THE BEST TIPS AND ADVICE

FOR YOUR TILING PROJECTS



SHAFFER PRO®

'To thank you for your confidence, this E-Book is offered to you to help you with your projects.
You will find advice and tips from various tiling professionals.'

The Shaffer Pro team

SHAFFER PRO®



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° Preparing your project
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° Number of braces

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° How do you apply levelling compound ?
° Tiling over paint or wallpaper ?

3- Laying your tiles

° Laying your tiles
° Laying large format tiles
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1. Preparing your project

Preparing your tiling project is nothing without a minimum of preparation. Once you've chosen your tiles, you'll need to make sure your floor is level.

How can I check that the floor is level and flat ?

It's important to check that the floor is level and flat for optimum installation.

Hollow or bumpy areas should be partially or completely levelled, or even screeded if the condition is really critical.

To check that the floor is level, simply slide a 2-metre ruler across the surface.

If these defects do not occupy more than 20% of the total surface area, you will only need to make occasional adjustments.

In the opposite case, it will be necessary to level the surface to restore flatness.

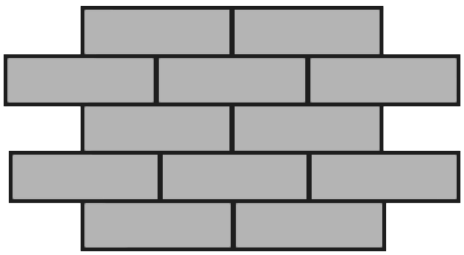




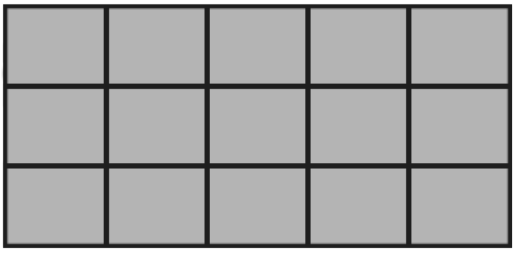
If voids appear, they must not exceed 5mm under the rule.

Defining the type of tiling :

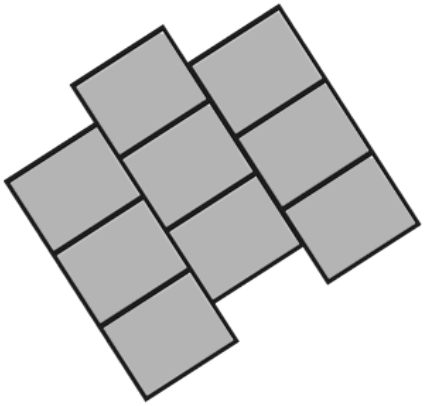
When we talk about laying, we're referring to the way in which the tiles are installed on the floor. Here are the most common types of installation :



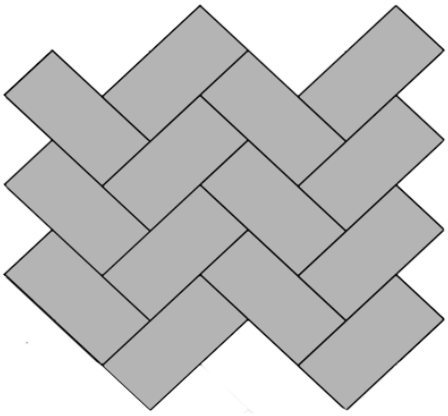
Straight offset joint installation



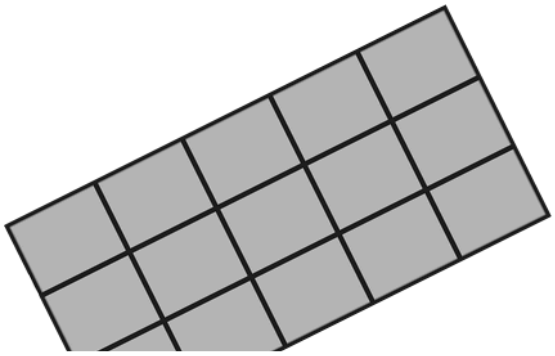
Straight installation



Diagonal installation with staggered joints



Rafter installation



Diagonal straight-joint installation



If you want to make a space longer, the tiles should be laid lengthways, perpendicular to the room. To make it narrower, it should be laid parallel to the main door.

Layout :

What is the purpose of layout?

