls and drawing a line between these points. Now find the centre of this line.



**1** You may have to adjust the midpoint tile to reduce wastage as you reach the edges of the room. You can use the midlines as edges or centres of the first row of tiles.



**2** Now lay out the tiles loosely, allowing for the joints. The joints will depend on what you are trying to achieve and on your choice of tiles.

### **How wide should the joints be?**

Tiles with straight edge finishes such as Odyssey Primo and Grande, and Victorian Floor tiles can be laid with grout gaps of 2-3mm.

If you are using more than one product, check the thickness of the tiles – you may have to adjust levels with extra adhesive to ensure an even and flat surface when the tiling is completed. Different levels can also be built up by using Marmox or Wedi boards.

The aim is to achieve a pleasing pattern whilst avoiding unnecessary cutting or thin slivers of tile at the edges of the room. It is desirable to maintain whole tiles in the doorway. If you are tiling through a doorway (i.e. installing tiles in two different rooms), make sure you install a movement joint at the threshold. This will allow for differing substrates and ambient temperatures between the rooms.

Once you have marked out where the tiles are going, begin laying at the centre end of the room i.e. furthest from the door.

The first row is the most important; get this straight and level and laying the rest of the tiles will be easy. Get it wrong and it will become progressively more difficult to obtain a pleasing result.

### **Bathrooms**

Baths and shower trays must be perfectly level before you start tiling. To ensure a visually pleasing result, use the window as your centre point, and place larger cuts rather than smaller ones into the corners, floors and ceilings.

## **SEALING**

Particular care should be taken to use the correct adhesive, grout and sealants. Carefully read manufacturers' information and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

### **Sealing for exterior use**

Odyssey Primo and Grande wall and floor tiles are suitable for outdoor use and are frost resistant, provided that the floor tiles are laid in such a way that rainwater drains freely off them and cannot penetrate beneath and between them. Tiles should not be laid on flat, asphalt covered roofs in areas subject to frost.

Odyssey Primo tiles should be impregnated with one of the following: \*LTP Mattstone or Lithofin KF Stain Stop for a natural finish (both UV resistant), or equivalent. Impregnate the clean dry Odyssey Primo prior to grouting and following grouting, cleaning and drying. Although Odyssey Grande do not require impregnating as they are a undecorated/decorated full bodied porcelain, we recommend giving them a coat of LTP Mattstone or Lithofin KF Protective Impregnator to aid cleaning and simplify the removal of surface stains. Do this on the clean dry tile before grouting and after grouting, cleaning and drying.

### **Sealing for interior use**

Odyssey Primo tiles should be impregnated with one of the following: for a natural finish use \*LTP Mattstone maintained with LTP Wax Wash and for a sheen finish use LTP Glaze Protector (interior use only) maintained with LTP Floorshine. Lithofin KF StainStop will also give a natural finish. Impregnate the clean dry Odyssey Primo tiles prior to grouting and following grouting cleaning and drying. Although Odyssey Grande do not require impregnating as they are a undecorated/decorated full bodied porcelain, we recommend giving them a coat of LTP Mattstone or Lithofin KF Protective Impregnator to aid cleaning and simplify the removal of surface stains. Do this on the clean dry tile before grouting and after grouting, cleaning and drying.

\*LTP Products are available in the UK. Check with your retailer for the most appropriate products available in your country. Always follow the manufacturers' instructions for all adhesives, grout, impregnators and sealing products.

For more sealing, cleaning and maintenance advice, visit <http://ltp-online.co.uk>

We recommend that you test all sealers, impregnators and intensive cleaning products on a loose tile before applying such products to an already installed floor. Always follow manufacturers' instructions. No liability for damage from such products can be accepted without prior testing.

## FIXING TILES

It is essential to first mix tiles and mosaics from different boxes so that variations in colour and shade are blended together thoroughly to give a pleasing design or pattern.

**IMPORTANT:** Please note, variations in shade and pattern are an inherent feature of ceramic tiles. Before fixing you should sort the tiles to give a pleasing combination of colour and effect. Do not fix tiles if an acceptable blend cannot be achieved. No responsibility can be accepted for shading or quality once the tiles have been fixed.

### Adhesives

For substrates that can expand and contract i.e. wood or floors with underfloor heating, it is important to use a flexible S2 adhesive. Some changes of plane will require expansion joints. Always seek professional advice.

