

EPISODE #3028 ROCK PAPER LIFE

Getting Started

Go to see an expert like John Newland at Olympia Tile for advice with the project and supplies needed.

Remove:

- Plastic backing panels (bath tub insert)
- Shower fixtures
- Old tiles
- Old drywall from behind the tub
- Bathroom baseboards (save them for later)
- Toilet (Be gentle. Remember that porcelain is fragile!)

Destruction and Enlightenment

Remove old tiles with a hammer and pry bar (see fig. A)

- Safety first. Wear safety glasses!
- Be careful not to damage the drywall underneath. The drywall inside the tub area can go, 'cause its getting replaced with the proper glass matte board. However, the drywall in the rest of the bathroom is potentially fine. If it's in good shape, we can lay the new tiles on top of it.

Oh well. The Don's drywall was rotten, and there is no insulation or vapour barrier behind it along the outside wall! And there was mildew behind the plastic tub liner. Yuck. (see fig. B)

- If this happens to you get rid of all the old drywall- mildew can be dangerous!
- Clean up the mess.
- Spray expanding foam around the window fixtures.
- Install fiberglass wall insulation.
- Remember to wear safety gloves and a good mask.
- Install vapour barrier with vapour barrier glue.
- Install new drywall.

The new Silicone Impregnated Gypsum board the lads used in the shower area is a different depth than the drywall it's replacing. Install furring strips in the bathtub area so that the new boards sits flush with the existing drywall.

- Silicone Impregnated Gypsum (S.I.G) or cement board, is what is used behind baths and showers. It acts like vapour barrier, by stopping the water from being transmitted into the wall. Do not use drywall.



A. Removing old tiles.



B. Getting rid of yucky old drywall.



C. Installing S.I.G..



D. Caulking around the tub.

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- S.I.G cuts like drywall and is installed like drywall except that we used green deck screws that don't rust.

Seal the seams of the S.I.G. with tiling adhesive and waterproof fiberglass tape over the cracks. (see fig. C)

Caulk around the tub. (see fig. D)

Laying out the Tiles

The boys plan to tile the bath tub area and the bottom half of the walls from the sink level down to the floor.

- Snap a level chalk line on the wall at the same height as the sink. (see fig. E)
- Measure from the line down to the floor. (see fig. F)
- Lay some tiles out on the floor in the pattern for the wall. (see fig. G)
 - Measure a mock-up of the pattern to calculate how much tile needs to be trimmed off the bottom tiles.
 - Tiles should not be cut into small slivers, so some math is needed to equalize the outside tiles, so that both sides of the wall will have cut tiles, rather than starting with a full tile on one side, and a sliver on the other.

Laying Tiles on Walls

Tack a ledger board along the bottom of the wall to guide and support the second row of tiles. The tiles are laid up the wall from this ledger board.

Once the tiles are all installed, the ledger board is removed, and the first row of tiles is laid where the ledger board was.

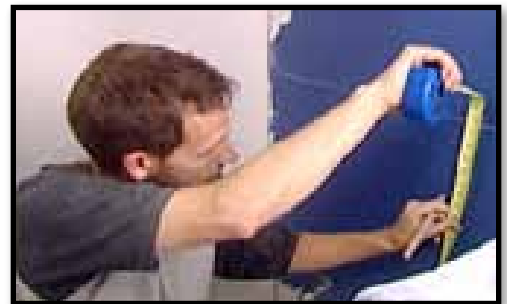
Apply the adhesive glue to the wall with an adhesive spreader (a.k.a. notched trowel). (see fig. H)

- Spread on only as much as you can cover in tiles, usually about a 4' x 4' area, or it will dry and become useless.

Squish and turn the tile firmly into the glue. (see fig. I)



E. Level chalk line.



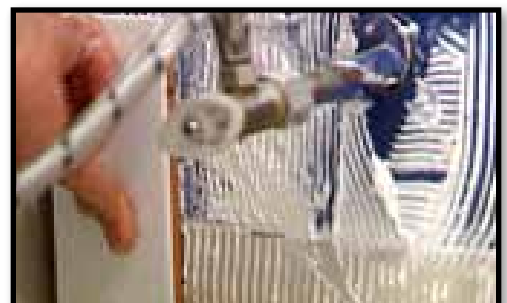
F. Measuring from the line to the floor.



G. Laying out tiles in the desired pattern.



H. Applying the adhesive glue.



I. Laying the first tile.