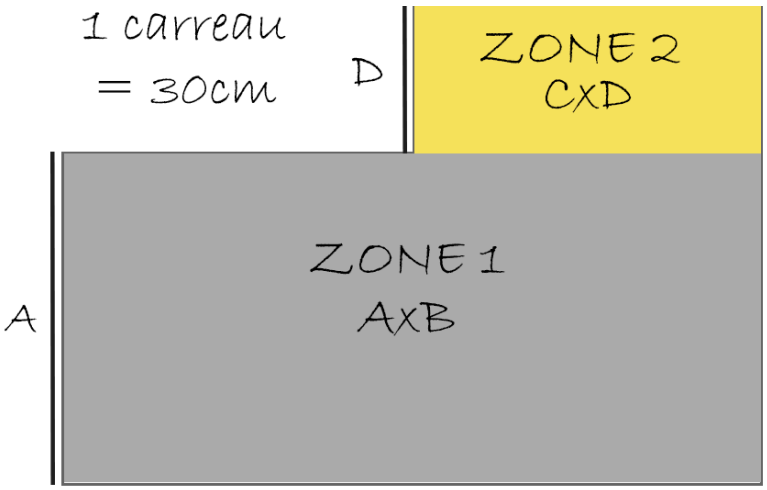
The layout is used to determine the number of tiles required for the type of installation chosen. It also allows you to plan cuts.
The layout must be planned before the tiles are laid and purchased, as it will determine the exact quantity to buy.

Step 1 - Calculate the number of tiles required :

1) Measure the surface or room to be tiled, then create a sketch to scale.

Example: 1 tile = 30 cm

If the room to be tiled is not a simple square or rectangle, don't hesitate to add up several surfaces to obtain the total :



(AxB) + (DxC)

Finally, here is the formula for determining the number of tiles required :

$$\frac{\text{Surface to be tiled in m2}}{\text{Surface area of a tile in m2}} = \text{Number of tiles required}$$

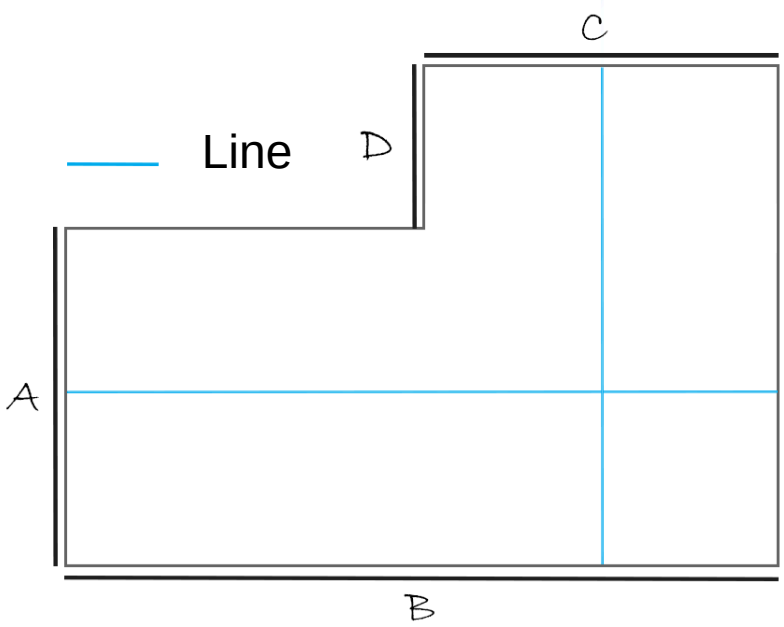
→ **NUMBER OF TILES x 1.10 = Number of tiles to buy**

To find out the dimensions of the tile in m2 :

Length X width (LxW)

