



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE INSTALLATION MOSAIC MATERIAL: GLASS

This document covers installation of glass mosaic tile. Installation of glass mosaic requires a procedure that differs from installing stone mosaic. Please follow these steps to prevent mistakes and ensure a successful installation.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

Measure the area where the mosaic will be installed. Loft the mosaic pieces on a protected, clean and dry surface.

In the case of an artistic mural or border, follow the mapping schedule provided with the mosaic to ensure the correct placement of the numbered mosaic sheets. **Always layout the mosaic pieces before installation to ensure proper pattern, horizontal lines, vertical lines and consistent spacing between sheets.**

IMPORTANT: If you encounter any problem with the glass mosaic tile you purchased, notify Vita Nova Mosaic Inc., BEFORE INSTALLATION. Vita Nova Mosaic Inc is not responsible for any problems incurred once installation has begun.

SUBSTRATE

Make sure that glass tile is installed over the proper substrate.

All surfaces to receive a glass mosaic tile installation should meet the minimum deflection standards of L/360 of the span under all concentrated or distributed live and dead loads.

Glass mosaic tile should be installed over a clean, sound and flat concrete substrate with a steel trowel and fine broom finish, free of contaminates including curing compounds.

Substrate should be free of cracks and waterproof (in water areas) (any irregularities on the substrate will show after the glass mosaic is installed).

Approved surfaces for setting:	Do not install glass tile on:
Fully cured concrete substrate Properly installed cement backerboard Gypsum Board-ASTM C1396/C1396M/Dry Areas Only	Particle board Chipboard Masonite Press Wood Plywood Asbestos board

For pool and fountains we recommend installing a mortar bed according to **TCA P601-07**.

(Vita Nova Mosaic, Inc. does not recommend mesh-backed glass tiles for pool interiors and water lines.)



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SETTING MATERIALS

Glass mosaic should not be subjected to excessive mechanical or thermal shock.

All installation materials should be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Vita Nova Mosaic, Inc. recommends that you use LATICRETE "System" that provides a comprehensive 10-year Labor and Material Warranty or an equal single source substitute.

For LATICRETE 10-Year Labor & Material Warranty, materials for setting & grouting shall be as follows: Setting Material: LATICRETE 254 Platinum Thin-Set (white) or LATICRETE Glass Tile Adhesive. Then grout with either sanded (1500 series or SpectraLOCK PRO) or un-sanded grout (1600 series) (for joints no larger than 1/8" wide).

It is NOT advisable to set our products using a tile mastic adhesive, as the clear tape (mylar film) prevents the drying of the mastic.

EXPANSION AND CONTROL JOINTS PER TCA EJ171-2K

Existing joints in subsurface must be carried through tile work. Expansion joints should be installed at all "changes of plane" in the tile work and where tile abuts restraining surfaces, therefore **silicone caulking sealant must be installed in all corner joints in the place of grout.**

INSTALLATION OF GLASS MOSAIC TILE

White thin-set is required for all installations to avoid adversely affecting the color of glass tile.

Glass tile must have a **minimum 1/16"** grout joint and should not be butt set.

Do not allow the clear tape mounted mosaic to get wet. This will cause the mosaic pieces to fall off the clear tape.

The thin-set adhesive should first be applied to the surface to be tiled. With the flat side of trowel using a scraping motion, work the adhesive into good contact with the surface to be covered. Then, a second time, go back with more setting material using the notched side of the trowel to achieve an even depth setting bed, and finally once more lightly through with the flat side of the trowel to smooth out the linear notched grooves. (the third step may be omitted with opaque tile) Only apply as much adhesive as can be covered within 10-15 minutes, or while the adhesive surface is still wet and tacky.

Do not apply thin-set to the back of the clear tape mounted mosaic because thin-set will get between the glass tile and the piece will not install flat.

To ensure adequate coverage and full contact to the tile it is recommended to lightly back butter the tile. Back buttering is required for semi-transparent glass tile exceeding a 2" x 2" dimension. A trowel having v-notches approximately 3/16" is recommended, held at a 45-degree angle to the substrate, when combing



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through the setting material as discussed in step two of the previous paragraph.

Apply the glass mosaic piece directly to the thin-set and press into place uniformly. The mosaic pieces should be aligned to show uniform joints.

Allow glass mosaic pieces to set no less than 72 hours or until fully cured.

Please remember that glass tile is semi-transparent and may take longer than the usual method.

Eliminate immediately any voids or air pockets in the setting bed that can affect the visual quantities of the tile.

Do not remove the clear tape before the setting time (SEE CLEAR TAPE REMOVAL INSTRUCTIONS).

Prematurely removing the clear tape may result in the removal of some of the mosaic pieces.

- Do not slide the mosaic pieces into place as this will cause a larger joint between the pieces.
- Do not walk on set pieces before clear tape is removed as it will make the clear tape removal very difficult.
- If a glass mosaic piece has to be removed after setting, quickly wash with water and re-set immediately, otherwise the water will eventually cause the glass to de-laminate from the clear tape.

CLEAR TAPE REMOVAL

The mosaic you have purchased is assembled using a clear tape (mylar film) which has been coated with a special adhesive formulated for glass. The application of this clear tape on the face (visible side after installation) of the glass mosaic allows for a flat uniform surface once the pieces are installed and the tape is removed.

- Remove clear surface tape by pulling diagonally from the corner along the surface plane of the newly installed tile.
- Do not pull the clear tape straight up. Pull back as close to the surface as possible.
- The clear tape may tear while removing. This is normal.
- Should any residue remain on the mosaic after removal of the tape, clean with a mix of clean water and cleaning ammonia.
- Acetone or Lacquer thinner may be necessary to remove any residue remaining on the glass. Follow safety precautions when using acetone or lacquer thinner.

GROUTING AND POINTING JOINTS

Before grouting, test an area to make sure the surface does not scratch during grouting.

Pack grout joints fully and free of all voids and pits. Clean excess grout from the surface as the work progresses, while grout is fresh and before it hardens. We recommend using a latex modified grout from the manufacturer for increased performance.

- **Use no acids** for cleaning grout haze.



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- Due to the impervious quality of glass, the grout will take longer to begin setting up.
- For final cleaning and smoothing of grout joints use a damp sponge.

CUTTING / DRILLING

Use a high quality wet saw with a diamond “cut-off” or carbide blade. We recommend using a tile blade designed for cutting.

- Cut glass tiles in an extremely slow manner to prevent rough edges.
- Turn the tile upside down for cutting to minimize chipping of the colored backing.
- Stone or sand smooth cut edges after cutting.
- Take precautions to protect the finished work from damage by other trades: avoid construction traffic on fresh tile or grout joints.
- Grout should cure for a minimum of 7 days before aggressive use or steam cleaning.
- For cleaning glass tile, use a glass cleaner and a soft lint free cloth.
- Use a minimally abrasive cleanser and soft bristle brush to remove soap scum or water deposits.

Vita Nova Mosaic Inc. provides installation instructions to assist customers in the selection of their installation and maintenance practices. Customer’s selection of installation procedure, products and maintenance practice are outside the direction and control of Vita Nova Mosaic Inc. and are strictly and completely the choice and responsibility of each customer.

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