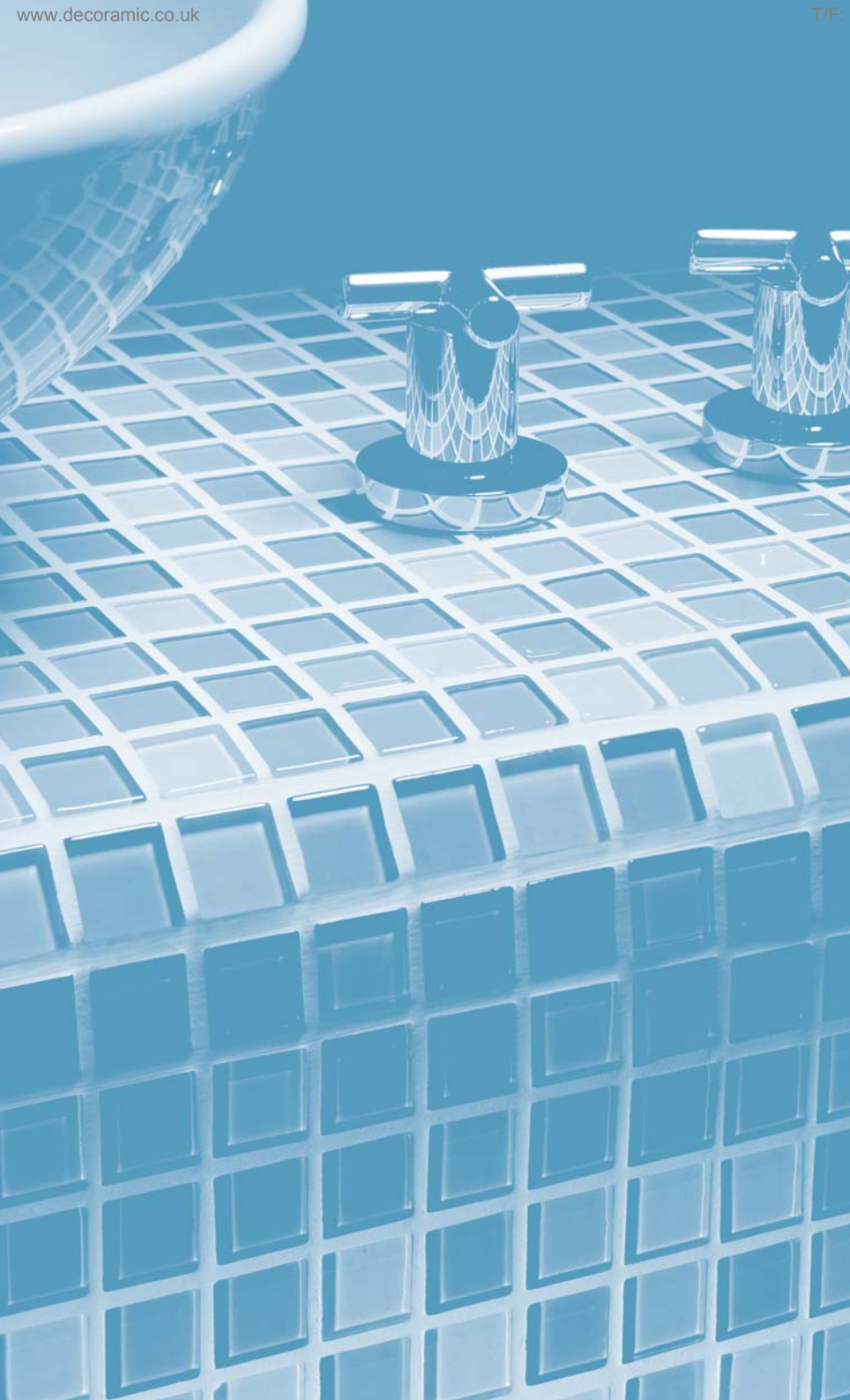




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GLASS TILE FIXING GUIDE



WELCOME HOME TO ORIGINAL STYLE

With its wide range of sizes and subtle shades, the translucent beauty of the Glassworks tile collection from Original Style will transform your home.