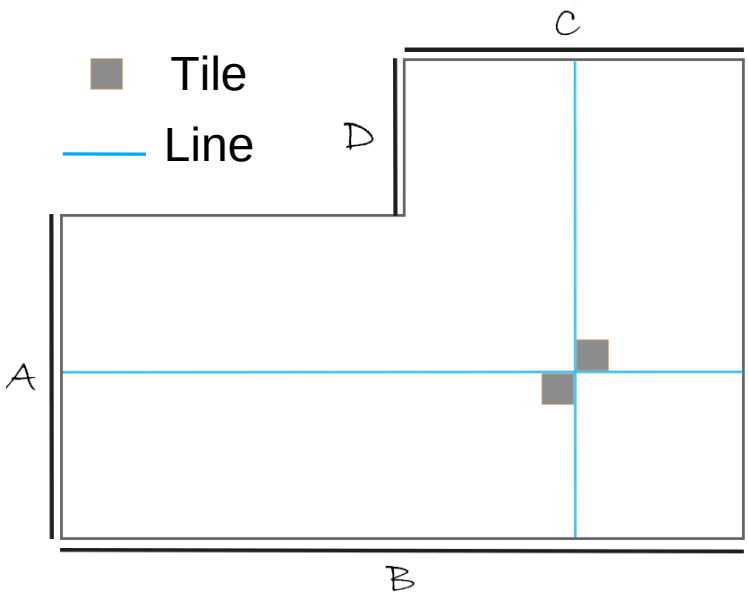
Step 2 - Draw the lines on the ground with a chalk line

- Mark the points on the ground where you will draw your lines.
- Position your chalk line from one end to the other of your markers. Tension it upwards and release it so that it marks the surface to be tiled.

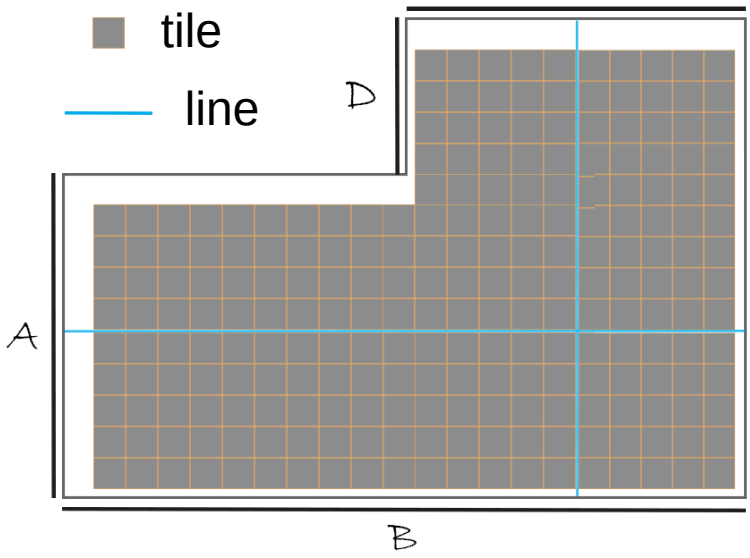


Step 3 - Laying a blank

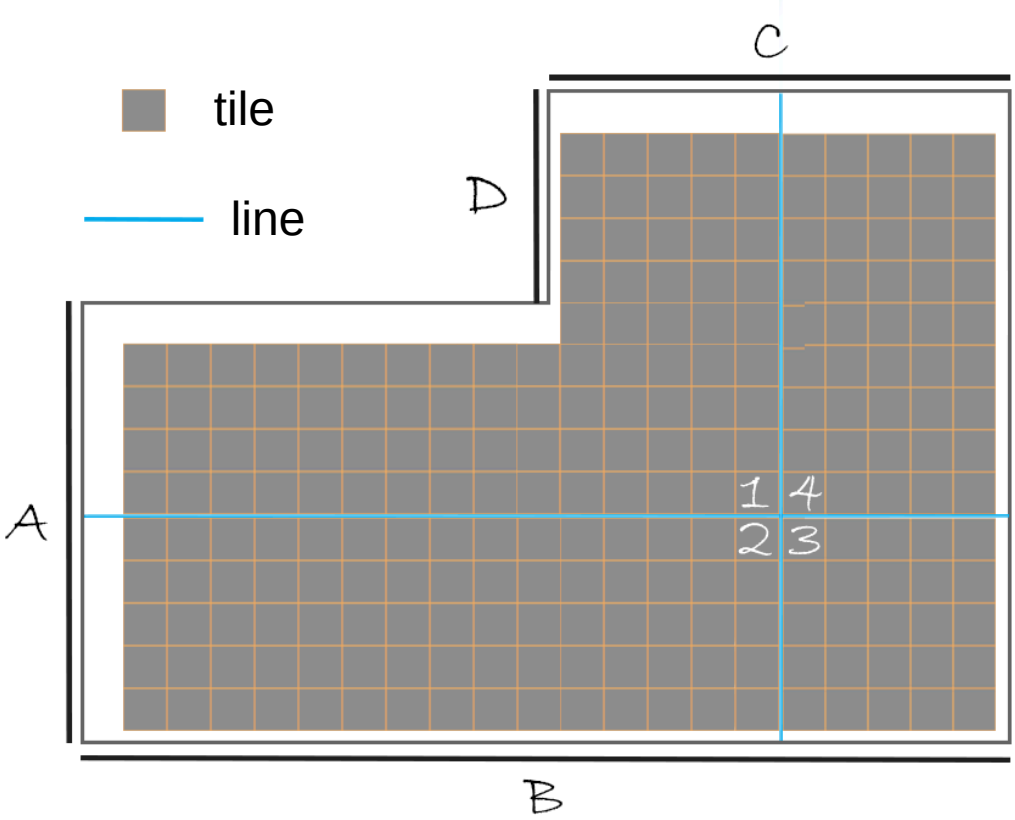
- Lay your first tile (without glue) in the corner perpendicular to the centre



