

BACK TO BASICS DIY: TILING YOUR BATHROOM

Online DIY Doctor Mike Edwards offers his advice



'As a general rule, aim for large tiles in a big room and small tiles in a smaller space to save on the cost of tiling.'

'Calculate how many tiles you'll need by measuring the height of the wall or floor space and dividing that by the length of the tiles. Do the same for the width of the space. Multiply the two figures together for the total and add 10 per cent to allow for mistakes and for spare tiles in case any get broken.'

'Buy all your tiles from the same place – colour variations can occur in different batches, which may not be obvious until they're in place. Open all the boxes when you get home and shuffle them around to distribute colour variations.'

'Buy good tiling equipment – working with poor quality tools will make the job harder. You'll need a spirit level and plumb bob, plus a tile cutter – either hand-operated or electrical.'

'Before fixing the tiles with adhesive, 'dry lay' a row first with spacers to check whether any awkward cuts are needed. Use plastic spacers when fitting tiles to keep a uniform gap that's wide enough (usually 2mm) to allow you to force grout in, but remove the spacers before you start grouting.'

'Floor tiles are generally thicker than wall tiles and harder to cut. Cut tiles should be used on the perimeter with the cut edges always against the wall and not adjacent to the next tile.'

**Vitrex Versatile
Compact Tile Cutter,**
£51, Homebase

