

# **Mosaic Tiling Tips**

## **What are Mosaics?**

Mosaics are pieces of art composed of many small pieces to make one larger piece. The pieces can be made of any material and the most commonly used materials are ceramic tiles, glass pieces, stones, gems, marble or photos.

## **What holds them together?**

They are held together by using grout, which is a paste like mixture, similar to cement, which holds the tiles together and fills the cracks between the tiles.

## **History of Mosaics:**

This technique was used in early civilizations, such as Greece, Italy, Middle East and China, to create art work for religious buildings and continued throughout the Roman Empire, Medieval times and the Renaissance. Large mosaic creations depicting figures from the Bible or Kings, scenes from all aspects of life were used on the walls of large buildings, such as cathedrals and castles. This art form has withstood the test of time and is still a significant contributor to art throughout the world.

## **Mosaic Tiling Terms:**

Tiles: can be any sized small piece used in the creation on the larger picture.

Grout: Cement like paste used to fill the cracks between tiles

Putty Knife: Used to spread the grout into the tile cracks.

Sponge: used to wipe off the excess grout

Spacers: Sometimes used to keep the tiles a certain distance away from each other when laying them out. An example of this is used in tile floors.

Ceramic: Stonework tiles that have been fired to a high temperature, in order to make them stronger.

Tile Nippers: A cutting tool specially designed to be used to cut tile into smaller pieces.

## **Tiling Tips:**

Use ceramic or glass tiles on a trivet that would be used with hot pans or dishes or candles.

An easy technique is to place the mixed grout onto the surface first, and then lay the stones into it. This eliminates the time needed for gluing the stones onto the surface and waiting for that glue to dry before adding grout.

If you spill some grout in an unwanted area, just wipe off with a damp sponge.

Rinse out used sponges or containers while the grout is still wet. IF you have a lot of grout left, do not wash it down the drain. Dispose of it in the trash.