

Tile Installer Questions Checklist

Use this checklist to guide your conversation with a tile contractor or installer. Asking the right questions can help you avoid surprises, plan effectively, and ensure a high-quality result.

Basic Questions

- **How many square feet of field tile do I need?**

Make sure your installer provides an accurate measurement of your space. This helps avoid delays from ordering too little—or wasting money on too much.

- **Do your calculations include overage?**

Most tile projects require 10–15% extra for cuts, waste, and future repairs. Confirm if this is included in the estimate.

- **What type of trim pieces do I need? How many linear feet?**

Trim pieces (like bullnose, Schluter® edging, or finishing strips) are often overlooked. Ask what's needed for clean, professional-looking edges—especially for walls, niches, and transitions.

- **What tile layout pattern do you recommend?**

Patterns like herringbone, brick, stacked, or diagonal can change the overall feel of a room. Some layouts also require more cutting or waste—so plan accordingly.

- **Can you confirm the direction and alignment of the tile before installation?**

Orientation can affect how light plays across the tile and whether grout lines feel intentional or distracting. Confirming ahead of time avoids surprises.

Installation Planning

- **Can you provide a layout plan or mock-up before installation begins?**

Helps visualize design, grout lines, and tile alignment. It also ensures you're both on the same page before the work begins.

- **What type of underlayment, waterproofing, or isolation membrane will be used?**

These components are crucial for preventing moisture damage, especially in bathrooms, kitchens, and other wet areas.

- **What grade adhesive and grout will you be using — and what grout color do you recommend?**

The quality and color of adhesive and grout impact both durability and the finished look of your tile project.

Maintenance & Longevity

- **Will you seal the grout or tiles? If so, how often should it be re-sealed?**

Some tiles and most grouts need sealing to prevent stains and water damage. Make sure you understand long-term maintenance needs.

- **How long will the installation take, including drying/curing times?**

This helps you plan your schedule and know when the space will be fully usable again.

- **Do you provide a warranty for the tile work or labor?**

A warranty can give you peace of mind in case of issues with installation or materials.

- **What's your cleanup process after installation?**

Ensure the installer includes cleanup in their scope so you're not left with dust, debris, or adhesive residue.