Adhesive is also available as standard set or rapid set. Standard set takes up to 24 hours to go off, whereas rapid set can take up to two hours depending on the thickness, temperature and humidity conditions. All tiles should have a 2mm /  $\frac{1}{16}$ " layer of adhesive spread onto the backs, in addition to the adhesive spread on the floor. This method is known as solid bed.

### Control joints

There are numerous reasons for building movement and expansion joints. Divide a larger tiled area into a series of smaller ones with sealant and bond breaker between them. Designers may show points at which joints are needed but these are mandatory where tiles adjoin walls or some other building material and where there is an expansion joint in the substrate, among other circumstances.

### Which adhesive and grout?

It is imperative to follow the manufacturers' instructions on the products and, if in doubt, please consult the dealer you purchased the products from or your installer for more information.

Always follow the manufacturer's directions when mixing and applying installation materials. Take special care to note if a product is suitable for interiors and exteriors as well as floors. A recognised adhesive manufacturer will have a range of products, each appropriate to specific substrates.

**NB: Not all adhesives, cleaners, grouts and sealers are equally suitable for all types of tiles. Take advice from your supplier.**

### Applying the Adhesive

Spread adhesive over as much of the floor as you can work on, within about 15 minutes; approximately one square metre /one square yard is usually about right. Spread the adhesive as a solid, even layer (rather than using spots of adhesive) Use a notched trowel to form parallel lines. The thickness should be approximately 8-10mm/ $\frac{5}{16}$ " –  $\frac{3}{8}$ " for floors.

Place the first whole tile on the adhesive, press it down firmly. Check the first tile is straight and level. Now lay the adjacent tiles in the same way, using spacers (see note, 'Using spacers') to create an even joint between them.

## **Using spacers**

If spacers are used by inserting them vertically on floors and horizontally on walls (ie they stick out at right angles to the tiled surface) they need to be removed from the joints as soon as the adhesive setting time is achieved.

If spacers are left overnight or for long periods to allow the adhesive to dry completely, they may cause damage to tile edges as the adhesive contracts and tightens around the spacer. Spacers left sticking out can also be knocked accidentally against tile edges, causing damage and chipping. Avoid walking on floors until spacers have been removed and the tiling is completed.

When you get to the edge of the room, cut the tile to fit the gap. Where floor and wall tiles meet, a neater finish will be achieved if the wall tiles sit over the floor tiles. Leave a gap between the edge of the floor tile and the wall to allow for expansion.

Be careful to keep adhesive off the face of the tiles – wipe away any surplus with a clean, damp sponge as you go.

When you have covered the first square metre prepare another area, and so on.

If there are any areas not tiled around the edges of the wall etc you may need to cut the tiles to fit (please see section on Cutting tiles).

## **Adhesives and Grouts for wet areas**

The requirements for adhesives, grouts and sealers differ according to the type of tile used, the background material, and the width of the joints and whether the shower is gravity fed or a power shower, accordingly it is important that you seek advice from your supplier.

Although most adhesives and grouts are water resistant in normal situations, they can be further improved using a flexible additive. For power showers we recommend epoxy grouting. Always seal the grout and tiles after installation, following the manufacturer's instructions.

# GROUTING

Grouting gives a neat appearance to the tiled surface. Grouting should always be finished flush with the tiled surface.

After the final seal, avoid walking on the floor until the sealer has set thoroughly (always follow the manufacturer's recommendations).

Allow the adhesive to dry out for a minimum of 24 hours before grouting. Thick layers of adhesive, cool temperatures and other factors can prolong drying.

## Grouting recommendations

Tiles should be spaced 2-3mm ( $\frac{1}{16}$  -  $\frac{1}{8}$ " ) apart. Use a white or light grey cement-based grout. Coloured grouts can be used although strong colours have high levels of pigment which may stain the tiles – always test first before installation. Black grout is NOT recommended for this reason.

## Which Grout?

**NB: Not all adhesives, cleaners, grouts and sealers are equally suitable for all types of tiles. Take advice from your supplier.**

Always try a small amount before grouting your entire tiled area to check you are happy with the look of the grouted tiles before grouting the complete area.

## How to grout tiles

Clean the surface where you are going to tile and allow it to dry before proceeding. Impregnate/seal the tile prior to grouting to reduce the possibility of staining.

