

SECTION 11

APPLYING THINSET

If tiling damaged and uneven walls, you may want to consider using thinset mortar or mastic adhesive. When using these adhesives, follow all manufacturers' directions.

To help, here are some tips:

- Thinset comes two ways – as a powder or premix in a tub.
- Mastic is an organic adhesive that comes premixed in a tub.
- When using these adhesives, start by putting in a ledger on the wall, along the horizontal line where you will set your first full row of tiles. You will work upwards from this point.
- After allowing the tiles you set to cure for 12 hours, you can remove the ledger and apply the tiles going downward – supporting them with a strip of masking tape attached to the row of tiles above (this will prevent sagging).
- To apply adhesives, you will need a trowel.
- Use the smooth edge of the trowel to spread the adhesive.
- Use the notched edge of the trowel to rake the adhesive into straight lines and leave the right amount of adhesive behind for the tiles you have selected.
- Be sure to hold the trowel at an angle and press down so the teeth of the trowel touch the wall surface.
- To set a tile, press it into place and slide it across the ridges you made in the adhesive to fill in the grooves.
- Test your first tile by prying it up to examine the back – the adhesive should evenly cover the entire surface.
- You will likely need to put shims or spacers in to keep the tiles from sagging while they set.
- After setting a section, clean up any excess adhesive, including the grout lines to allow room for your grout.
- Remember, unlike Homax® SPRAY & SET™ Wall Tile Adhesive that allows you to grout the same day, you normally have to wait at least a full day before grouting your tile after using thinset or mastic.



Thinset or mastic may be good choices for damaged, uneven walls.



When applying adhesive, make certain the teeth of the trowel touch the wall.



Press the tile into place and slide it across adhesive ridges.



Be sure to clean up excess adhesive after setting a section.