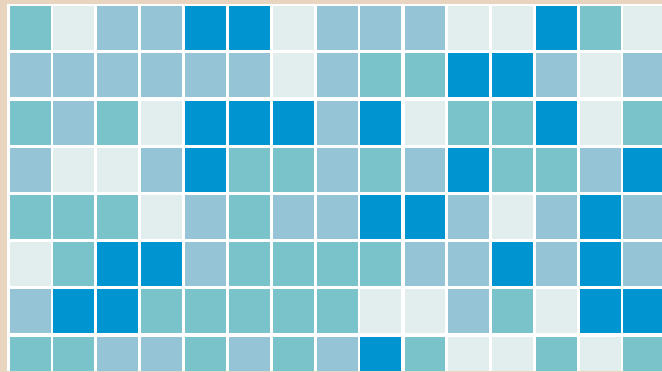


Specialist tiles

Generally, the three most common types of tiles used are ceramics, porcelain and natural stone. Occasionally though, other more

specialist tiles are used on jobs and these quite often require special adhesives and preparation.

1 Mosaics



Mosaic tiles can be made out of a variety of materials from glass to natural stone and can be supplied in a variety of shapes and sizes. The mosaics are supplied on sheets for ease of fixing and these sheets are usually in 2 forms, face down on paper or face up on synthetic mesh.

If the mosaics are supplied on synthetic mesh, the mesh and mesh adhesive should not cover more than 25% of the back of the tile otherwise it could affect final adhesion. Each of these 2 forms requires a slightly different application technique.

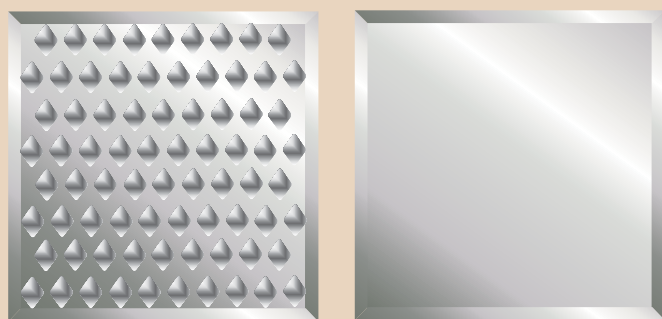
2 Glass tiles



Glass tiles are becoming more popular, especially in more modern designs. They do, however, cause some application problems. Glass, by its nature, is very smooth and non-porous meaning it can be difficult to adhere to. Also, when frosted glass tiles are used, grouting can leave unsightly marks on the surface which are very hard to remove.

If a dark adhesive is used with glass tiles it can show through as a shadow on the tile body. This is also the case if a spot-fixing method is used.

3 Metal or metallic tiles

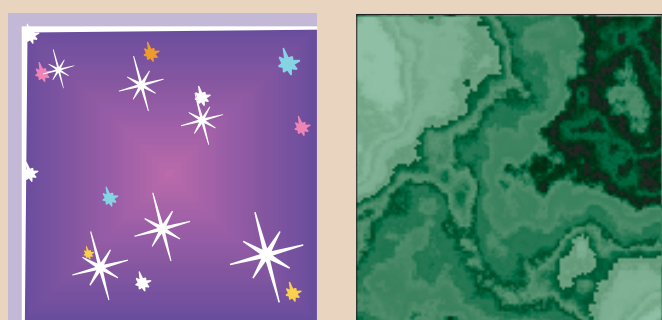


Metal tiles come mainly in two forms. These are either sheet metal or metal formed around a solid background such as tile backer-board or MDF.

These tiles are often pressed so have a textured surface which causes problems when grouting.

Metallic tiles often react with cementitious grout and tend to discolour unless the correct product is used.

4 Resin tiles



Resin tiles can come in all sorts of designs, shapes or sizes.

Nearly any design can be made to make a feature in a house or commercial project.

Resin tiles can be very smooth and can be very difficult to adhere to.

Problem: Specialist tiles

Use the correct methods, adhesives and grouts

The outstanding aesthetic qualities of certain specialist tiles can often hide the fact that extra care will be needed

when fixing. Generally, the backs of specialist tiles can be very dense or smooth thus meaning that higher

grade adhesives are needed to bond the tile sufficiently.

Products required

weber.fix WR plus
weber.set rapid SPF
weber.joint color and **weber.joint epoxy**

Mosaics

Mosaics which are face down on paper should be pre-grouted from the back prior to fixing onto the wall. This will result in a smooth, flat grout joint. **weber.joint color** is ideal for this as it is very easy to use and is available in 25 colours to match or contrast any tile.

