



an  aleris company

INSTALLATION GUIDE

BACKSPLASH

(INCLUDING CUSTOM PATTERNS)



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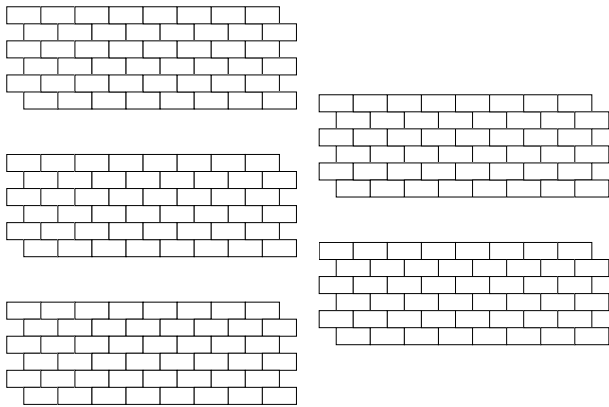
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CAUTION

Read this entire installation guide before beginning
your installation. know and understand all procedures,
including proper and safe use of the tools you will use.

BACKSPLASH CONTENTS



Standard Back Splash Kit - 5 sheets

3"x6" Subway Pattern:

Overall dimensions (each sheet):

- 19" wide by 47" long by 1/4" thick
- Square feet per board: 6
- Total kit square feet: 30

Standard Colors:

- White, Light Gray, Medium Gray
- Custom colors available;
minimum quantity required

Unless otherwise noted, these instructions also apply to herringbone, hex and custom patterns.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS & MATERIALS



Basic Toolkit

- Circular saw for straight cuts
- Utility knife for various cutting tasks
- Measuring tape, marker and level
- Screwdrivers to remove electrical outlets and switches
- Construction adhesive or Type-1 mastic to attach tile sheets to wall
- 1/8" or 3/16" tile spacers
- Grout float and sponges

Enhanced Toolkit

- Oscillating saw for cutting outlets, etc.
- Extended outlet screws
- Water proof caulk for finishing
- Edge trim (optional for any exposed edges)



Click on these links for additional details:

- [Technical Bulletin: Suggested Tools List](#)

PRECAUTIONS



- **Always wear eye protection throughout the entire installation process.**
- Make sure your work area is clean and free of debris or tools that might pose a hazard.
- Consider using ear plugs and a dust mask if using power tools.
- Work carefully to reduce hazards and mistakes.

PREPARATION



Surface prep

The mounting surface should be smooth and solid but it does not have to be finish quality. The mounting surface behind the tile needs to meet applicable code requirements. If installing over existing tile, make sure the tile is thoroughly cleaned of any mold, mildew or soap residue to ensure the construction adhesive will properly cure to the tile surface.



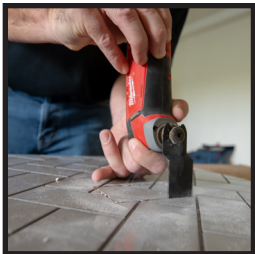
Workflow

The first tile sheet is the most important as it will be the basis for the rest of the tile board installation. The tile pack is designed to cover the specified area. However, the boards are not pre-cut with the individual installation area's aesthetic in mind. For the most professional looking installation, start with the area's focal point and work from that point. For the quickest installation, start with a straight end and work forward.



Cutting the tile: Straight and End Cuts

Use a workbench or solid work surface to cut the tile sheet. After measuring, use a straight edge to mark the cut line. Use a circular saw to make straight cuts on the tile sheet. Consider clamping the sheet to your work surface for added stability.



Cutting the tile: Outlets, Switches and Details

Intricate cuts, such as access holes for electrical outlets, light switches and detailed or odd-shaped areas, can be made with an oscillating saw. Standard blades, such as those used for wood or PVC, can be used. We recommend using a high oscillation rate for clean edges.



Optional cutting tools

A utility knife can be used for small, intricate trim cuts in corners, around cabinets, window trim and more. Be sure to use a new, sharp blade for best cutting performance and safety.

PREPARATION



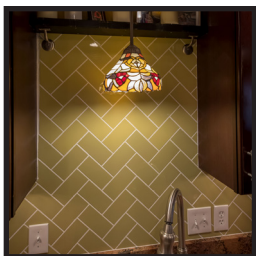
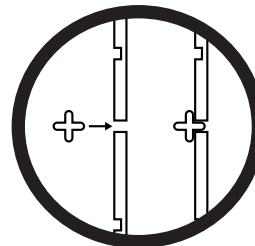
Attaching tile to wall: Adhesives

Install tile sheets to the wall surface using construction adhesive or type-1 mastics. Read the manufacturer's recommendations regarding surface prep, amount of adhesive to use and curing time.



Attaching tile to wall: Tile Spacers

Using tile spacers when installing tile sheets end-to-end will ensure the grout lines will remain consistent throughout the project. Use 1/8" or 3/16" spacers, depending on the width of the pre-cut grout pattern. Spacers can be used horizontally (end-to-end tile sheet installation) and vertically (stacking tile sheets).

