

Give your Mirror Some Style with Tile.

Our bathroom looked great with our renovations, except for the big, plain wall size mirror. I could've removed the mirror, repaired the drywall damage and then repainted the wall. That was too much work because I still need some type of mirror there. I decided to uniquely give it character by adding a glass tile border.

With careful preparation, it was easy to do and very inexpensive. Depending on individual tastes, this project could easily be done for \$50. I already had the tile adhesive and tools, so I just purchased two sheets of glass tile which cost around \$20 total.

Here are the steps to successfully complete this project. As with anything, the proper tools and careful preparation will make success easier.

First off you'll need some common household tools: A level, scissors, small plastic putty knife, marking pen, rags, and bucket with clean water.

Then you'll need the actual sheets of tile and tile adhesive. I used tile sheets that are 12 x12 inches square and composed of rows of 1inch glass tiles. These sheets come in various materials and colors including glass, stone, and mosaic. I purchased the tiles at the local chain home improvement store but you can probably find them anywhere tile is sold.

To begin, the first steps will be to measure the mirror, determine what size border and how the border will fit. Of course, be sure to clear the sink area and place a drop cloth to protect the vanity.

This is a good time to explain how to separate a row of tiles from the sheet. Take the scissors and cut the webbing that holds the tiles together, being careful not to drop the tiles because they will crack. Once you have the row cut, take the scissors at an angle and trim the excess webbing from both sides of the row.

Now hold the row against the mirror to see how it will look and use the pen to mark the mirror for fitment. You will need to determine if the rows will seamlessly fit together or if you'll need to cut individual tiles. If you have extra spaces to fill you could insert decorative tiles and create a pattern such as large square tiles on each corner with the border between them. Again, double check your dimensions and your design to make sure it will fit. If you need to cut tiles, make sure you have the tile cutting tools and extra tiles.

Now comes the fun part, installing the tile. Using a small plastic putty knife apply adhesive where the first row of tiles will be placed on the mirror. The right thickness is a little tricky at first; too thick and the adhesive will squeeze out between the tiles, too thin and the tiles won't stay put. Press on the first row of tile making sure to seat each tile by applying gentle pressure. Use the level to ensure the row is straight. To remove excess adhesive from the mirror or tiles, take the wet rag and wipe the surfaces. You may have to go over the tiles a few times to completely remove the adhesive.

Apply adhesive for the next row of tiles, attach the tiles and use the level across both rows to make sure they match. Continue this process till you finish the border. Once complete, take another look to verify that everything lined up properly and make minor adjustments as necessary. Several hours should be enough for the tiles to set, but I let mine sit overnight to be sure. For my installation, I didn't grout between the tiles. I left the spaces open which gives it a nice 3D look as you can see in fig3.

If you want to practice the tiling technique first, you can pick up a small piece of drywall for around \$3 at most home improvement stores. This is a perfect medium and size to get a feeling for how the project will work. I did a couple of rows on the practice drywall to hone my technique.

Good luck and have fun adding some pizzazz to your mirror.

Before:



After:



Tile closeup