- Place the tiles in your 4 areas, starting from the centre. Lay all the tiles in their entirety.



- Once all the solid tiles have been laid, mark out and cut the last areas to be tiled.



Finally, you need to transfer the laying of the tiles to your paper layout (sketch) and colour each tile laid.
Number each tile on the drawing and on the back of each tile. This will simplify the laying order.

How many spacer bars do I need?

Here's a table of tile sizes/quantities of clips per m²: this table is valid for all our LEVEL FIT self-levelling spacer kits.

Here is an example for 50 x 50 tiles: 16 clips/m2

NUMBER OF CLIPS/M2

													200	10
												89	133	15
											50	67	100	20
										32	40	53	80	25
									44	40	50	37	100	30
								37	40	36	45	61	91	33
							25	30	33	30	37	50	75	40
						20	22	27	30	27	33	44	67	45
					16	18	20	24	27	24	30	40	60	50
				11	13	15	17	20	22	20	25	33	50	60
			9	10	12	14	16	19	21	20	25	33	50	80
		7	8	9	11	13	14	17	19	18	22	30	44	90
	8	6	9	10	12	13	15	18	20	20	25	33	50	100
6	7	8	7	8	10	11	13	15	17	17	21	25	42	120
120	100	90	80	60	50	45	40	33	30	25	20	15	10	

LONGUEUR
LENGTH

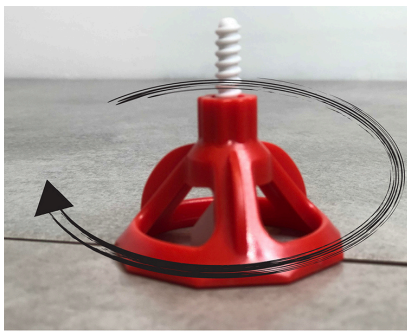
LARGEUR
WIDTH

Instructions for use :



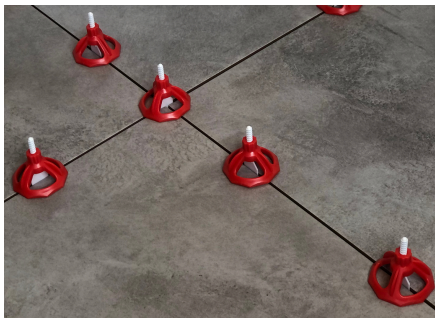
1. **Fit the crosspieces**

Once the adhesive has been spread, lay your tiles as you go along
Place the spacers under the tiles.



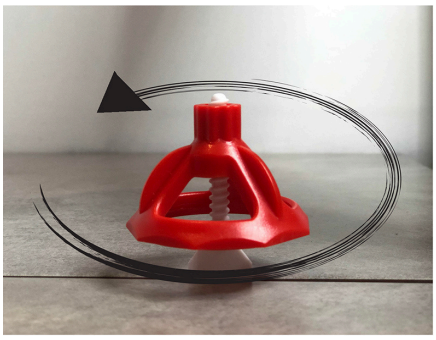
2. Screw on the dials

To ensure perfect alignment and levelling, gradually screw the dials onto the crosspieces and tighten without excessive force.
(*Caution: Intensive tightening of the dial = risk of breakage)*



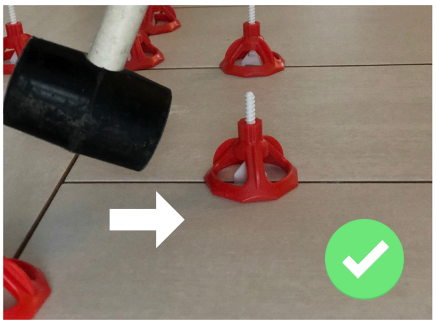
3. Allow the glue to dry

(See the recommendations of your tile wholesaler or retailer)



4.Unscrew the dials

Once the glue is completely dry
unscrew the dials. The dials are reusable, so remember to keep them.