This guide shows you how, with a little care and planning, you can complete the entire installation yourself. From measuring up and choosing your tiles to fixing, grouting and admiring the final result, it's a lot easier than you think!

Just follow our 3-step plan for success:

1. Be prepared -
get everything you need
ready and have a
plan before you start

2. Keep your work area clean
and tidy as you go

3. Take your time -
work systematically -
there's no need to rush!

THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB

These tools will help you complete your tiling project to a professional standard. You may already have some of them in your toolbox. But, if you haven't, don't worry. They are all widely available and mostly relatively inexpensive to buy.

GLASSCUTTER

Glass tiles cannot be cut or shaped like ceramic tiles. But a glasscutter makes cutting 5/6mm tiles easy. Simply mark the outline, score it with the glasscutter, lay a thin wire under the score and apply even but firm pressure either side.

CIRCULAR TILE SAW WITH DIAMOND BLADE

Essential for cutting Original Style glass tiles. Make sure the cutter you use has a water reservoir for wet cutting, and a blade suitable for cutting glass. See page 10.

SQUEEGEE

Used for spreading grouting compound into the spaces between the tiles.

SPONGE

Synthetic sponge is ideal for pressing grout into the spaces between tiles.

GROUT FINISHING TOOL

Just run this tool, available from any DIY store, along your lines of grout for a smart well-finished appearance. But a piece of dowel or the rounded end of a pencil - even a lollipop stick can work just as well!

SPACERS

These small plastic crosses are inserted at the corners of tiles when they are applied to the wall. Matchsticks have been a traditional option, but spacers ensure evenly laid tiles. They're also inexpensive and very easy to use.

CHINAGRAPH PENCIL

Use this for marking tiles that need cutting. Never use a felt tip pen since they are often indelible and can permanently stain your tiles.

THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB

ADHESIVE SPREADER

The notched edge of this tool ensures an even spread of adhesive. You may often find a small one included in the container when you buy your adhesive.

SMALL POINTING TROWEL

Not absolutely essential, but handy for applying adhesive to the wall before using your spreader. The trowel also makes it easier to get the adhesive out of its container.

EYE PROTECTION AND GLOVES

Glass has different characteristics to ceramics, so this is a wise precaution that's necessary when cutting tiles.

STEEL RULER

All successful tiling depends on accurate measuring, and a steel rule is an essential toolbox item.

TILING GAUGE

A length of batten or other straight-edged scrap timber, say 2 x 3 x 100cm ($3\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{8}$ " x $39\frac{3}{8}$ "") or similar, on which you first mark the positions of tiles and their spacers. You then have a suitable tool for marking out tile positions on your walls.

MASKING TAPE

Use masking tape to cover areas of the tile that you want to cut, this will help prevent splintering.

SPIRIT LEVEL

Use a spirit level to ensure tiled surfaces are level as you fix them.

PLUMB LINE

A plumb line is useful to ensure wall tiles are positioned vertical.

SELECTING YOUR TILES



If you haven't already, first take a good look at the Glassworks wall tile display at your local Original Style stockist. Which of the many subtle shades will complement your room setting? If you feel you're spoilt for choice and can't make up your mind, ask for samples to take home and compare with your other furnishings.

You'll also see that our tiles are available in a range of sizes, so which will work best for you? Small tiles are better than large ones, for example, if the wall surface is uneven or irregular.

You may also wish to consider adding a contrasting border or random inserts. A good way to think this through is to draw the wall you intend to tile on graph paper and indicate each tile. It doesn't take very long, but it will help you with the next stage; measuring up and planning.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Original Style do not recommend the use of any of their glass tiles in swimming pools.

HOW MANY TILES WILL YOU NEED?

Your first job is to carefully measure the height and width of the walls or each part of the walls to be tiled. Multiply the two figures to give you the area in square feet or square metres. The chart below gives you the coverage for all the sizes in the Glassworks tile collection.

