

Technical Bulletin: Corners & Stacking v02

Two important considerations are key to a professional-looking installation: where tile panels meet in a corner and where two (or more) tile panels are stacked to fill a vertical area.

CORNER ALIGNMENT

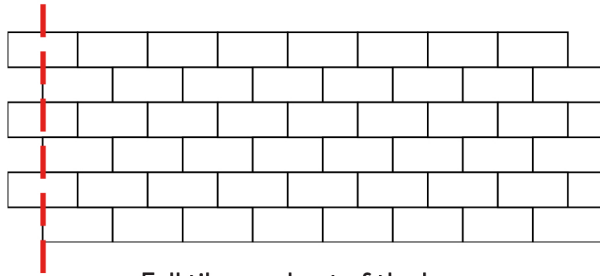
Finding the Focal Point

Before installing any tile, it is helpful to determine the focal point of the area - or where the eye is first drawn - and start there. Sometimes the focal point may be a corner, or it may be the beginning of a wall. In either case, alignment of the pattern in the corner is very important. For straight-edge patterns like subway, corner alignment is very easy. For more complex patterns, such as herringbone or hex, some pre-planning is necessary to achieve the best visual result.

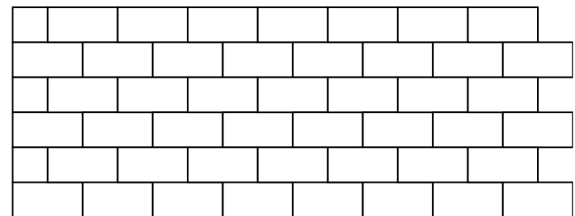


Subway Pattern (and similar straight edge patterns)

Unlike our shower kits, our backsplash tile panels do not have pre-cut ends designed to fit into a corner or end wall. The first task when installing into a corner is to make a clean, 90° cut to square off an end.

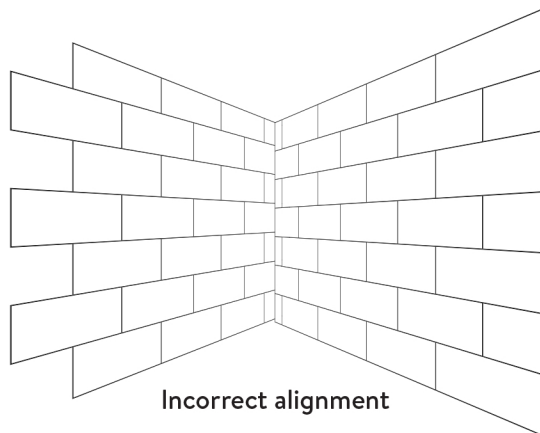


Full tile panel out of the box.

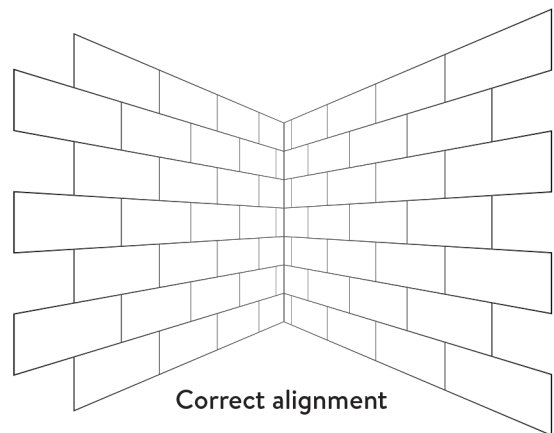


Tile panel with squared-off end for corner.

When mounting the opposite wall's sheet, pay particular attention to how the horizontal grout lines align. The Tile is a tile panel that installs fast, and because the grout channels are the same color as the tile face (and therefore may be difficult to see), misalignment of the pattern in corners can occur if proper attention is not paid to this step and will become obvious after grouting is complete. You may have to adjust the tile panel slightly to match the opposite installed panel.



Incorrect alignment

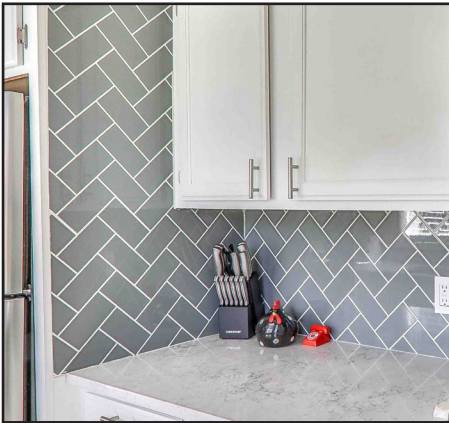


Correct alignment

STACKING

There are some installations that require stacking tile panels to fill vertical areas that are taller than the standard height of a tile sheet. These include walls and areas behind sinks or around windows.

