

Surface Prep Checklist for Tile

Print this checklist and tape it to your job folder. Complete every item before setting tile.

Substrate Inspection

- Identify substrate type (concrete, plywood, cement board, KERDI, drywall)
- Check for structural soundness — no cracks, delamination, or water damage
- Verify deflection meets L/360 for tile (L/720 for stone)
- Remove old adhesive residue — scrape, grind, or solvent

Flatness Check

- Use a 10-foot straightedge across floor in multiple directions
- Mark high and low spots with a marker
- Grind high spots with a concrete grinder
- Fill low spots with self-leveler (Uzin NC 150) or patching compound
- Target: 1/4" in 10' for tiles under 16" — 1/8" in 10' for 16"+

Moisture Testing (Concrete Slabs)

- Calcium chloride test — must be ≤ 5 lbs / 1000 sq ft / 24 hrs
- OR in-situ RH probe — must be $\leq 80\%$ RH at 40% depth
- Apply moisture barrier if needed (Wakol PU 280 or Laticrete HYDRO BAN)
- Document results — keep test records for warranty claims
- Test at minimum 3 spots per 1000 sq ft, plus near exterior walls

Surface Cleaning

- Sweep and vacuum thoroughly — dust kills bond strength
- Remove paint, sealer, curing compound, or release agent
- Prime if required — Uzin PE 360 Plus for porous substrates
- Dampen concrete before thinset application (damp, not wet)

Layout Planning

- Snap chalk lines for starting point
- Dry-lay a row to check cuts and balance
- Plan cuts to be at least half a tile wide — no slivers at walls
- Mark transition and threshold locations
- Verify all materials are on-site and acclimated

Job Info

Job Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Installer: _____

Substrate: _____

Tile Size: _____