

## Aspect 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*

Read this installation manual in its entirety before you start. For the typical do-it-yourselfer, the installation of Aspect peel and stick tiles is a relatively “easy” project. There are additional tips and ideas for the design and installation of your project on our website, AspectIdeas.com. *If you have doubts about doing this installation, you should contact a qualified contractor, carpenter or professional installer.*

### **Aspect Metal Tiles allow for two easy installation methods:**

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



Method 1

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 high-quality oil-based (not latex, vinyl or PVA-based primer). Tile application to latex - based paints or primers will cause adhesion failure. See below for recommended primers.

Also, allow the tiles and substrate to come to room temperature (65 to 100 degrees F.) before installation. Use a heat gun or other source to warm the tiles and substrate if necessary.

### **Recommended Primers**

KILZ® Interior Oil-Based Sealer-Primer-Stainblocker  
Zinser® B-I-N Shellac-Base/Primer/Sealer  
Behr® Interior/Exterior Oil-Based Primer & Sealer

Occasionally, even after properly preparing the substrate, the surface can still have bows, high spots, ridges or uneven areas. One way to test the area of the substrate where the tile is to be applied is to place a tile (with the back liner unpeeled) on the area to see if it “rocks” or if it has a solid, flat foundation. If proper adhesion is difficult or impossible, a recommended adhesive can be applied to the back of the tile to allow good adhesion. See method 2 below for more information.

Method 2: If you do not intend to prepare the surface as described above, an additional adhesive should be used. Apply no more than about five pea-sized dots of adhesive to the back of a full tile (see below). 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. *Note: remove the release film on the back of each tile before applying additional adhesive.*



Method 2

### **Recommended Adhesives**

Loctite® PL Premium®  
Loctite® PL Premium Advanced®  
LePage® PL Premium®

*Carefully read and follow manufacturer's directions for the adhesive.*

### **Tools and supplies needed:**

- Protective eyewear or safety goggles
- Measuring tape
- Oil-based primer (if method 1 is used)
- High-quality polyurethane construction adhesive (if method 2 is used)
- Paint brush or roller
- Straightedge or Speed Square®
- Pencil or other nonpermanent marker
- Soft cloth
- Chalk line
- Level (2' to 4')
- Fine-grit sandpaper (400–600 grit)

If cutting tiles, one of the following tools will be needed:

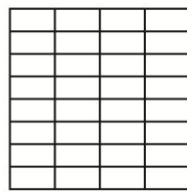
- Chop saw (recommended)
- Miter box
- Hack saw
- Coping saw

### **Before you begin**

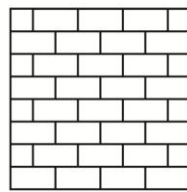
*Installing Aspect peel & stick metal tiles is a simple, exciting project that adds instant style to your kitchen or bathroom. We have deliberately overexplained the tile installation. Have fun with this project. It's going to be easy and look great!*

If installing Aspect tiles near a water-prone area, such as a sink or tub, be sure the substrate is dry and mold-free. An oil-based mold- and mildew-resistant primer must be used in this application. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions.

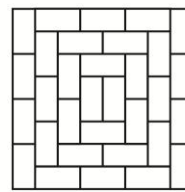
**1) Design:** There are many tile patterns available for backsplash and other applications. Here are some popular examples. If you don't find what you are looking for, be creative — go ahead and design your own pattern.



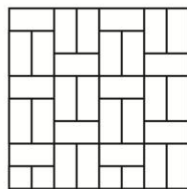
stack bond



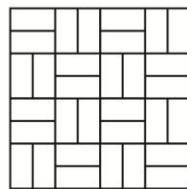
subway



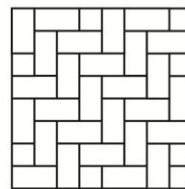
running bond



basket weave 1



basket weave 2



herringbone

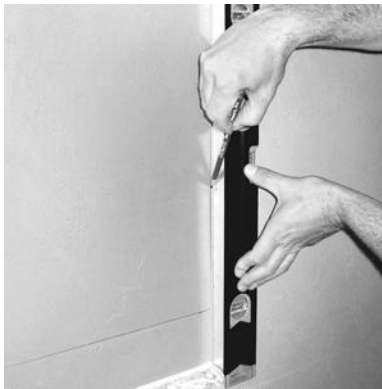
*See [AspectIdeas.com](http://AspectIdeas.com) for herringbone layout instructions*

