

# Tiler – Wall & floor



**Alternate title** Floor Tiler

**Description** Wall and floor tilers lay ceramic, clay, slate, marble, glass and other types of tiles on external and internal walls and floors to provide protective and decorative finishes. Much of the work is undertaken on new buildings, including houses, shops, offices, factories and swimming pools, but wall and floor tilers also renovate existing buildings.

Wall and floor tilers sometimes work in confined areas where bending and kneeling are required. They lift and carry cement and stacks of tiles. They sometimes work at heights using ladders or scaffolding. Most tilers work in small teams and move frequently from one job location to another.

**Typical duties**

- look at plans, measure and mark surfaces to be covered and lay out work;
- prepare wall and floor surfaces by removing old tiles, grout, cement and adhesive;
- fill all holes and cracks, and then clean surfaces;
- attach tiles to surfaces, using correct adhesive, making sure that patterned tiles match;
- use tile-cutting tools to cut and shape tiles needed for edges, corners, or around obstacles such as fittings and pipes;
- space and even the tiles by using tools such as spirit levels, squares and plumb-lines;
- prepare and apply grout, remove excess grout, clean and polish tiles;
- lay floors of cement, granolithic, terrazzo or similar composition;
- apply waterproofing systems.

**Personal requirements**

- enjoy practical and manual work;
- able to work at heights;
- good hand-eye coordination;
- able to make simple calculations;
- able to work independently;
- able to work accurately and neatly.

**Qualification** Certificate III in General Construction - Wall and Floor Tiling



An Australian Government Initiative



**Entry pathway** Entry to this occupation is by way of an apprenticeship or contract of training. Although no minimum educational standard is required for entry into apprenticeships, most people entering apprenticeships have undertaken Year 11 or higher. Apprentices must be employed before enrolling for trade classes. The duration of the apprenticeship can vary with the introduction of competency based training.

**Job prospects** Most wall and floor tilers are either self-employed or work for small privately owned firms which work on contract. A few are employed by firms manufacturing tiles. These are located mainly in cities and wherever large scale building projects are under construction. With the necessary trade experience and capital a tradesperson may become self employed. Demand for this occupation is dependent on the level of activity in the building industry.

The vacancy level for Wall and Floor Tilers is low. Vacancies arising from job changing (Wall and Floor Tilers changing employers) are expected to provide 61 per cent of vacancies, compared with 32 per cent from job openings (Wall and Floor Tilers leaving the occupation) and 7 per cent from new jobs.

**Specialisation**

- Ceramic Tiler
- Mosaic Tiler
- Wall and Floor Tile Fixer

**Related Jobs**

- Floor Finisher and Coverer
- Plasterer – Fibrous
- Tiler

**Further information**

- Big Plans [\[www.bigplans.com.au/\]](http://www.bigplans.com.au/)
- Be Constructive [\[www.beconstructive.com.au/\]](http://www.beconstructive.com.au/)
- Group Training Australia [\[www.gtalttd.com.au/\]](http://www.gtalttd.com.au/)