

Installing Marble Tiles

Marble is a natural stone, so every tile is unique in its veining and tone. It is softer and more porous than porcelain — sealing and gentle care keep it looking its best for decades.



ADHESIVE

White, rapid-set, flexible S1



JOINTS

Around 2mm



SEALING

Before and after grouting



ALLOW EXTRA

10–15%

01 Before you start

- ◆ Open several boxes and dry-lay the tiles to blend veining and tone across the room. Natural variation is part of the material, not a fault.
- ◆ Allow 10–15% extra for cuts and selection.
- ◆ Inspect tiles before fixing — once a tile is laid it is accepted as fit.

02 Preparing the surface

- ◆ Walls and floors must be sound, flat, clean, dry and free from dust, grease, paint and old adhesive.
- ◆ Gypsum plaster walls: allow new plaster at least four weeks to dry, then prime. As a guide, plaster takes up to 20kg/m² including adhesive — heavier tiles need tile backer board.
- ◆ Showers and wet areas: fit tile backer board and a tanking system before tiling. Tiles and grout alone are not waterproof.
- ◆ Timber floors: overboard with 6mm or thicker tile backer board, or 15mm exterior-grade plywood, screwed at 300mm centres. The floor must not deflect underfoot.
- ◆ New sand and cement screeds: allow roughly one day per millimetre of thickness to dry. Anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds must be sanded, primed and below 0.5% moisture.
- ◆ Underfloor heating: switch it off 48 hours before tiling and leave it off until the adhesive and grout have fully cured (usually 7–14 days). Then bring it up a few degrees a day to working temperature.

Quick guide

- 1 Prepare and prime the surface
- 2 Blend tiles and dry-lay
- 3 Fix in white, rapid-set, flexible adhesive
- 4 Allow adhesive to cure and tiles to dry
- 5 Apply impregnating sealer
- 6 Wait 24 hours
- 7 Grout with fine grout, clean as you go
- 8 Allow grout to cure
- 9 Apply a final coat of sealer
- 10 Wait 72 hours before heavy use

03 Adhesive

- ◆ Use a white, flexible (S1), rapid-setting adhesive. White adhesive stops grey shadowing through pale marble; rapid-setting adhesive reduces the risk of moisture marking and warping.
- ◆ Green marbles are especially moisture-sensitive — always use a rapid-setting adhesive with them.
- ◆ Bed tiles solidly with no voids, back-buttering each tile. Hollow spots lead to cracking under load.

04 Laying

- ◆ Keep joints tight but even — 2mm is typical for calibrated marble.
- ◆ Leave a movement gap of at least 5mm around the perimeter and over any movement joints in the floor below.
- ◆ Cut with a wet saw and a diamond blade. Keep the tile face clean of adhesive as you go.

05 Sealing before grouting

- ◆ Apply an impregnating stone sealer to the face and edges once the adhesive has set and the tiles are dry. This protects the stone from grout staining.
- ◆ Wait the time the sealer manufacturer states (often 24 hours) before grouting.

06 Grouting

- ◆ Use a fine, non-sanded grout on polished marble to avoid scratching the surface.
- ◆ Test your grout colour on a spare sealed tile first — strong colours can stain.
- ◆ Wipe off residue promptly with a clean, damp sponge. Never use an acid-based grout haze remover on marble.

Aftercare

- Clean with a pH-neutral stone cleaner. Vinegar, lemon, bleach and limescale removers will etch marble.
- Wipe up wine, coffee, oils and citrus quickly.
- Reseal when water stops beading on the surface — typically every one to two years on floors and showers.
- Use mats at entrances; grit is marble's main enemy.

HYPERION TILES

Need a hand?

Our Ascot team can advise on adhesives, grout, sealers and setting out.

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This guide is general advice for experienced installers. Always read it alongside the instructions on your adhesive, grout and sealer, and the manufacturer's guidance for the product you have bought — where they differ, follow the manufacturer. Drying and curing times vary with temperature, humidity and ventilation. Installation should meet BS 5385 where it applies.