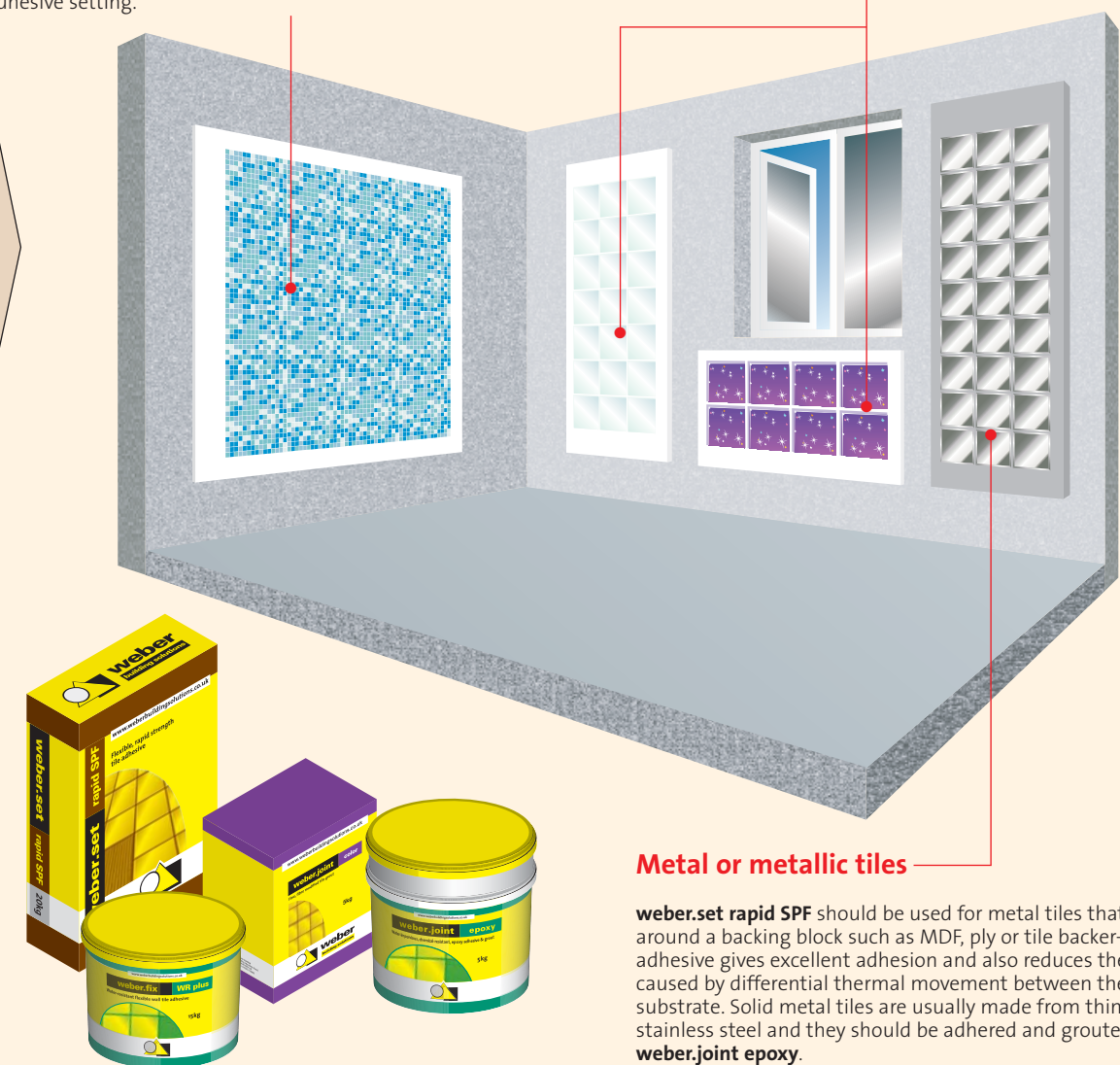
Starting at the top, a 3 x 3 mm tiling trowel should be used to spread **weber.fix WR plus** onto a small area and the mosaic sheet pushed into the adhesive bed. To help achieve the desired contact area on the back of the tile, a flat trowel can be used to push or tap the mosaics into the adhesive. **weber.set rapid SPF** white should be used for floors or as an alternative for walls. Mesh-backed tiled should also be applied in a similar fashion but should not be grouted until the mosaics are in place and the adhesive set.

When a section of pre-grouted paper-faced mosaics is in place, the paper face should be moistened with a wet sponge and peeled off. Any final adjustments should be carried out prior to the grout and adhesive setting.

Glass and resin tiles

Glass and resin tiles have very smooth non-porous backs that are difficult to adhere to so usually require a highly polymer-modified adhesive such as **weber.set rapid SPF** white. This adhesive gives excellent adhesion and also reduces the stresses caused by differential thermal/moisture movement between the tile and the substrate. **weber.joint color** is available in 25 colours to match or contrast any tile design.

Frosted/rough surface glass tiles can also be very difficult to clean after grouting and will require extra cleaning to remove the grout residue. Grout should not be allowed to dry on these tiles as it can cause staining. It is advisable to carry out a test on a spare tile before grouting.



Metal or metallic tiles

weber.set rapid SPF should be used for metal tiles that are formed around a backing block such as MDF, ply or tile backer-board. This adhesive gives excellent adhesion and also reduces the stresses caused by differential thermal movement between the tile and the substrate. Solid metal tiles are usually made from thin sheets of stainless steel and they should be adhered and grouted with **weber.joint epoxy**.

For detailed instructions, please refer to the relevant product data sheet. For further information, please contact our Technical Helpline on 01525 722137.

