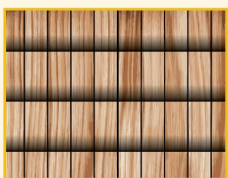


# HOW TO TILE A WOODEN STAIRCASE



Covering a Wooden boarded Staircase with tiles can create a decorative and practical covering, however, you must first check with a structural engineer whether or not your staircase is designed to take the weight of a tiled covering.

## Preparation



Prepare the wooden stairs and the surrounding area for tile installation. Remove the trim, carpet, rugs or other items from the stairwell area. Place the trim in a safe location.

Remove nails, tacks or staples from the wooden stairs and the corresponding wall where the trim was removed.

Inspect each step for holes and cracks. Fill the holes and cracks with wood putty. Allow the putty to dry for 60 minutes, then sand to create a smooth surface.

Cut the nose board from the front of each step. The nose board is the portion of the step tread that extends past the vertical backboard, or riser, of each step. Cut the nose board flush with the riser using either a jig saw or a circular saw.

Sand the cut area to create a smooth and flat work surface. Sand first with a belt sander then finish by hand with sandpaper.

Remove sanding dust and other debris from the steps. Sweep the area, then wipe down each step with a damp cloth or sponge. Start at the top wooden step and work down the staircase.

## Tiling the Staircase

Position the first tile in the centre of the riser, or vertical step surface, of the step. Move the tile so the front edge is even with the step tread surface.

Place a 1/8-inch spacer on each corner of the tile. Place the tiles to either side of the centre tile in place. Repeat the process across the row.

Mark the tile for cutting at either end and behind the first row of if needed. Remove the tile from the step. Make all necessary cuts.

Apply a thin, 1/8-inch layer of thin-set adhesive to the back of the tile. Position and place the first tile in the centre of the riser. Place a spacer on each corner. Repeat the process with the remaining tiles for the row.



Secure the tile to the tread in the same fashion as the tile placed on the riser. Position the tiles so the gaps between each tile are in line with one another. Align the front edge of the tile flush with the surface of the vertical tile on the riser.

Cut the tiles as needed. Move to the next wooden step and repeat steps 8 through 13 until the entire set of wooden stairs is tiled. Allow the thin-set adhesive to dry 24 hours before continuing.

## Grouting

Mix a batch of grout according to the manufacturer's instructions on the package. Not all grout is mixed the same. Manufacturer's differ in the water to grout ratio. Start grouting on the top step and work down.

Apply a liberal amount of grout to the tread on the step with the grout float. Spread the grout over the tile surface and move it into the spaces between each tile. Remove excess grout with the edge of the grout float. Repeat for a total of two steps.

Remove the excess grout from the surface of the tile. Wipe the tile with a damp cloth or sponge. Be careful not to remove the grout from the spaces between the tile. Add more grout if needed.

Move down two steps. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 until all tile is grouted. Allow the grout to dry and harden for 24 hours. Wipe the tile surface down with a damp cloth or sponge to remove grout film. Allow the grout to set 24 hours. Wipe the surface of the tile one more time to remove and remaining grout film.