Note: this bulletin does not address stacking tile panels for wet applications using our interlocking Seam Seal joint. Please refer to the Technical Bulletin: SeamSeal joint assembly for watertight seal.

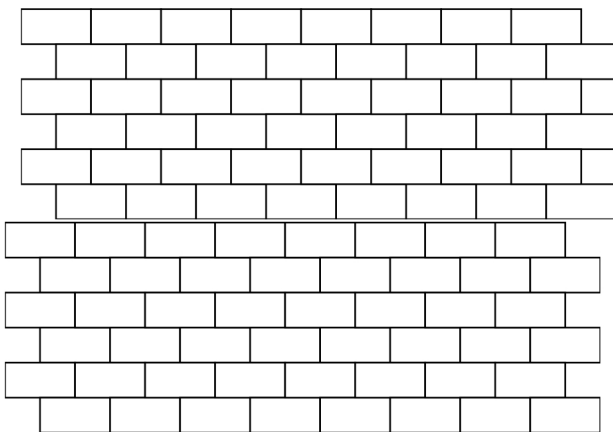
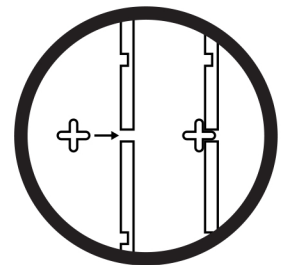


Stacking Subway and other straight patterns

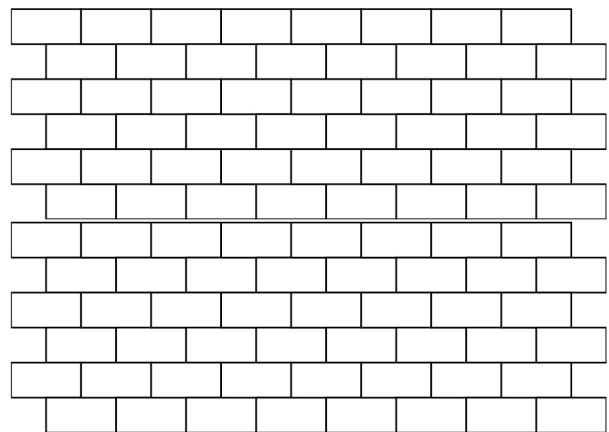
Stacking Subway - or any other tile pattern with a straight edge on the top or bottom - is very easy. Use tile spacers to separate the panels and keep a consistent grout line between them.

Be sure the vertical tile pattern grout lines are correctly aligned with the bottom grout lines.

Once grout is applied, this seam will be invisible.



Incorrect alignment



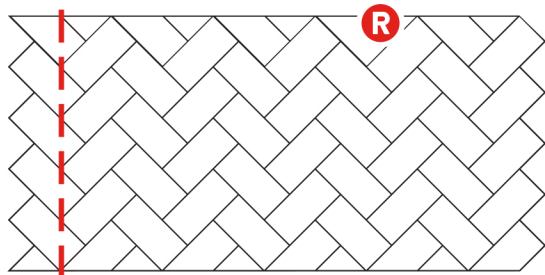
Correct alignment

Complex Patterns (herringbone, hex, etc.)

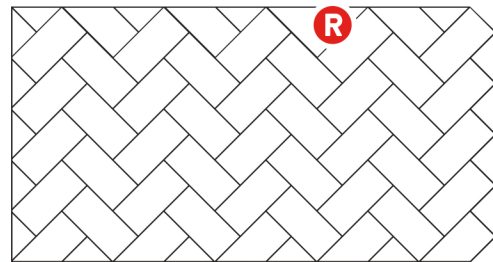
In order for a complex patterned panels' grout lines to align at a corner, the squared end straight cut must intersect the tile pattern. Otherwise there will be a mismatch that will be difficult to align.

For the herringbone pattern to properly align in the corner, cuts need to be made on a pair of boards at the opposite ends. This is due to the way our herringbone panels are made.

Cut #1 (right side) - cut along the *left* side of the board as shown below.

