

TILES SUPPLIED — AND FITTED, IF YOU NEED US TO

Measuring for Tiling

Whether you are buying tiles to fit yourself or you would like us to fit them, these are the numbers we need to price the job properly. It takes about ten minutes and saves a great deal of guesswork.

The basics

Work in metres. Length multiplied by width gives you the area in square metres. Measure at the widest points, and if the room is an awkward shape, split it into rectangles, work each one out separately and add them together — as shown on the next page.

Always add wastage. Add 10% for a straight lay, and 15% for diagonal, herringbone, chevron or very large format tiles. Small rooms with lots of cuts need more, not less. Please do not deduct small obstacles like a WC or a kitchen island — the tiles still get cut around them.

A worked example

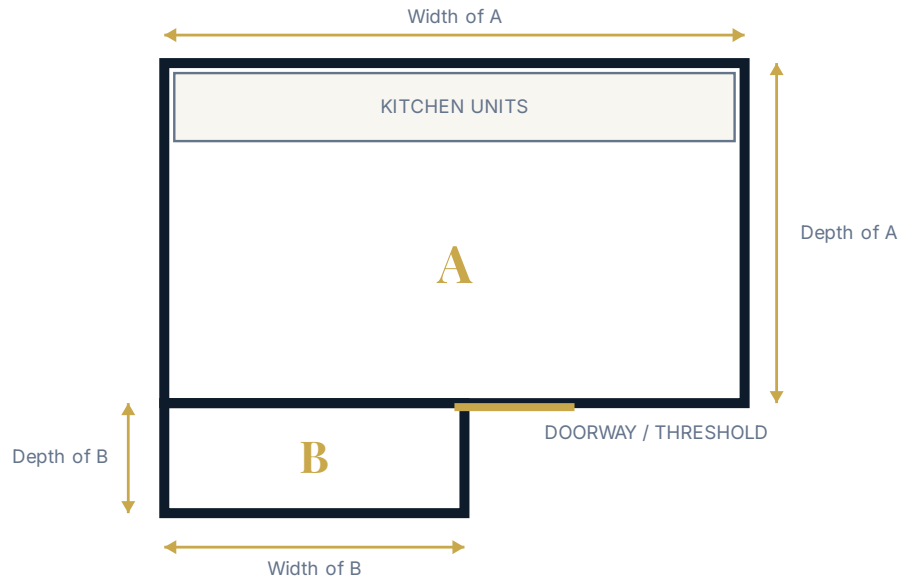
A kitchen floor measuring 3.2 metres by 2.4 metres gives 7.68 square metres. Add 10% for a straight lay and that becomes 8.45. Tiles are sold by the box, so this would round up to the next full box.

There is a table at the back of this guide to write your own figures into.

FLOORS

Measuring a floor

Split awkward shapes into rectangles. Area A plus area B gives your total. Add your wastage to that figure.



What decides the price of a floor

- What is underneath — concrete, floorboards, chipboard or existing tiles
- Whether the old covering needs lifting and taking away
- Whether the floor is level, and any dips or slopes
- Underfloor heating, existing or planned
- Doorways, thresholds and any change of level into the next room
- Whether we tile under units and appliances or up to them

WHAT IS UNDERNEATH

Substrates & preparation — floors

A tiled floor or wall is only ever as good as the surface behind it. Almost every surprise on a tiling job comes from what is underneath rather than the tile itself, so it is worth a few minutes now.

You do not need to diagnose anything. Just tell us what you can see and send a photograph — a lifted corner, the edge by a threshold, or under a loose board is usually enough for us to work it out.

Concrete or screed

The ideal surface: solid, stable and rarely a problem. It needs to be clean, dry and primed first. A newly laid screed needs drying time before it can be tiled — roughly a day per millimetre of thickness — so a new floor is often not ready as early as people expect.

Floorboards or chipboard

Neither is tiled directly, whatever anyone tells you. Timber moves, and movement cracks tiles and grout. We screw the existing boards down solid, then overboard with tile backer board or plywood, or use an uncoupling membrane, depending on the floor.

Existing tiles

Often we can tile straight over them if they are firmly stuck down and reasonably flat. It saves a messy day of breaking out, but it does raise the floor level, which matters at doorways and around integrated appliances.

Vinyl, lino or old adhesive

These almost always have to come up. Nothing bonds reliably to a flexible floor covering or to old adhesive residue.

Kitchens, one thing worth knowing. Tiling on top of an existing floor raises the level, which can trap an integrated dishwasher or washing machine so it cannot be pulled out again. Tell us if you have integrated appliances and we will allow for it.