Regardless of the grout colour chosen it is advised that you test a tile prior to grouting to ensure the grout pigment will not contaminate the surface of the tile.

It is very important to mix the grout following the manufacturers' instructions. Once mixed, let the grout stand for two minutes, then apply to the wall/floor using a squeegee working in a diagonal motion across the tiles. We recommend you cover about one metre at a time, leave for five minutes before removing any excess grout with a squeegee. Wait another five minutes before wiping the tiled surface with a clean sponge. Always check that there are no lines left in the grout.

Once the whole work is completed, leave for two hours, wash down all the tiles with clean water and sponge, and correct any faults.

## Important Note:

If using Mapei Ultra Colour Plus Grout, it must be mixed in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

## Useful Tip

Always aim to complete whole sections of grouting in one session to ensure an even finish with no colour variation. Wash down with clean water and a sponge every square metre to avoid any excess grout drying on the surface. Never grout corners of rooms; these must be grout-free and filled with a suitable low modulus neutral cure silicone.

## Coloured grout

Please be aware that certain grouts are not UV resistant and will fade when placed in direct sunlight, advice must be sought from the grout manufacturer.

## CUTTING TILES

**It is vital that you use all possible protection when using any cutting instruments/machinery. Always use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as goggles, a dust mask and gloves as advised by the HSE. You can visit [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk) for further health and safety advice.**

You may find that it is necessary to cut individual tiles to fit in small areas. You need to take extreme care when doing this. Always try to keep each cut no less than 38mm/1½”.

## CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Please note, the use of certain acid based cleaning products may cause some tiles to react and change in character. It is advisable to test a new cleaning product on a small inconspicuous area before use.

All manufacturers will have cleaning products to work in conjunction with their impregnators and sealers.

**NB: Not all cleaners are equally suitable for all types of tiles. Take advice from your supplier.**

However, pH neutral cleaners are suitable for most tiles.

All spills should be cleaned up as quickly as possible.

Use only the recommended dilution of pH neutral cleaner. More is not always best; the higher concentration of detergent in the cleaning solution will only make it more difficult to rinse. If the floor is exposed to excessive spills or large amounts of traffic, a stronger cleaning agent may be required. These stronger cleaning agents should be on the alkaline side of the pH scale and generally have a pH of 9 or higher for the initial clean, after which reduce to a pH neutral cleaner. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations at all times when using these products as some may not be suitable for other surfaces in a room i.e. chrome finishes on showers and varnishes, paint etc.

Once the detergent has been applied allow it to sit as per manufacturers' recommendations then rinse thoroughly with clean, clear water, vacuum any excess water away and towel dry the floor to eliminate water marks and streaks.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Owing to variations in studio lighting and printing inks, the tile colours shown in our brochures may differ slightly from those of the actual tiles. It is always advisable to ask your Original Style supplier to show you a sample.

## LIMITS OF LIABILITY

Original Style accepts no liability for the faulty installation of its products. In the case of any claim relating to the tiles themselves, Original Style's liability, to the extent permitted by law, is limited to either the replacement of the product or a refund of the cost of the product, and does not extend to cover any consequential loss. Claims must be reported within seven working days from receipt of the tiles. Tiles must be inspected prior to installation and claims cannot be considered after the tiles have been installed. Please be advised that installation constitutes acceptance of the quality, colour, size, texture and shade of the tiles. Original Style warrants that its tiles conform to their description and are fit for their purpose. Original Style makes no other express or implied warranty as to fitness or suitability of the products for particular installations. We extend no guarantees, express or implied, as to wear resistance or maintenance procedures. We do not recommend bedding these tiles in sand and cement.

It is imperative to follow grout and adhesive manufacturers' instructions regarding their suitability with our products. If in doubt please consult the grout/adhesive stockist from whom you purchased the products. Original Style makes no representations as to the fitness for purpose of third party adhesives and grouts. Please note the use of certain acid based cleaning products may cause some of the tiles to react and change in character.

Please note, the Fixing Guides above does not apply in the USA. In the USA please follow the recommendations of a reputable adhesive manufacturer and always comply with American National Standards Institution (ANSI) specifications as set out in the Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation published by the Tile Council of America.

Useful links:

[ctioa.org](http://ctioa.org)

[tileusa.com](http://tileusa.com)