5. Cut the braces

Break off the protruding part of the crosspiece with a rubber mallet.



IMPORTANT !

Be careful not to break the cross-brace on the wide side of the base, but on the narrower side of the stem.

2.Preparing the substrate

Tile adhesion depends on the quality of the surface preparation: it must be flat, hard, stable, adherent, clean, dry and normally absorbent.

Porous substrates: How do you check the porosity of cement substrates ?

Cementitious substrates must be normally absorbent to prevent the mortar-glue from drying out too quickly and promote adhesion.

- Wet the surface lightly with water.
-If the water is absorbed in less than 1 minute, the surface is considered excessively porous: apply a porosity regulating primer.

Adhesion : how can you be sure that an old coating will adhere properly ?

Remove any parts that sound hollow or have poor adhesion.

How can you tell if the soil is damp ?

A good way of checking whether or not your floor is damp is to lay a sheet of polyethylene on the floor and seal the sides of the sheet with heavy tape and leave it for 48 to 72 hours.

Then check whether any moisture has built up on the underside.

You can also check with a hygrometer. If the rate is higher than 6%, call in a professional.

Can I lay tiles on top of existing tiles?

It's perfectly possible to lay tiles over old tiles, provided you clean the surface thoroughly and prepare it with a primer.

Above all, you need to make sure that the old tiles are sound, that they don't sound hollow and that they are flat.

Clean up your act !

If your surface is smooth, check that it is not greasy or dusty.

You can clean your surface with white vinegar. As well as being inexpensive, white vinegar is a great degreaser. Remember to dry the surface well before applying your underlay.



How do you apply levelling compound ?

Levelling is a self-levelling coating that allows you to recover defects in the floor to be tiled.

To do this, you'll need a levelling plaster, also known as a ‘self-levelling floor plaster’.

You'll find several types of coating:

Quick-covering self-levelling render 1 to 10 mm thick (quick-drying, can be applied after 4 hours).

-Interior floor levelling plaster, 1 to 10 mm thick (longer drying time, 12/24 hours).

Multi-purpose self-levelling fibre plaster 3 to 20 mm thick, ideal for renovation (long drying time).

Position your level markers
Using a laser level, adjust it to a height of 1.03 m if you need to apply 3 mm of levelling, for example.



Marking the wall

Use a tape measure to measure downwards from your level to a second mark at the bottom of the wall, 1.03 m: you should have 3 mm left, which corresponds to the height of your final screed before tiling.



Repeat the operation so that you can draw a chalk line to mark the entire part to be leveled.



Once you have positioned your level markers, prepare your plaster by following the instructions on the packaging.
Apply the plaster, smoothing it with a float and a straight edge if necessary.

Leave to dry.







Is it possible to tile over wallpaper and paint?

Wallpapering: It is not possible to tile over wallpaper. Tiling must be laid directly on the wall for it to adhere properly.
So remember to remove the covering first and then prepare the wall so that it is perfectly flat and even, using filling plaster if necessary.





Painting :

1) Check that there are no holes or minor cracks in your wall, and fill them in with filler before sanding and washing the wall.
- If your surface has more or less large holes, fill them with mortar and pieces of ready-to-use plaster tile, sand and wash the wall.

- If your surface has large cracks, fill them with smoothing plaster and apply glass cloth.

-If there are unevennesses on the wall: Place a 2m ruler in several places on the wall, and if there are any unevennesses or unevennesses greater than 5mm, apply a smoothing compound.

2) Wash the painted wall:
Once the wall has been sanded, wash it to remove all traces of dust and any grease stains and leave to dry.

3) Adhesion primer on painted walls

- Protect the floor
- Spread the primer with a roller
- Then roll in horizontal strips
- Coat the corners with a brush

Before washing the walls, switch off the electrical supply, remove the electrical boxes and reserve the dominoes.

