



# M. S. International, Inc.

## Installation of Mosaic Sheets

### Tools and Equipment:

	Diamond disc for cutting mosaics		Finish Nails
	1/16 – 3/16 V Notch Trowel		Sponge
	Grout Float		Bucket
	Level		Non-Sanded Grout

### Substrate Preparation:

The substrate needs to be clean, compact, perfectly flat and free of dirt and cracks. Nylon or wire brush can be used in cleaning the residues on the surface. If the brush cannot remove the entire residue use bead blasting or sand blasting. Fix all the uneven area of the surface; leveling compound might be needed to make the surface perfectly flat. Small cracks can be fixed using crack suppression membrane or patch. Consult an engineer for an assessment of large cracks because this might cause a problem in the future.



*NOTE: Make sure enough time is given to let the substrate settle (as per manufacturer's recommendation). Do not install the mosaic tiles directly over plywood or drywall.*

## **Installing Mosaic Sheets:**




Before starting the installation inspect all mosaic sheets and make sure that material is in good condition and has no defects. Identify the starting point using guidelines that will help installing the mosaics straight and symmetrical.

The size of the trowel depends on the thickness of the mosaic tiles, thinner the material the smaller the trowel.

The mosaic, unless otherwise specified by the customer, is usually laid on white mastic or thinset to avoid altering its color.



*NOTE: White thinset is usually recommended to use for the glass and other light or transparent products to avoid discoloration of the background.*

<p>Once the starting grid has been marked, using the flat side of the v-notched trowel, apply a layer of thinset and use the notched side to go over the thinset to make uniform depth. Make sure to apply only enough adhesive to area that you can tile within 15 minutes because it dries quickly.</p>	
<p>Once the adhesive is spread over the surface, start laying down the mosaic sheets.</p>	
<p>Using a grout float, press the mosaic sheet against the surface to guarantee perfect adhesion. Using the same tool, correct any alignment errors by lightly tapping the sides of the sheet. If the sheet starts to slide down, place few finish nails on the first grout line on the top to hold it in place and then move to the next tile.</p>	

After one section is done, use damp sponge to clean up any residue of thinset that may have squeezed up between the tiles.



*NOTE: Thinset usually requires 24 hours for curing. For more time, check the manufacturer's recommendation.*

## **Grouting and Finishing:**

Before applying grout, make sure that the adhesive is set and firm and the tiles are clean. Non-sanded grout is recommended for mosaic sheets due to small grout joints.



*NOTE: It is not recommended to use sanded grout on polished glass mosaics as this will scratch the material. Unless specified by the manufacturer, epoxy grout is also not recommended for the glass mosaic tiles.*

Using grout float apply the grout on the tiles. Use vertical and horizontal strokes to spread the grout evenly. Apply a little pressure to make sure that all the joints are well filled.



While the grout is still fresh, stroke diagonally with the long edge of the grout float to remove excess grout. Wipe with a wet sponge to clean.



Once the grout is set and dry, if there is still residue left over, use nylon brush to clean. Apply grout sealer according to manufacturer's instructions.



**TIP:** Cutting mosaics using a wet saw – To make a good, straight cuts on a wet saw, put a tile or a piece of hard plastic down on the cutting tray. This helps support the mosaic and keeps it from falling through the wide opening on the blade channel tray.