

# CLASSICAL FLAGSTONES

## HOW TO.....

### TILE TO PLYWOOD WALLS

#### **PREPARATION**

The plywood should be dry, securely fixed and rigid with no protruding fixings. It should be a minimum 12.5mm thick when fixing to timber framing or battening and fixed in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations. The maximum weight of tiling should not exceed 30kg/m<sup>2</sup> (including the weight of adhesive), which is generally equivalent to ceramic tiles with a maximum thickness of 12mm and natural stone with a maximum thickness of 9mm. Plywood is not generally considered to be a satisfactory background for tiling in frequently wet areas. Tanking with Norcros Wet Seal is required in these areas.



#### **SETTING OUT**

Tiling should be set out from the centre of the walls, either the centre of a tile in the centre of the wall or the joint between two tiles in the centre of the wall, whichever option will avoid small cuts of the tiles.

Make a gauge rod using a length of straight timber. Along the length of the timber mark out the width of the tiles, leaving a gap at least 2mm wide between each tile. Set out the horizontal position of the tiles so that the same size cuts are made either side of windows etc, avoiding any small cuts.

At the lowest point of the wall to which you are tiling, such as the skirting board, work surface etc, place an uncut tile and draw a line along the top of the tile. Nail a batten below this line, using a spirit level to make sure it is level. The first line of tiles will rest on this batten.

Measure the width of the wall and mark the centre point. Draw a vertical line down at this centre point using a spirit level to make sure that the line is straight. Start tiling at this centre point.

#### **FIXING**

The plywood should be primed using Norcros Prime Bond.

Once the Prime Bond has dried, fix the tiles in a 3mm thick solid bed (i.e. ensuring no voids remain beneath the tiles) of One Part Flexible White adhesive.

Gradually add 3.5 parts of adhesive powder to 1 part of clean cold water and stir until a smooth lump free consistency is achieved. Mix only enough material that can be used within the pot life of the product (around 4 hours at 20°C).

It should be noted that Plywood is moisture sensitive and therefore in areas subject to wetting should be tanked using Norcros Wet Seal Tanking Membrane before tiling commences.



## **APPLICATION**

Using a suitable notched wall trowel held at a 45° angle, spread the adhesive onto the floor to form parallel ribs into which the tiles should be pushed with a firm twisting action, this will collapse the ribs of adhesive and produce a 2-3mm solid bed of adhesive beneath the tiles. Work in small areas and discard any adhesive that begins to dry or 'skin over'. Tiles with deeply keyed back profiles may need to be back buttered. In areas subject to wetting such as showers, it is essential that a solid bed of adhesive is achieved beneath the tiles. Wipe off any adhesive residues from the surface of the tiles using a damp sponge before the adhesive sets. Remove deposits of adhesive which may build up in the gaps between the tiles.



## **CUTTING TILES**

Some porcelain and Natural Stone tiles can be difficult to cut and good quality tools are required. These can be bought or in some instances hired. A slide cutter and nippers are essential, however an electric wet cutter will make the job easier. For intricate cuts a cardboard template will help to achieve more accurate results.

## **GROUTING**

Allow the adhesive to dry.  
The joints should be filled using either Norcros Stop Mould Grout.  
Or Norcros 4 into 1 Wall & Floor Grout.

Clean out any dust, dirt and adhesive from between the tiles and make sure that the joints are dry.

Approximately 3 parts grout powder should be added to 1 part water, ensuring that the powder is added to the liquid to prevent the product from flash setting. Manually mix the grout to reduce the amount of air incorporated into the mix.

Holding a soft rubber grout float at 45°, sweep the mixed grout diagonally across the tiles, ensuring that the grout is pushed fully into the joints. Clean off as much grout from the surface of the tiles as possible and allow the grout to become touch dry. Clean off the grout residues with a damp sponge wiped diagonally across the tiles. Allow the tiles to dry and buff the surface with a dry cloth. Any stubborn residues may be cleaned off with washing up detergent mixed with warm water within 24 hours of grouting.

N.B. Before grouting commences trial a small inconspicuous area to check that the grout does not stain the tiles. If there is any risk of staining, the tiles should be fully sealed using a proprietary sealer before grouting begins.