3.Laying your tiles



Step 1 : Preparing the substrate
Remove the old coating, if any
Fill any holes or cracks.

Step 2 : Mixing the adhesive mortar

The type of adhesive mortar you use depends on the tiles and the room being tiled. Mix the powder and water slowly in a mason's trough.
Refer to the instructions on the packaging for the proportions.

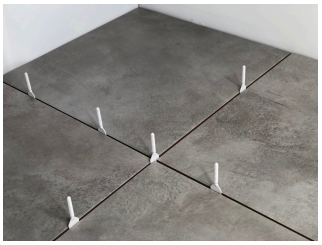


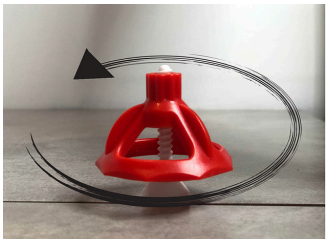
Step 3: Glue the surface

Using a comb, apply an even layer of mortar-glue about 1 cm thick, and streak the mortar in criss-cross strokes.

Step 4: Laying the tiles
Carefully lay the tiles, then place the crosspieces to define the define the joint spacing and tighten the dials on the crosspieces.









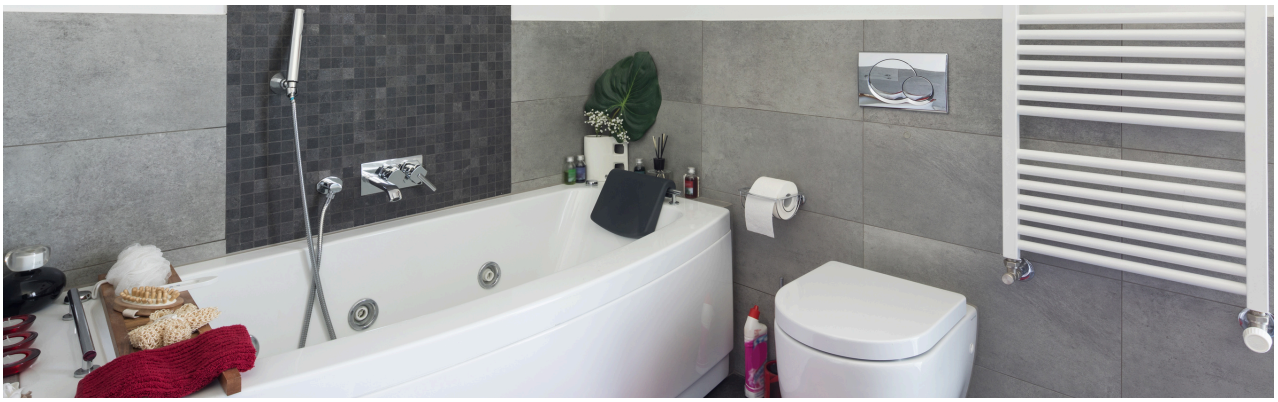
Step 5:
Tap the tiles lightly with a rubber mallet to optimise adhesion.



Step 6 : Lay the joints.



Regularly wipe off any traces of glue and grout from the tiles with a damp sponge.



Laying large format tiles :

Laying large-format tiles isn't all that different from conventional laying, it's just better to use a double suction pad and double glue.

Double gluing involves applying glue to the substrate using a special comb, but also a thin layer under the tile itself using a cat's tongue trowel. This technique ensures that the tile adheres perfectly and holds well over time.

This technique is ideal for tiles measuring 60 x 60 cm or more, and for heavier tiles.

Choice of adhesive: The most commonly used type of adhesive is mortar adhesive, sold in bags of powder to be mixed with water.
Be careful to use the recommended quantity of adhesive.

Manual or electric tile cutter?



VS



Which one to choose ?

A manual tile cutter is best suited to porcelain stoneware tiles.
An electric tile cutter is needed for tiles with non-smooth, non-slip surfaces or for thicker tiles such as marble, terracotta or refractory bricks.

Once you've finished laying your tiles, you can use white vinegar to clean up any laitance in an environmentally-friendly and economical way. Prepare your own mixture in a bucket with 1 part hot water and 1 part white vinegar. Note that lemon juice contains citric acid. You can therefore replace the citric acid with the juice of two large lemons.

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