

Hello, my name is Bob Ault, and I've been a tile contractor for 35 years. I pioneered the tiling of flexible surfaces. I've published articles and given demonstrations at trade shows, and I'm here to tell you that if you follow these simple instructions, you can do your own tile project!

Working with silicone rubber is different than working with concrete grout. If you've never done this before, don't worry! If you're a tile veteran, you should still pay attention to these instructions, as there are some important points that you need to know when working with silicone.

Let's start by reviewing everything you'll need to install your tile:

1. Caulking gun
2. Paper towels
3. Solvent, alcohol or acetone
4. Marking pencil
5. Liquid dish soap
6. Small bucket

You may need an inexpensive wet saw (about \$80) which can be purchased at Home Depot or Lowes.

Flex-Tile can provide the other 5 things you'll need. You can purchase individual items, or a complete kit that contains all the items listed below. All purchases are delivered to your door by UPS.

1. Adhesive (R&R silicone adhesive)
2. Grout (R&R silicone grout)
3. Grout scrubbers
4. Hard rubber or epoxy grout float (traditional grout float is not recommended)
5. Tile

Now we come to the most important decision: Tile choice!

There are 2 things to be considered here; weight-bearing or non weight-bearing.

Non weight-bearing would be counter tops, ledges, walls, back splashes etc. Almost any tile can be used here.

Weight-bearing would be floors or shower pans. Large floor tiles require the installation of special backing materials before tiling. We do not recommend our adhesive for installing large floor tiles, but our flexible grout can be used once the large tiles are

correctly installed. If you are using small tiles, both our adhesive and our grout are recommended.

We recommend using tiles no larger than 2x2 inches. They should be hard bisque, unglazed and slip resistant. This will disperse the weight over several tiles, enabling them to slightly flex without cracking.

The tiles should be adhered with R&R silicone rubber adhesive and grouted with R&R silicone rubber grout. These products have been specially formulated for tiling flexible surfaces. To see a demonstration of this process, please watch our How-To videos at Flextile.com/videos.

Tiling Tips

1. Start tiling from the outside edge of the bottom row, and work your way to the corner (if there is a corner). Any cuts you have to make will be covered in the corner, and at the top.
2. Pre-grouting your tile will make the installation easier on almost every tile install. It eliminates the need for grouting in confined or awkward spaces, and allows you to cut a linear foot of tile at a time. This eliminates the need to cut each tile individually. Watch our video on pre-grouting at flextile.com/videos.
3. Laying out the job before you start adhering tiles to the wall will make the job easier! Place a sheet of tile, preferably pre-grouted, on the area to be tiled. Draw a line across the top and down the side of the tile, then move the tile over one space and draw your lines again. Continue this process from side to side, and bottom to top. This way you will be able to see that your installation is staying in alignment, and you'll know exactly where each square will go, and where your cuts will need to be.
4. Make sure you have the proper amount of adhesive and grout for your job. The average coverage of our silicone **adhesive** is 1 tube for 4 square feet of mosaic tile. The average coverage of our silicone **grout** is 1 tube for 3 ½ square feet of mosaic tile. It's always best to have a little too much, rather than come up a bit short.
5. Silicone grout spreads much easier when it's warm! Lay your tubes in direct sunlight or other warm area before starting your project.

If you get stuck, or just need to confirm something, don't hesitate to give us a call! Our experience is available to you, so that you don't have to learn everything the hard way. If you have doubts about the process, call us before you get started: (352) 746-6115. Remember, the only stupid question is the one that doesn't get asked!