**2) Layout:** One popular layout method is to begin from the center of the area to be covered. This method allows balance around the perimeter of the work area. Find the center point between the horizontal and vertical measurements and mark on the wall or work area with a pencil. Snap a vertical and a horizontal chalk line as a reference. Be sure the horizontal reference line is level and the vertical reference line is plumb.

Identify the high point(s) of your countertop by measuring from the horizontal reference line or by using a level. Snap a reference line for the top of the first row of tiles after marking 1/8" above the highest point (at 3-1/8"). The top edge of the first row will be installed along this line. You can caulk the bottom gap after all the tiles are installed.



Use a level or measuring tape to mark the vertical termination point of your installation.



Measure the first area to be covered by Aspect material. We recommend you lay out the entire project on a flat surface, like a table or the floor, before installing to the substrate, to be sure you have enough tiles and your design is correct.

*As each project is different, be sure to plan for cutouts, corners or edge treatments before applying tiles.*

**3) Installing your first tile:** Here's where the fun begins.

Be sure the substrate is clean and dry. Remove the film backing from both sides of the tile. Align the tile where you want it on the reference lines and press into place. Be sure to align it exactly where you want it. Lightly place the tile against the substrate. The tiles may be removed within a minute or two and reset if they are only lightly placed on the substrate. If it is in the right position, firmly press the tile over its entire surface area to be sure it adheres properly. *CAUTION: Do not stand or walk on release paper or a tile with release paper on the back as it is extremely slippery. Place it in a wastebasket immediately upon removal from tile.*



**4) Cutting tiles:** The most important thing to remember here is to cut only the tiles, not yourself — be careful. Be sure to protect your eyes from damage by using protective eyewear or safety goggles.

Measure and mark the tile with a marker on the protective film where the cut must be made.



If cutting tiles is necessary, using a chop saw is the recommended cutting method.



Alternative cutting methods are a miter box or hack saw for any necessary straight cuts. Use a hole saw or coping saw for circular cuts or electrical outlet cutouts. When cutting is complete, use a fine-grit sandpaper or a small metal file to debur the cut edges. Take the cut tile to the work space and place it in its intended location, ensuring it fits properly before removing the protective film on either side of the tile.

**5) Install and/or cut remaining tiles** in the same fashion as 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.

*Allow 24 hours for the tiles' adhesive to set before exposing them to a heat source (such as a stovetop or oven). Clean or touch-up tiles with a glass cleaner and soft cloth or paper towels.*



### **6) Caulking/sealing**

If desired, apply a 1/8" bead of caulk or silicone sealant in the gap under the bottom row. Wipe off excess sealant. Choose clear or colored caulk according to your preference.

### **Tips and Techniques**

For additional tips and techniques see *aspectideas.com*.

#### Adhering small pieces

Use tube adhesive (as in method 2 at the top) for cut pieces of Aspect that are less than a third of a full tile.

#### Fitting Partial Tiles

To fit partial tiles, lay the tile to be cut exactly over the last full tile. Place another full tile against the wall and mark the cutting line where the tiles overlap. Cut tile on line. Before peeling the backing paper off self-adhering tile, check that the cut tile fits. Do not force it into place. Install tile (removing paper from self-adhering tile), and press tile firmly into position.

#### Fitting Around Pipes

To fit around pipes, make a cardboard pattern as a guide and use it to draw an outline on the tile. Cut to shape. A carbide-tipped hole saw can also be used. Check fit before peeling off backing paper. The tile should fit snugly but don't force it into place.