



Wall and 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.

Job Prospects/Employment Opportunities

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.

- 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, 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 neatly and accurately

Work Conditions

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.

Entry Pathway To become a wall and floor tiler you usually have to complete an apprenticeship in Wall and Floor Tiling. Entry requirements may vary, but employers generally require Year 10.

Training is usually both on and off the job. The off-the-job training is provided through Registered Training Organisations, including TAFE. Ask your career adviser about the possibility of starting some of this training in school.

Some people may complete a pre-apprenticeship or pre-vocational course before entering an apprenticeship. If you are still at school, **doorways2construction™** is the best first step into this career. Ask your VET coordinator for more details.

Course or Training Package

- Certificate III in Wall and Floor Tiling

Related Jobs

- Building Contractor
- Floor Finisher and Coverer
- Stonemason

Further information

- CITB [www.citb.org.au]
- Construction Industry Skills Board [<http://www.constructionskills.com.au>]
- **doorways2construction™** [<http://www.doorways2construction.org.au/>]
- Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) [<http://www.cfmeu.asn.au/construction/states/sa/>]
- Housing Industry Association [<http://hia.com.au/hia/region/SA.aspx>]
- Master Builder's Association [<http://www.mbas.com.au/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=MBASA/ccms.r>]
- Big Plans [www.bigplans.com.au/]
- Be Constructive [www.beconstructive.com.au/]