



Aspect Distressed Metal Peel & Stick Tile Installation Guide

PROPER SURFACE PREPARATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

Failure to follow recommended surface preparation instructions may void the warranty. ACP, LLC is not responsible or liable for any labor costs or damaged product incurred as a result of improper installation. All product defects are covered under our 5-year limited warranty.

Read this installation manual in its entirety before you start. If you have doubts about doing this installation, you should contact a qualified contractor, carpenter or professional installer. Visit www.aspectideas.com for FAQs, photos and additional information.

Tools and supplies needed:

- Protective eyewear or safety goggles
- Measuring tape
- Straightedge or Speed Square®
- Leather work gloves
- Pencil
- Large (full-sized) tin snips
- Smooth head hammer
- File
- Soft cloth
- Level (2' to 4')
- Caulk gun and adhesive (if using method 2)
- Primer and paint roller or brush (if using method 1)

Before you begin

Installing Aspect peel & stick distressed metal tiles is a simple, exciting project that adds instant style to your kitchen or bath. We have deliberately over-explained the tile installation. Have fun with this project. It's going to be easy and look great!

Installation Methods

Method 1: The adhesive on the back side of the Aspect distressed metal tiles is engineered to stick to flat, primed, smooth walls.



Method 1 - The adhesive on the back side of the Aspect tiles is engineered to be aggressive and pressure-sensitive

Allow the tiles and substrate to come to room temperature (65 to 100 degrees F.) before installation.

If you are using installation Method 1, proper wall preparation is required. Aspect can be installed over most structurally-sound substrates if they are clean, flat, smooth, dry, and free of dust, wax, soap scum and grease. Acceptable substrates are drywall, plaster, or clean, smooth tile (glazed, porcelain-type tile; not porous or textured). Any damaged, loose or uneven areas must be repaired, patched, leveled and primed. Fill cracks and irregularities with wallboard compound or spackling, then sand smooth with fine-grade sandpaper.

The substrate to which you are applying Aspect tiles must be primed with a fresh coat of latex or oil-based primer such as Zinsser® or KILZ® (or similar products; visit www.aspectideas.com/FAQ for brand suggestions). Ingredients in "paint & primer in one" products can cause adhesion failure; as such, be sure to use a stand-alone primer. See below for Method 2 if you prefer not to prime the surface.

Occasionally, even after properly preparing the substrate, the surface can still have bows, high spots, ridges, or uneven areas. Place a level against the wall. If there is a 1/8" gap or greater, use a filler such as spackling or drywall compound to fill in imperfections.

Method 2: If you do not intend to prepare, sand and prime the surface, an additional adhesive should be used. We recommend a high-quality polyurethane construction adhesive be applied to the back of each tile in these cases. Be sure to remove the release film on the back of each tile before applying additional adhesive. Apply some pea-sized dots of adhesive to the back of a full tile (see right). Keep the adhesive a half-inch from the edges. Firmly press the tiles into place. If adhesive squeezes out around the tiles, be sure to wipe it off before it dries.



Method 2 - Using high-quality polyurethane construction adhesive

Recommended Adhesives

Brand	Type
Loctite®	PL Premium®
Loctite®	PL Premium Advanced®
LePage®	PL Premium®

Layout

Measure the first area to be covered by Aspect material. We recommend you lay out the entire project on a flat surface, like the counter top, a table or the floor, before adhering to the substrate, to be sure you have enough tiles and your design and layout is correct. This will also give you good reference as to how the tiles will look on your wall.

As each project is different, be sure to plan for cutouts, corners or edge treatments before applying tiles. Tile edge seams will be more visible if they are not aligned. When starting a new row, we recommend either a random staggered pattern or a subway pattern.

One popular layout method is to begin from the inside corner of your counter and work across left to right. This method allows you to use two points of reference, your vertical wall and horizontal counter top. Note — when using these two points of reference, be sure to check them for level on the horizontal plane and 90° on the vertical plane. This will prevent any problems as you build your backsplash.



Do not bend tiles backward as it could permanently damage the tile.

Lay a 4-foot level on top of your counter top or backsplash return lip. If the counter top is level and straight, begin tile installation as described below. If your counter top is not level and straight, please see our FAQs on www.aspectideas.com to learn how to start the first row.

Any tiles that are bent or misshapen during installation can be straightened with hand manipulation and/or a hammer. Tile segments should lay flat and not pull away from wall or adhesive backer. If this is not the case, please straighten and flatten tiles as needed.

