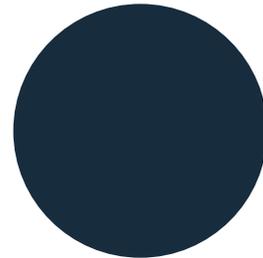
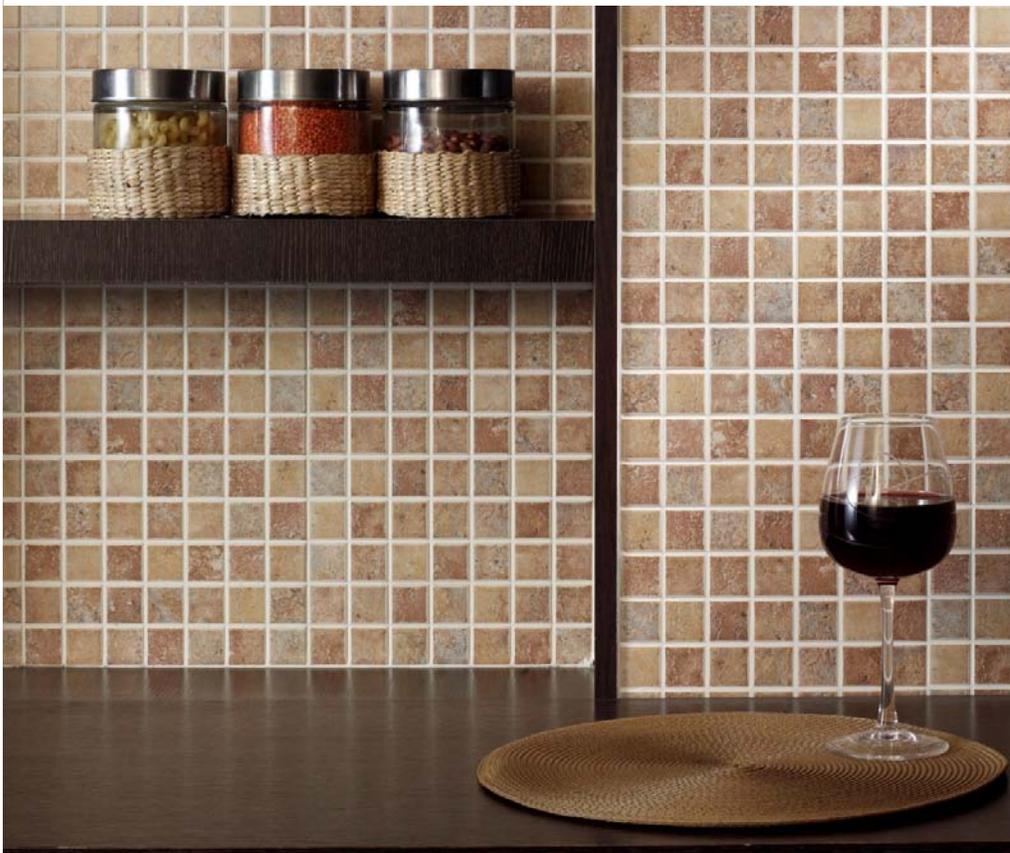


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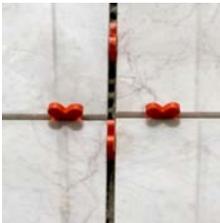
Kitchen Backsplash Installation Guide

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Although you can use many different materials for your kitchen backsplash project, tile makes for the simplest DIY project and provides a beautiful result.

What You'll Need

- Tiles
- Tile spacers
- Level
- Mastic or tile adhesive
- Grout and grout sealer
- Grout float
- Notched trowel
- Silicone caulk
- Tiling sponge
- Tile saw
- Sandpaper
- Rubber gloves and mask

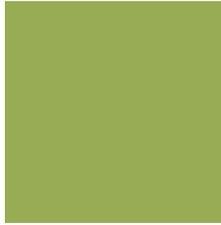


1. Prepare the Work Area

- Turn off circuit breakers and remove switch plates and outlet covers.
- Prepare your wall by removing wallpaper, sanding paint gently, and removing flaking or cracked paint. You want a level working surface.
- Estimate the center of the wall. Draw a level vertical line there.
- Using the notched trowel, spread the adhesive or mastic on the wall in an area large enough to accommodate about four tiles.
- Use tile spacers to create an even separation between tiles as you lay each one down.
- Wipe any excess adhesive off the tiles while they're still wet and easy to handle.

Cost

Tile spacers: \$5-\$10 per set
Notched trowel: \$2-\$10
A gallon of tile mastic: \$10-\$20
Tile: Cost varies greatly based on material, size, and quality



2. Work Slowly and Carefully

- Keep laying tiles, working your way out and spreading more adhesive when needed.
- If you need to cut tiles to fit, use your tile saw or wet saw to make a clean cut.
- Allow your tiled backsplash to dry according to your adhesive or mastic package instructions, and then spray grout sealer.

Cost

A tile saw can cost up to \$800, so unless you expect to lay a lot of tile in the coming years, you may want to rent from a supplier.



3. Grout and Clean

- Mix your grout, wearing rubber gloves and a mask, and spread it on your dry tile with a grout float. To keep the tile surface clean, hold your float at a 45-degree angle and use firm pressure.
- Once the grout is firm to the touch, wipe the excess with a damp sponge, clean the lines off with your gloved fingertip, and gently wipe again.
- Once the tile has dried to a haze, buff it with a clean rag and then spray grout sealer.
- Use silicone caulk to seal the edges.

Cost

One tube of silicone caulk: \$10-\$15
 One 20 lb. pail of grout powder: \$10-\$15
 One bottle of grout sealer spray: \$10-\$15