Must-have Tile Tools

A tile setters checklist



Video - Must Have Tile Tools

Here's the Youtube Video

Must-have Tools

- [ ] Cordless grinder

  I would highly recommend getting a cordless grinder. So many situations where its much easier having the freedom of no cord. Plus the rpms are easier to control with a cordless grinder

  Be sure to get a brush-less version of whatever brand you prefer. These will outlast traditional cordless grinders

  My favorite as of now is the Milwaukee Cordless grinder

  This one has the quick blade adapter that doesn't require a tool to replace blades

  Another favorite of mine is the Hilti Cordless Grinder

  Significant cost difference, but also have the quick release adapter

- [ ] Good Diamond Blade (multiple sizes; applications)

  If I only had enough money for one blade, I'd choose

  Montolit CGX blade

  Its a great blade for just about everything, but specifically porcelain tiles

  My other go to that I always have set up on another grinder is

  Montolit STL Blade

  This is a great blade for grinder and scribe cutting tiles

  Other blades I recommend

  Montolit squadro (for small intricate cuts; outlets in backsplashes, small plunge cuts)

Dewalt standard diamond blade

- [ ] Tile Cutter

My all time favorite cutters are

Montolit Masterpuima (25" cutter)

Montolit Minipuima

Other cutters I recommend

Isshii Big Clinker (25 1/2" cutter)

- [ ] Laser with adjustable pole

I'll be honest.....I'm still looking for a laser that I really love

The one I primarily use now isTheDewalt Green LaserA few things that I'm not happy with this one:- blank spots in area because of the protective cover
- comes with only one battery

-pretty pricy

Other lasers that I've used that I would consider a good buy

Dewalt (red beam)

Bosch (red beam)

A laser pole is a must

Unfortunately I can not find the exact model that I use and have in all my videos. But here is the company that I bought it from

Laser Jamb

another pole that works great:

Dewalt laser pole

- [ ] Horseshoe tile spacers

Horseshoe spacers are a must! So much better than the cheap rubber spacers you get at box stores

1/16" horseshoe spacers

1/18" horseshoe spacers

- [ ] Scraper (thinset & movement of tile)

Its not really a tile tool.....but I love using a

Linoleum knife for scraping out joints and moving tile

Other popular scrapers

Grout scraper tool

5&1

- [ ] Tile Leveling System

A leveling system is great for any tile over 12" wide

It will help keep tiles even with one anotherReview thisvideo on choosing spacers
My favorite system is Perfect Level Master

1/32" clip kit

1/16" clip kit

1/8" clip kit

for bigger projects, get larger bags

1/32" 500 bag

wedges

They do make a tool to pinch wedges in place

T-lock gun

Other systems to consider

Spin doctors 1/16" kit

Lev-tec system

Tuscan leveling clips

- [ ] Trowels

Every bathroom project you will need multiple size trowels

Here are the most common ones needed

Ditra trowel (3/16" x 3/16") to set ditra or thin tile

Kerdi trowel (1/8" x 1/8") setting membranes

1/4" x 1/4" trowel (subway tiles, tiles under 12",mosaics)

1/4" x 3/8" trowel (larger tiles, Schluter pans)

Euro Trowel (great for 12" x 24", plank tile)

3/8" x 1/2" trowel (large tiles)

1/2" x 1/2" trowel (floor tiles, large tiles)

- [ ] Grout Float

My favorite groat floats for pre-mix grouts & epoxy

Troxell grout float

Other great floats:

Marshalltown

Marshalltown (mini float for tight spaces)

Superior

- [ ] White Scrubby pads

Always need scrubby pads!

White scrubby pads

- [ ] Ardex Sponges

I know these are expensive....but they are well worth it

Ardex sponges

- [ ] Microfiber Clothes

Microfiber clothes are a must to prevent grout haze

especially if you are using a pre-mix or epoxy grout

Microfiber clothes

- [ ] Wet Saw

  I have this as the last must-have tools because not every bathroom remodel requires one. A lot of time a good grinder blade and tile snapper is all you need

  But if I were to buy a saw, I would stick with

  Dewalt Wet saw

  It really is one of the best. I've had a lot of expensive saws in the past and this one really does the job well and is under $1,000

Other helpful tools

- [ ] Grinder with Dust Shroud

  This combination will save a lot of trips outside to cut. Its not the most accurate because it can be tough to see a line on tile, but I primarily use for correction cuts or scribing. saves a lot of time and keeps down on dust

  Makita paddle switch grinder (corded to attach to shop vac)Fein Grinder Shroud (keeps dust down)Fein Shop vac (with tool switch; turns on when using tool)

- [ ] Polishing Pads

  These are great to fine tune your cuts, especially if you are cutting large format tiles for a shower floor

  Polishing pad kit

- [ ] Hand Diamond pads

  These are great for fine tuning cuts

  Hand diamond pads

- [ ] Collomix Mixer

  A good mixer is great. Will get the most out of your thinset mixing better with one of these

  Collomix mixer

- [ ] Grabo

  This is the latest craze! It is very helpful with large tile

  Grabo

- [ ] Oscillating tool
- [ ] Margin Trowel Grout Float

  For those tight places for grouting

  Margin trowel grout float

- [ ] Assortment of diamond hole saws

  An assortment of diamond hole bits will make things quicker and easier

  Bosch kit

- [ ] Drip-free caulking gun

  If you haven't ventured into caulking guns. Newborn caulking guns will show what you've been missing

  May favorite is the standard drip-free caulking gun

  950-GTS

- [ ] Scale for weighing thinset

If you want to be accurate, a scale is the way to go. Its helpful for mixing half bags of anything

Scale

- [ ] Bucket Mud Mixing Paddle

This is a must for mixing mud for a mud bed or any type of mortar/concrete

mud mixing paddle

- [ ] Wood Floats

These are great for mud beds, or embedding membranes

Wood float

- [ ] Rubber gloves

Keep that thinset off your hands....

Venom rubber gloves

- [ ] Glass Tile nippers

Tile nippers.

great for penny tile, glass, minor corrections

- [ ] Thinset removal wheels

For excess thinset leftover on a floor or to grind down a tile if needed

Thinset removal wheel

Strip discs (less abrasive)

something I plan to try

Megatron diamond disc

- [ ] Measuring buckets

Very important for measuring water ratios for thinsets or grouts

Measuring bucket

- [ ] Floor Level Bucket Kit

A kit will allow you to mix to bags at a time. Worth it for effiecency and bigger jobs

Mixing barrel kit

Ardex version

- [ ] Specialty tile bits

Its always nice having a solution to issues that can take a lot of time to fix

Montolit hole saw (3/16")Montolit milling toolMontolit countersink bit

- [ ] Diamond bit to drill through tile

For accessories

Milwaukee diamond plus bit

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Tub & Shower in 7 days or less

Thank you!

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Thank you

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