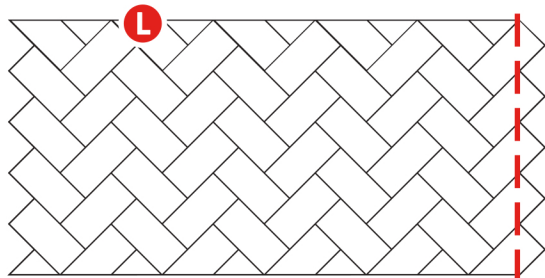


Full tile panel out of the box.

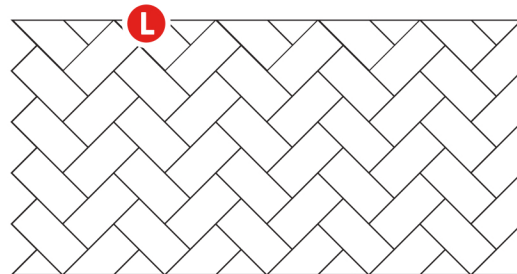


Tile panel with squared-off end for corner.

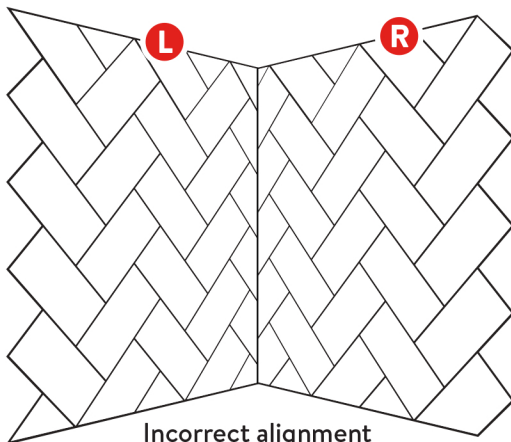
Cut #2 (left side) - cut along the *right* side of the board as shown below.



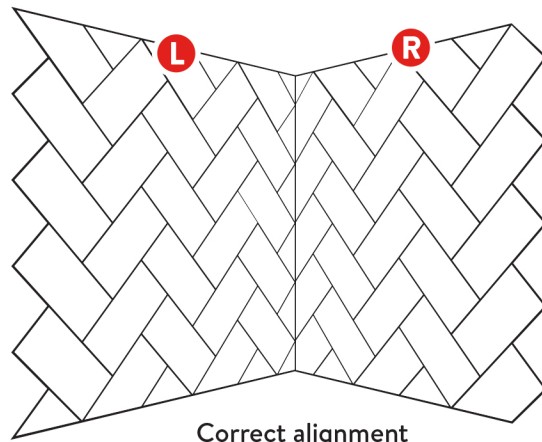
Full tile panel out of the box.



Tile panel with squared-off end for corner.



Incorrect alignment

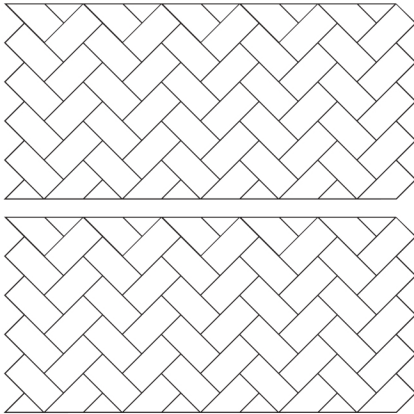


Correct alignment

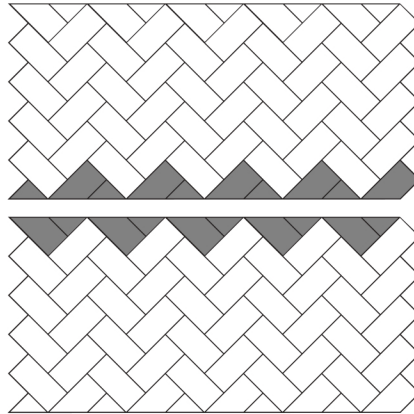
Stacking complex patterns

Stacking herringbone, hex and other complex patterns is easy with some pre-planning. It's helpful to first mount the bottom board to the wall. Then, identify the tile segments that will need to be removed and discarded. Remove the bottom sheet's tiles while it is attached to the wall. An oscillating saw is recommended for speed, control and accuracy. The top sheet's tiles can be cut on a work bench. Be sure to cut close to the tile edge to remove the grout area. This will allow space for the grout line between the stacked panels. Use spacers between the panels to maintain a consistent grout line.

1. Determine area that will be stacked. Boards do not have to be rotated to line up.



2. Identify tiles that need to be cut out. An oscillating saw is ideal for these cuts.



3. Cut close to the tile surface pattern to allow stacked sheets to maintain proper grout line width. Use spacers when attaching top sheet.

