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

SUPPLIES: ITEMS AND TOOLS NEEDED TO INSTALL

Tools and supplies below are listed mostly as an “either / or” option. Items we feel are essential are indicated with an asterisk. How you choose to install the tiles will determine which items you will need, so please read the instructions in their entirety before purchasing any supplies.

CUTTING – *UTILITY KNIFE AND/OR MOST POWER CUTTING TOOLS

ADHERING – *TILE MASTIC + 3/16” V TROWEL OR TITEBOND® GREEN CHOICE FAST GRAB FRP ADHESIVE + 1/8” x 1/8” x 1/8” U TROWEL

PRIMER – *DRYWALL PRIMER/SEALER OR PROFESSIONAL LEVEL FINISH PRIMERS

SEAMLESS FINISHING – *SHEETROCK® BRAND DURABOND® JOINT COMPOUND

PAINTING – *PAINT CAN BE APPLIED WITH A BRUSH, ROLLER OR WE RECOMMEND A PAINT SPRAYER (AIR LESS OR HVLP)

HELPFUL TOOLS – *LEVEL: for proper alignment. WALLPAPER SEAMER: for applying pressure on flat areas. *RULER: for cutting, marking and measuring tiles. PAINTERS TAPE: for taping cut and drill areas and masking off paint areas. VARIOUS GRIT SANDING BLOCK AND SANDPAPER: for sanding tiles. FINISHING NAILS: to ensure all areas of tile are flat while adhesive sets up.

(1) SURFACE AND TILE PREPARATION

Wall Flats are made to install over a relatively flat and smooth surface that is clean, dry and free of loose debris. If installing over glossy plaster/paint rough up the surface with sandpaper and wipe clean with a damp rag. Tiles should acclimate for at least 72 hours to environment.

(2) PLACING TILES ON THE WALL

Make sure the first tiles are positioned straight and level. Use a level or mark lines on the wall to help with this. Take wall straightness and other obstacles into account. On a wall-to-wall install, work across the wall, moving toward the corner from the top to bottom, to reduce cutting and allow cut tiles to fall in more inconspicuous areas like corners and the bottom of a wall. If working from the center out, all tiles that fall at edges may need to be cut. Plan your design well to ensure desired results are what you expect. Remember, measure twice and cut once.

CUTTING TILES

In most installations you will probably need to cut some tiles. The tiles can be cut with a standard utility knife or power tools. We recommend taping along cut lines or drill holes with painters tape to reduce pulp flair when using power tools. We also recommend using blades, bits, etc... designed for finishing work. This will ensure the best possible finish. When using power tools always follow manufacturer’s suggestions for equipment use and safety precautions.

(3) INSTALLATION AND ADHERING TO WALL

Determine if the installation will be wall-to-wall, a floating design that leaves an even border, a strip of tiles, etc... It’s important to have this well thought out before beginning. If you are unsure, lay the tiles out on the floor or sketch it out to help you decide.

MODULAR INSTALLATION

We recommend tile mastic (Type 1 Tile Adhesive) + 3/16” V trowel or Titebond® GREEN Choice Fast Grab FRP Adhesive + 1/8” x 1/8” x 1/8” U trowel trowel for adhering. If a tile has a slight bow it can gently be flexed to lay flat before adhering to the wall. If you have trouble with an area not laying flat or an edge raising tack down with a finishing nail, leaving in until adhesive is dry and remove. The hole can be addressed during finishing. In addition to trowelling the adhesive on the wall, buttering the back of the tile on flat areas will help ensure good contact. Make sure tiles are snugly positioned next to one-another. Tiles can be offset slightly and slid into place, this will press excess adhesive into the space between the tiles helping to minimize joints. Run a thin putty knife or finger along joint to remove excess adhesive and level joints with tile edges. Use a damp rag to blot off excess adhesive. Minimize rubbing to avoid balling of the pulp on tiles that have not been primered.
SEAMLESS INSTALLATION

For a near seamless installation a 1/16” gap must be left evenly between the tiles. We recommend tile mastic (Type 1 Tile Adhesive) + 3/16” V trowel or Titebond® GREEN Choice Fast Grab FRP Adhesive + 1/8” x 1/8” x 1/8” U trowel for adhering. If a tile has a slight bow it can be gently flexed to lay flat before adhering to the wall. If you have trouble with an area not laying flat or an edge raising tack down with a finishing nail, leaving in until adhesive is dry and remove. In addition to trowelling the adhesive on the wall buttering the back of the tile on flat areas will help ensure a good grab. Excess adhesive can be removed by running your finger along the gap. Key here is to remove any adhesive protruding beyond the tile lip. By doing this and creating a nice “U” layer of adhesive between the tiles that will help with final finishing.

(4) PRIMER COAT

After tiles are all placed on the wall and adhesives is set up we recommend the first primer/sealer coat be applied before any finishing work is started. If joint compound is applied to the tiles without a primer coat the moisture from the joint compound can wick back into the tiles causing swelling at the edges and corners. The primer coat also allows for light sanding if needed and generally protects the tiles during finishing.

(5) FINISH WORK

ADDRESSING THE JOINTS FOR A NEARLY SEAMLESS INSTALLATION (OPTIONAL)

A modular product will have visible joints. If this is planned into the design there is no need for additional work. Most tiles are designed in a manner that the design elements and spacing work to minimize joint appearance without additional finishing work.

For a near seamless installation earlier we recommended spacing the tiles 1/16” apart. The gaps need to be filled with Sheetrock® brand Durabond® joint compound. Typically this requires two coats. The first coat will be for mostly filling the gaps. Keep it clean to avoid excess sanding. If you need a quick knock-down sanding to smooth the joints out do it between coats. Do not oversand. The second coat should be for creating a smooth transition between tiles. A final sanding will be required to perfect the blending. If you need to go back and address certain areas with additional compound and sanding now is the time.

FINISHING AROUND OUTLETS AND SWITCHES

Use extension boxes for the outlets to bring them out past the Wall Flats. Cut tiles to fit the box opening and finish caulk around edges. For switches cut an opening in the Wall Flat 1/8” larger than the cover size. With the switch(es) mounted, and cover plate not yet installed fill the voids in the tiles where the cuts were made with joint compound, let it dry and reapply. Similar to finishing sheetrock this usually takes three applications before final sanding. This should be done after initial primer coat. Sand smooth. Install plate covers after final paint.

(6) FINAL PAINT AND PRIMER COAT

After you are satisfied with the finishing work make sure the surface is free of dust and apply final primer coat and final paint coat.

RENTAL INSTALLATIONS / EASY TO REMOVE INSTALLATION SUGGESTIONS

If you are in a rental or would like to easily be able to remove the Wall Flats with minimal damage to your wall we have a few recommendations.

We suggest a substrate to be placed over the wall and the tiles installed to it. You can use wallpaper liner or install a separate rigid substrate first (example: 1/8” masonite, 1/8” melamine, 1/4” drywall or 1/4” gatorboard, all available in up to 4’x8’ sheets). Then attach the larger substrate to your wall with a few screws. When ready to remove then wall repair will be minimal.

This product is designed to be low-impact on the environment. It is made from bagasse, a byproduct of sugarcane. There are no chemical additives. The tiles are modular and nest inside one another to reduce shipping volume and costs. They are 100% biodegradable or can be recycled with other paper products when removed. To keep the product as environmentally-friendly as possible we recommend low VOC paints and glues for installation.