Nominal* Tile size	Tiles per linear metre	Tiles per linear foot	Tiles per square metre	Tiles per square foot
48x48mm (1 7/8" x 1 7/8")	21	7	435	41
100x100mm (4" x 4")	10	3	100	9
152x50mm (6" x 2")	7	2	132	12
152x152mm (6" x 6")	7	2	44	4
198x198mm (7 7/8" x 7 7/8")	6	2	26	3
200x40x6mm (7 15/16" x 1 11/16")	5	2	125	9
398x198x6mm (15 3/4" x 7 7/8")	3	1	13	1.2
300x300mm (11 3/4" x 11 3/4")	4	1	12	1

Please note: All above dimensions are subject to a tolerance of $\pm 2.5\text{mm}$ or $3/32"$. Quantities shown exclude grout gaps, and are rounded up to the nearest whole tile.*

ORDERING

When you have chosen the tiles you want and the quantities you need, order them from your local Original Style stockist.

If you are tiling a large area, you may be tempted to order your tiles in separate batches if you are going to work in stages. But this is not a good idea. Glassworks tiles are individually coloured, giving distinctive yet subtle variations in tone. To find the most pleasing distribution of shades, you will want to lay out all the tiles first. Tiling part of the work then ordering a further batch of tiles may leave you with a patchy-looking finish.

PREPARING THE WALL(S)

The secret to a perfect tiled appearance is in laying the tiles as flat and as evenly as possible. And that means having the flattest possible surface to start work on.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All surfaces must be allowed to dry out completely before tiling with Glassworks tiles. Failure to do this can result in moisture being trapped behind the tiles and reacting with the colour of the tiles causing them to deteriorate over a period of time.

PLASTERBOARD - USED ON STUD WALLS

So long as it is sound, firmly fixed and has no cracks, bulges or dents, plasterboard is a fine surface for tiling that needs no prior treatment. However, if it is around a wet area such as a bath, basin or shower, seal it first with a proprietary drywall topcoat.

RENDERED WALLS

Glassworks tiles can be fixed straight on to rendered walls, but new rendering must be allowed to dry out completely (one to two weeks) before tiling.

PLASTER

So long as it is dry and in good condition, you can tile onto plastered surfaces with ease. Any loose or crumbling plaster must be removed and replastered, while any holes or surface irregularities should be filled or smoothed out with a proprietary filling compound.

PAINTED SURFACES

These need elbow grease! Why? Because tiles applied to gloss or emulsion painted surfaces are only fixed to the paint, not to the wall underneath. Any loose or flaky paint must be scraped off and the painted areas rubbed hard with coarse sand paper to reveal the under surface.

PAPERED WALLS

An absolute no-no as a base for tiling, since the wallpaper can delaminate under the weight of the tiles. Strip the paper completely and allow the wall to dry out thoroughly before continuing.

OLD CERAMIC TILES

If the wall is already tiled and you don't want the effort of removing the old ceramic tiles, you can tile over them. Simply wash and dry the old tiles, then lay the new tiles on top, staggering their position so that their joints don't line up with the old joints beneath. But remember, most Glassworks tiles have a degree of transparency and strong colours or patterns may show through. If in doubt it is always better to remove the old tiles. There will be a longer drying time when tiling over tiles. Always ask your dealer for advice

FIXING

MARKING OUT THE WORK AREA

You've laid out your Glassworks tiles to arrange their delicate shade differences in a way that's most pleasing for you. The wall has been prepared. Now it's time to start fixing the tiles.

IMPORTANT- Make sure the wall you are fixing to is able to take the weight of your tiles and adhesive.

The first row you fix is the most important. If this is slanting or uneven, then all the other rows will be uneven, too. Very few properties, old or new, have rooms, floors and ceilings that are perfectly plumb and square. So your immediate job is to set a level for the first row. Here's how:

Lightly nail a tiling gauge (see page 5), taking care not to nail through any concealed pipes or electricity cables, horizontally along the area to be tiled so that its top edge is one tile depth plus one 2mm (1/16") joint above the floor or skirting board. Use a spirit level to ensure the top edge of the batten is perfectly level. Now place your home-made tile gauge vertically against the wall, its end on the top edge of the batten, and work it up the wall to check that you won't have to cut lots of fiddly small tiles at the top.

