

# italbec

## INSTALLATION - CERAMIC WALL TILE

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### **PREPARE THE SURFACE**

1. Remove power from electrical outlets.
2. Protect the countertop with newspaper and masking tape.
3. The surface to be tiled must be clean, dry and smooth.
4. Have a bucket of water and a sponge in hand.

### **REFERENCE LINES**

1. Snap a vertical chalk line in the centre of the wall to show your starting point.
2. Snap a horizontal line, perpendicular to the first, to indicate the top edge of the base row of tiles.
3. Mark a vertical reference line for each end of wall section to be tiled.

### **SPREAD THE ADHESIF**

1. Using a notched trowel, spread the tile adhesive over a small section of the wall.
2. Cover the area of 3 to 4 linear feet at a time.
3. Make grooves in the adhesive using the notched side of the trowel; the grooves should all be facing in the same direction.
4. Dampen the adhesive if it starts to harden.

## **PLACE THE FIRST TILE**

1. Install the first tile near the centre of the wall, twisting it slightly to embed it in the adhesive.
2. Use the reference lines as a guide to make sure the tile is leveled and positioned correctly.

## **TILE THE AREA**

1. Use plastic spacers to ensure even gaps between the tiles.
2. Continue one section at a time until the entire area is covered.
3. Use a level to ensure that the tiles are flat and even.

## **PREPARE THE TILES FOR GROUTING**

1. When all the tiles have been installed, wipe off the excess adhesive with a damp sponge.
2. Wait 24-48 hours before applying the grout.
3. Remove the spacers and dampen the tiles with clean water.

## **APPLY THE GROUT**

1. Mix the grout according to instructions.
2. Pour some of the grout directly onto the tiles and work it into the joints.
3. Apply the grout section by section, covering a surface no bigger than 10 sq. ft. at a time.
4. Don't apply grout to gaps separating the tiles from another type of material.
5. Use the float to remove the excess grout from the tiled surface.
6. Clean the surface with a damp sponge.
7. After 24 hours, when the grout is completely dry, apply grout sealer.

## **CAULK THE EXPANSION JOINTS**

1. After ten days, caulk the expansion joints with a silicone sealer - **When the silicone is dry, clean the tiles with a soft, dry cloth.**