

Peggy Karr Glass Tile installation guide

Introduction

This guide is provided to give guidelines to installers of Peggy Karr Glass tile and to cover most Installations; some installations are unique may require specific specifications. It is recommended that an experienced, professional tile installer perform the work.

Peggy Karr Glass tile is handmade and each piece of tile is a unique creation. Due to this slight variations in color, shade, and tone should be expected. Please inspect the tile prior to installation to verify consistence between lots.

Substrate

The success of any tile installation is choosing the proper substrate. These recommendations are based on the Tile Council of America (TCA) handbook for ceramic tile installation 2003-2004. Please refer to the TCA handbook for material specifications and guidelines for the substrate installation.

Glass tile is a reflective material and any inconsistencies in your substrate will show after the tile is installed. Substrates should be a clean, sound, and most of all flat to insure the best results. **Do not use** wood products such as plywood, MDF, MDX, press board, and composites.

Exterior Walls

- Fully cured masonry or concrete substrate per **TCA W201-03**

Interior Walls – Wet area

- Cement backerboard (CBU) over wood or metal studs per **TCA W244-03**
- Cement mortar bed over wood or metal studs per **TCA W231-03 or W241-03**

Interior Walls – Dry area

- Gypsum board over wood or metal studs per **TCA W243-03**

Bathtub walls

- Cement backerboard (CBU) over wood or metal studs per **TCA B412-03**
- Cement mortar bed over wood or metal studs per **TCA B411-03**

Shower receptors, walls

- Cement backerboard (CBU) over wood or metal studs per **TCA B415-03**
- Cement mortar bed over wood or metal studs per **TCA B414-03**

Setting materials

When choosing a setting material we recommend a **white** thin-set mortar system. Due to the translucent nature of glass, using a white thin-set will keep the original look of the tile. Always adhere to manufacturer recommendations and instructions when preparing materials.

Unacceptable setting materials

- Epoxy, due to the lack of flexibility
- Mastic, due to yellowing and low bond strength

List of recommended setting materials for glass tile:

Laticrete: White 317 Thin-Set powder mix with Laticrete 333 add-mix
Phone: 500-243-4788 or www.laticrete.com

Mapei: White Kerabond premium dry-set mortar mixed with Keralastic mortar add-mix
Phone: 800-426-2734 or www.mapei.com

Flextile: White 52 versatile floor mortar (No admixture is necessary)
Phone: 800-699-3623 or www.flextile.com

Expansion and Control Joints

Expansion joints should follow instructions on Expansion Joints EJ 171-02 in the Handbook of Ceramic Tile Installation published by the Tile Council of America. Joints will vary depending on substrate, climate, and size of installation. An architect should be consulted when specifying the exact number and location of expansion joints.

Installation of tile

One key difference between installing glass tile and traditional stone and ceramic tile is that Peggy Karr Glass tile is translucent in nature. The ability to see shadows through the glass are one of the great characteristics of this medium but also demand a slightly different installation method. The steps below outline how to successfully install Peggy Karr Glass tile to achieve the best results.

Setting material application

Step 1: Prepare your thin-set per the manufactures directions. Once it has setup, apply the bond coat to your substrate using a ¼" x ¼" square-notched trowel. Only apply as much as can be covered with tile in 15 minutes.

Step 2: Prepare the tile for setting. Each tile needs to be clean of any dirt or other materials prior to setting. Now using the flat side of a trowel "Back Butter" each tile with the thin-set mortar prior to placing the tile into the setting bed. This will ensure an even coat when installed to the substrate.

Step 3: Apply the tile into the setting bed using firm even pressure so that any voids will be eliminated. Use a minimum of 1/16" space between tiles.

Step 4: Remove excess setting material from the tile edges. Allow 48 hours for curing before cleaning and grouting.

Cutting and Drilling

Glass tile can be cut and drilled using a high quality wet saw or drill with a diamond or carbide blade. Be careful not to use a standard tile saw or drill blade since they can cause chipping when cutting glass.

Peggy Karr Glass Tips:

- Cut and drill in a slow manner to prevent rough edges
- Cut edges should be sanded smooth after cutting. Use caution when handling cut tile since the edges will be sharp. Please use protective gloves when sanding tile smooth.

Grouting

Grouting glass tile is similar to any other tile in that the use of un-sanded grout is recommended for joints less than 1/8" wide, where sanded grout should be used for joints 1/8" and higher. It is also recommended to use a latex additive in the grout for increased performance, even if directions indicate you can use water. A latex additive will increase the life of your tile installation.

Peggy Karr Glass Tips:

- Due to the impervious nature of glass your grout will take longer to setup than stone or ceramic tile.
- Use a damp sponge only for the final clean washing and smoothing of grout. A cheese cloth should be used for the initial cleaning.
- **No acids** should be used for cleaning grout haze.

Maintenance

- Do not attempt to clean new installations for a minimum of 24 hours after completing the grouting process.
- Thoroughly clean the glass tile and grout joints using a nylon scrub brush or pad. Rinse with clean, warm water and allow to dry. A second rinsing may be needed to completely clean the surface.
- Sealing your tile installation is beneficial to the grout but is not required for glass tile due to the impervious nature of glass. When applying sealer be careful not to apply any to the surface of the tile since it may cause a smeared look when it dries. Buff sealer off of tile using a clean dry towel before it dries.

PKGlass Tips:

- ✓ Before applying sealer to your entire installation, test it in and inconspicuous area to see how it will react.

For more information on tile maintenance and installations you can visit the TCA website at www.tileusa.com.