If this turns out to be the case, reposition the batten lower so that the cut tiles top and bottom will be more or less the same size. Again, carefully check the level with the spirit level.

Now use a ruler or tape measure to find the horizontal mid-point of the wall. Put your tile gauge against this point and work horizontally to determine the location of the last whole tile, and mark the batten.

Next hang a plumb line - a small weight on a length of string is fine - so that the weight hangs directly over the batten mark. Lightly fix a fresh length of batten along the plumb line and you now have the precise start point for your first tile.

Note: When fixing any glass tiles, ensure the painted side is fixed to the wall.

FIXING



HOW TO MAKE A TILE GAUGE

Take a piece of wooden batten around 3 x 2 x 100cm ($3\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{8}$ " x $39\frac{3}{8}$ ") and a metre or so in length, and with at least one good straight edge. Measure the edge and mark it along its length for the tile width plus the grouting space of 2mm ($\frac{1}{16}$ "). Thus, if you were using 10cm (4") tiles, your tile gauge would be marked every 10.2cm (4").

CHOOSING AN ADHESIVE

For the plain glass tiles use a white class C2 adhesive. For the decorative glass tiles use an epoxy class R1 or class R2 adhesive or a silicone based mirror adhesive. When using a mirror adhesive, the adhesive should be applied directly to the back of the tile, not the walled surface. The tile should be then fixed to the wall.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Epoxy adhesive can be difficult to use and because of the nature of Epoxy, can be extremely hard to remove once it has gone off. Always remove excess Epoxy adhesive immediately.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

It is vital that the adhesive is completely dry before grouting. Any moisture left behind glass tiles can cause the paint backing to deteriorate.

APPLYING THE ADHESIVE

Using the trowel, apply adhesive to the wall, a manageable area at a time. How large is "manageable" will depend on the size of the tiles you are laying and the nature of the work area. But for glass tiles, we recommend applying adhesive to an area of approximately half a square metre (a foot and a half square) at a time.

With the adhesive roughly applied, take your notched spreader, hold it at about 45 degrees, and distribute it evenly over the work area. Make sure the under surface is completely covered to avoid any possible show-through. Now press your first tile gently but firmly into position in the corner where the two battens form a right angle. Apply spacers, fix the next tile, and so on. Continue in this way, thoroughly wiping off with a damp cloth any stray adhesive that may have found its way onto the tiled surface.

Semi opaque glass tiles need to be fixed with an adhesive that does not shrink and crack as this can be seen when the adhesive dries from the front.

FIXING

CUTTING GLASS MOSAIC TILES

Almost inevitably, at some point you will have to cut or drill a few of your tiles, perhaps to fit around a window or sink, accommodate wiring or to finish off an area where it meets the ceiling or skirting. You will need protective eyewear and gloves.

For all Original Style glass tiles, use a diamond blade designed for glass, or a wet saw. Specialist glass cutters provide the best finish and can usually be hired from your local tool hire centre. Cutters designed for ceramic tiles will work on glass although they can crack the paint. If this happens, use a diamond blade as the cracks will be seen from the front. Their blades are coarse and your tiles will end up chipped and misshapen. Smooth sharp edges with a file.

Drilling glass tiles requires great care and patience - and a drill with a special diamond tip. The tile must be firmly supported to avoid cracking. Putting a strip of masking tape over the tile will help to stop the drill tip skidding until the hole starts to form.

Original Style does not recommend cutting the individual glass mosaic tiles, however the mesh backing can easily be cut using sharp scissors. Original Style recommends using space pegs, (rather than crosses) which can be removed after adhesive has set and prior to grouting.

DECORATIVE GLASS TILES

Some Original Style decorative glass tiles require special fixing.

EQUINOX TILES

The colour and patina vary within this range and should be considered when installing. Avoid slurry grouting these tiles, finger grout around the tile to avoid getting the grout in the patina.