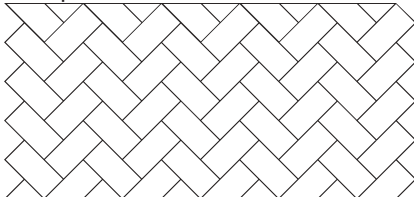


Stacking tile sheets

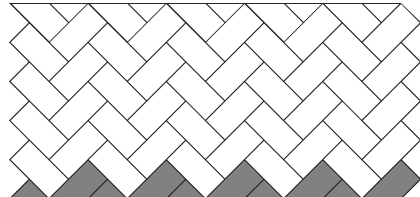
Some areas may require stacking tile sheets. Tile patterns with straight edges, such as subway, are very easy to stack. Use spacers to maintain grout lines when stacking. Some patterns, such as Herringbone, require a few extra cutting steps but is also easy with some planning.



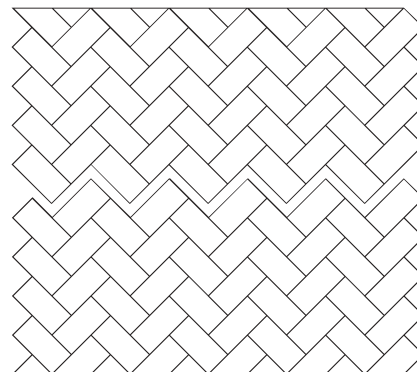
1. Determine area that will be stacked. Boards do not have to be rotated to line up.



2. Identify tiles that need to be cut out. An oscillating saw is ideal for these cuts.



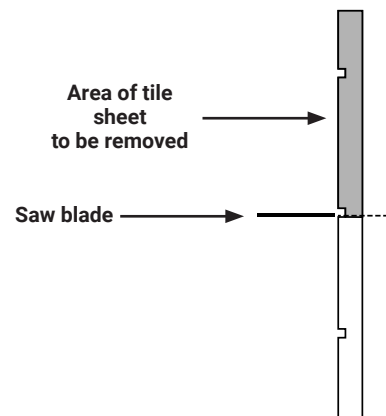
3. Cut close to the tile surface pattern to allow stacked sheets to maintain proper grout line width. Use spacers when attaching top sheet.



Tip: First attach the bottom sheet to the wall. This will make vertical and horizontal measuring easier. Cut the bottom sheet while attached to the wall. Measure and cut the top sheet on a workbench, then install.



Click on these links for additional details:
• [Technical Bulletin: Stacking and Corners](#)



INSTALLATION

Step 1: First, make the initial end cut. Since the Backsplash pack does not come with a pre-cut end panel, the first panel must be cut to provide a squared starting point. This may be the leading edge of the installation area or could be the focal point, which might be a corner. Also measure vertically, under cabinets, as the sheets' height may also need to be trimmed to fit.

Step 2: Determine any cutouts for electric outlets or switches. Remove these areas after measurement.

Tip: Use cardboard to test fit complex cutouts before tile installation. This will help eliminate errors.

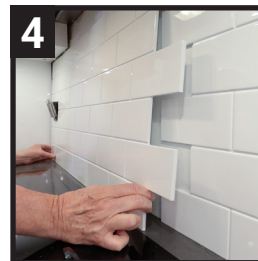
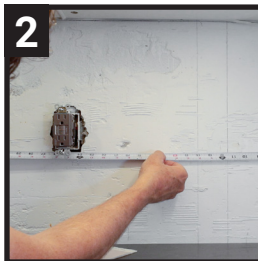
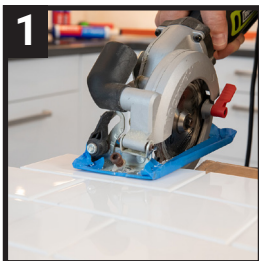
Tip: Keep in mind that the surface will be raised 1/4". When replacing outlets and switches, the standard mounting screws may not be long enough to secure the outlet/switch to the original box. Keep extra long mounting screws on hand for these situations.

Step 3: Check for fit and level before attaching. Mount the tile board to the wall using construction adhesive.

Step 4: Once the first board is secured, continue installation by adding boards end-to-end using the same techniques. Determine cutouts and make sure each board is level and aesthetically matches the previous board. Make sure the grout channels line up at all corners. Continue until all tile boards are installed.

Tip: Use spacers on the joints where tile sheets meet to help maintain consistent grout lines.

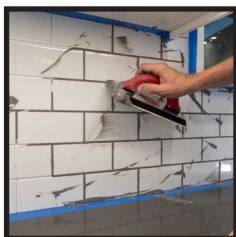
Step 5 (if necessary): For any visible unfinished ends, use edge trim (or any trim option) to create a finished look. This edge should be installed along with the end tile piece for easiest application.



Click on these links for additional details:

- [Technical Bulletin: Adhesives and Substrates](#)

GROUTING & FINISHING



Grouting can begin immediately. **Use only un-sanded or non-sanded grout.** Apply grout in the exact same manner as you would when working with ceramic tile using a rubber float. Use a clean damp sponge to remove excess grout, then use a damp micro fiber towel to wipe off grout residue. As a final optional step, we recommend wiping the tile with denatured alcohol to bring back the shine. If desired, caulk can be applied in the corners and where the tile board meets another surface, such as the countertop.



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