

Installation Tips

Marble flooring was once thought to be only something you would see in fancy buildings. However, more and more marble is being used in residential applications. Even do it yourselfers are learning quick and easy ways of installing marble flooring as it becomes more affordable and available. If you don't have any prior experience with the installation of marble, hire a natural stone professional to avoid any mishaps and cost-incurring mistakes. For home use it can be installed in much the same way as ceramic tile flooring.

Most of the tools required for ceramic tile also make good marble flooring tools. Because marble is difficult to produce and is thus more expensive than ceramic tiles, you should be very careful when using marble floors tools to cut, sand, and install marble flooring. Here are a few flooring tools you will require for installing marble flooring:

Tile nippers - Make sure the blades of your nippers have a good sharp edge on them.

A wet saw with a diamond blade - While you can use a straight cutter that scores the tile on ceramic tile, you have to be more careful with marble because it may tend to split along natural fissures in the rock.

A notched trowel - For spreading thinset adhesive and cement.

Squeegee - For spreading cement into cracks.

Burlap rag or sponges - For removing excess cement.

How to install marble flooring

Installing marble floors is not all that different from installing ceramic tiles. First, you need to lay out your tiles to determine the proper fit, and cut any marble tiles to fit around corners or in doorways. Second, use your notched trowel to apply a layer of thinset adhesive. Lay your tiles out once more, being careful to set them into place. Use spacers to ensure proper tile separation. Once all your marble flooring is in place, allow it to dry overnight.

The final step is to use concrete (rather than the grout used in ceramic tile installation) to fill in the gaps between tiles. Using proper safety equipment is a vital part of learning how to install marble flooring; cement can burn the skin during mixing, so you should always wear long sleeves, a dust mask, and eye protection when preparing cement. Apply with a squeegee, and then wait ten minute before wiping off excess. Washing the surface to remove concrete before it can stain the surface of the flooring is the final step to installing your new marble flooring.

Tips To Achieve the Perfect Marble Installation

The proper installation of marble is certainly a big issue. While a perfect installation can give a brilliant look to your house, a faulty one might ruin the effort. So, it is always useful to know the tips before going for the installation of marble in your house.

One of the greatest things about the installation of marble tiles is that the entire process is easy. So, one can do it by himself. This will not only save the expense of installation, but will also give you a good option to spend the time in the weekend.

But to do it like an expert, you have to do what the experts do - research. However, once you complete that, you have to prepare the floor to install the marble on it. The most important factor for a successful installation is a dry, clean and level surface. Once you have that type of surface, the tiles will not crack.

Another important thing with the marble tiles is to ensure that the floor is strong. Otherwise, the floor will not be able to hold the weight of the marbles. In case you are not quite sure, you can jump on the floor. If you can feel it, there is need to strengthen the floor; otherwise it is absolutely alright and can be fitted with the marble.

It is also necessary to remove the baseboard and cut through the casing of the door. Later you can always paint the baseboards and bring them back; or better still, you buy a new baseboard that suits your new floor.

Planning is important for an effective installation of the marble tiles. It is a good idea to do a preview so that you are certain that you are not running short of the tiles. In fact, there should be some extra pieces of tiles just in case of emergency. The center of the layout should be identified and the installation should start from this point. While planning, make sure that you are not stepping on the tiles to lay others. To make sure that the process is planned properly, you can make the plan it out on paper as well.

However, before all this starts, it is important to pay attention to the color of the marble while buying the thinset. The light colored marble has a transparent look and so choosing the wrong shade of thinset will spoil the effort. Too dark of a thinset may show through or distort the color of your marble slab. While mixing the thinset, it is good to use cold water. Spread the thinset in an area that you can cover within 15 minutes. Maintain the level of the thinset through the project.

Spacers should be used to keep the tiles aligned and the space between the tiles equal. After the installation is complete, the entire thing should be left overnight to dry up. Now, you can grout the tiles with color matching the marble slab or you can get grout that will highlight or make your marble slab pop. However, it is good to use un-sanded grout.

Next, the spacers should be removed and the thinset attached with it should be cleaned. Add some grout on the tiles with the help of the grout float and spread them with it. While doing this, you should ensure that the cracks are filled with the grout. After waiting for a while, you can wipe off the tiles with a damp sponge. After that the grout should be sealed.

Now, your marble slabs are ready to use.