Installing your first tile

Here's where the fun begins. Be sure the substrate is clean and dry. Remove the adhesive liner from the back of the matted tile.

As you begin to place the first tile, angle the top of the tile (or one side) away from the wall so the tile does not stick before you are ready. See images below. Do not apply pressure to the tile until you are sure of your placement. If alignment is true, apply pressure to the whole tile.

The aggressive design of the adhesive does not allow for repositioning after the tile has been pressed in place. If the tile is affixed but not aligned properly, see the Removing Tiles section, below.



Place the first tile. Angle side or top of tile away from wall until you are sure of placement. Use the counter top as a guide as you move it into place.



When placing tiles on the second row and beyond, angle the tile back about 30 degrees and rest the bottom edge on the tile below, then slide it over to abutt the previous tile.

Leave on the adhesive liner for measuring, drawing lines and cutting tiles. Measure and lay out on a tile where the cut must be made, then using the large tin snip, cut the tile. Prior to final application, take the cut tile (adhesive liner still on tile) to the work space and place it in its intended location, ensuring it fits properly.

Carefully tip it up into place so it abutts the last tile, then carefully install the tile while making sure the bottom edge is fitting tightly against the lower tile.

Cutting Tiles

If cutting tiles is necessary, a large tin snips is the recommended cutting tool. Cut edges of the metal tiles can be sharp, so be sure to protect yourself with leather work gloves.

Tin snips can slightly bend the edge of the metal tile when cutting, we recommend straightening the bends using a smooth-headed hammer.



Cutting a straight cut with a snips



Tile after cutting with tin snips



Use a hammer to straighten tile edges. Place the cut tile with the bent edge facing up on a smooth, flat hard surface. Lightly strike the bent edges with the hammer until the edge flattens out.

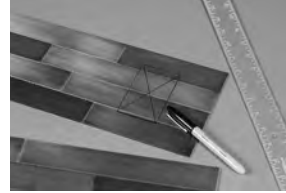


Cut tile with edges straightened



If desired, use a metal file to deburr the cut edges. This is the proper position for squaring up an edge or smoothing a rough spot.

NOTE: Aspect Peel & Stick Distressed Metal Tiles are made from real metal. They are electrically conductive. Therefore, when working around any electrical outlet, be SURE to turn the power off at your fuse box before performing any work near an outlet.



To cut tiles for electrical receptacles or other cutouts that occur within a single tile, first mark on the tile face the area to be removed. Measure and mark the area to be removed approximately the size of the outlet box. Do not allow metal tile to touch the receptacle itself.



Next, using your large tin snips, cut each vertical side of the cutout as shown above.

Then make the horizontal cuts using snips as shown below, if necessary.

Leave the adhesive backer on and "dry fit" the tile in the location of the outlet. If it fits to your satisfaction, carefully apply the next piece of tile. Then apply the remaining tile piece(s) as necessary.

For more intricate cuts, if necessary, we recommend using a Dremel® tool with a metal cutting wheel.

Leave on the adhesive liner for measuring, drawing lines and cutting tiles. Measure and layout on a tile where the cut must be made and cut the tile. Cut and install all remaining tiles using the same steps described above. When tiles are installed to your satisfaction, press each again firmly with your hand. This will ensure that the adhesive bonds to the substrate.

Adhering small pieces

Use tube adhesive for small cut pieces of Aspect distressed metal that are less than 4 inches by 4 inches.

Removing Tiles

If a tile needs to be removed, apply heat with a hair dryer to soften the adhesive. Use a putty knife on the back side and slowly apply outward pressure to release the tile from the wall. The adhesive is engineered to not be removed so caution should be taken to not damage the wall. Any removed tiles may be unusable. ACP is not responsible or liable if you damage your walls. If the adhesive is destroyed but the tile face is fine, you can try using PL Premium® adhesive to reapply the tile.

Care After Installation

Aspect Distressed Metal tiles should be cleaned, if necessary, using a soft cloth, warm water and mild soap. Dry with a soft cloth.

Edge Treatment

Aspect Distressed Metal tiles are quite thin and edge treatment is generally not necessary. However, if you want to finish the exposed tile edge, a thin bead of color-matching or clear caulk works well. We also manufacture peel & stick trims for Aspect tiles as an option. Please visit www.aspectideas.com to see colors and availability. Many other types of edge trims can be found at your local home center.