

How to Lay *Tiles with Style* Custom Ceramic Tiles



Laying *Tiles with Style* tile is like creating a beautiful puzzle. First you need to sort the pieces by size and color around the perimeter of the floor. Then you start laying them, making sure to blend them together by size and color.

If you have animal tracks position them first. Then position the larger leaves on the floor, working in the smaller ones around them, being careful not to place all the leaves of the same type and color in one area.

You might want to lay the tiles out first on the dry board and then pick up the tiles from a small area, keeping them in the same position as they appear on the floor, then apply mortar to the board, and replace the tiles in the same position.

You have the option to use upside-down glass globs or dime-sized ceramic tiles to fill areas where the tiles don't merge tightly. I prefer the glass globs, they add that extra sparkle to the job. Sometimes I like to use the glass globs to create trails running through the floor and then work the tile in around the glass globs. It depends on the effect that you are looking for on the floor.

I suggest you always use a crete board or ceramic tile board. If you spend a little extra money on a product called *Ultra/Flex 2*, a polymer-based one-step mortar, it will allow you the time you need to arrange the tiles as desired. You level the tiles as you would manufactured tile—leveling the tiles with a board or tool, to assure all tile are set the same height in the mortar.

Use a sanded grout, a little on the dry side, that way when the grout dries, it doesn't crack. Grout the entire floor (for smaller floors) and then wipe off the excess. It helps keep the grout level with the top of the tile. I always grout the day after I set the tiles to confirm the crete mix is dry and doesn't mingle with the grout. If you notice a crack appearing, you can apply light pressure with your finger and the crack should disappear.

If you want, you can leave the grout in the veins of the leaves to show-off the veins, or remove it carefully with a small damp sponge prior to the grout drying.

We hope you enjoy your new tile! Please send us a picture of the completed job, so we can place it on our Web site.

Diane
Tiles with Style