IRIDESCENT DROP-IN TILES

Due to the production methods used in creating this range it is important to use a thicker/stiffer consistency of grout to avoid leaching between tile layers. Colour variation is inherent with these tiles which should be considered when planning your tiling. The clear Drop-In tiles can be fixed either side. It is therefore important to achieve the desired effect before fixing. Additionally, please note the level of reflectivity can be influenced by the depth of grout, test before fixing to achieve the desired effect.

FIXING

CYGNUS & ANDROMEDA

These tiles have very subtle patterns and so care should be taken to ensure they are fixed with the front face showing.

SCRATCHING

As with all glass products, glass tiles can be scratched. We recommend that care is taken in installation and that glass tiles are not put in high-risk areas for scratching.

USE OF GLASS TILES ON COUNTER TOP SURFACES

Original Style does not recommend glass tiles are used on counter tops, see scratching above.

USE OF GLASS TILES NEAR HEAT

Original Style recommends tiles are installed a minimum of 30cm (12") from any direct heat source.

GROUTING

Grouting performs several useful functions. It gives a neat appearance to the tiled surface, it stops dirt or grease building up between the tiles and, if you use waterproof grout, it seals the surface, preventing moisture from a tiled shower or sink surround from seeping into the substrate. There are numerous makes and types of grouting compound, so check with your tile retailer the most appropriate grout for your application. You should allow the tiles to dry out for at least 24 hours before grouting.

Start by working the grout into the spaces between the tiles with a squeegee. Press it in firmly to eliminate any air pockets. You may find a piece of sponge more comfortable to carry out this task. Work reasonably quickly since grout can begin to harden quite rapidly.

Where sections of tiles meet at corners, or where the edges butt up to a worktop, sink, bath or similar, don't use grout. Instead fill these joints with a silicone sealant. This will make a perfect seal but also allow for minimal movement of the joint without it failing - something grout alone cannot normally do.

Wipe surplus grout off at once using a damp cloth or sponge. Some Original Style tiles have a subtle surface texture and once grout is allowed to harden it can be very difficult to remove. This also applies to the plain frosted finish tiles.

When you have completed the grouting, run a finishing tool or a piece of dowel along each joint to achieve an attractive, level finish.

Special care and attention must be taken with the use of Epoxy Grouts when fixing any Glassworks products. Ensure the tiles are cleaned before the grout completely sets.

FINISHING

Once your tiling is complete, inspect it carefully for any joints that the grout has missed, and refill if necessary. Wipe over the entire wall with a damp sponge or cloth and allow to dry out completely. You can then buff up the tiles to their final finish with a clean dry cloth.

Remember, a glass surface is susceptible to scratching. Avoid sharp objects coming into contact with your Glassworks tiles and never use any kind of abrasive product to clean them. Water is normally all that's necessary or, if your tiles have become grimy, use a proprietary glass or window cleaner.

GLOSSARY OF TILING TERMS

Adhesive	The "glue" used to fix tiles to the substrate. There is a wide choice available, so always ask your stockist's advice
Adhesive spreader	A flat tool with notches along its edge. These allow a smooth, even flow of adhesive
Diamond cutter	An electrical tool for cutting glass tiles. Try a hire centre
Grout	A hardening compound used to seal the joints between tiles. There is a wide choice available, so always ask your stockist
Grout finishing tool	A length of dowel or blunt end of a pencil run along grouted joints for an even appearance
Movement joint	Where tiles meet another surface, such as a bath, the joint is filled with silicon sealant, not grout, to allow for minor expansion and contraction
Pointing trowel	Normally used by bricklayers, a small pointing trowel is useful for the initial application of tile adhesive
Render	A wall finish made up of sand and cement, usually in the ratio of 4:1
Silicon sealant	A material with elastic and waterproofing properties used to fill movement joints instead of grout
Spacers	Small plastic mouldings placed temporarily between tiles to ensure they are evenly spaced
Squeegee	A flexible rubber or rubber-edged tool used to apply grout
Stud wall	Internal walls in a home, usually constructed of plasterboard over a wooden framework
Substrate	Any surface on to which tiles are to be laid
Tile gauge	An easily home-made device for accurately positioning your tiles