WHAT IS UNDERNEATH, CONTINUED

Substrates & preparation — walls

Underfloor heating

Needs flexible adhesive and usually an uncoupling membrane. The heating stays off before tiling and for a period afterwards, then comes up gradually.

A floor that bounces

If the floor moves or creaks when you walk across it, it needs strengthening before anything goes down. This is the single most common cause of cracked tiles and grout.

Plaster

Must be completely dry — usually around four weeks for new plaster — and sealed before tiling. Plaster also limits how much weight it will carry, so large format or natural stone tiles sometimes need a stronger background behind them.

Plasterboard

Fine for most tiling provided it is fixed securely. In a shower or wet room we would rather use tile backer board, and either way the area is tanked.

Painted walls

Paint is a weak layer between the tile and the wall. It normally needs removing or thoroughly abrading first, particularly older emulsion.

Existing wall tiles

Usually possible to tile over if they are sound, flat and well stuck — worth checking for hollow ones by tapping across the wall.

Showers and wet rooms

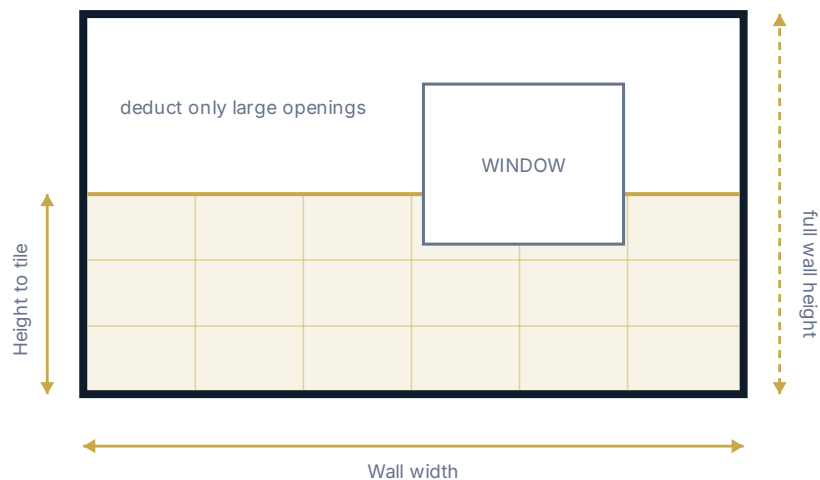
Always fully tanked. Tiles and grout are not waterproof on their own, and this is not a corner worth cutting.

What we may need to allow for. Depending on what we find: overboarding or backer board, priming, levelling compound, tanking, movement joints, and lifting and disposing of the old surface. We will always tell you before it is added, not after.

WALLS

Wall tiling

Measure each wall separately: the width, and the height you want tiled. That might be full height, half height, or just above a bath. Deduct windows and doors only where they are large — anything smaller than about a square metre is best left in, because the offcuts rarely go far enough.

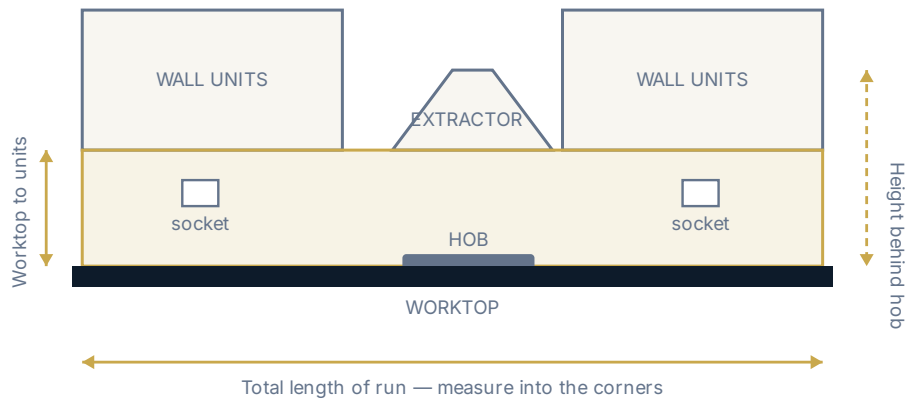


For half-height tiling, note the height you want the tiles to finish at. If there is a bath or shower on the wall, tell us which — wet areas change the preparation, not just the tile count.

KITCHENS

Kitchen splashbacks

The measurement that matters most is the gap between the worktop and the underside of the wall units, then the total length of the run. Measure right into the corners, and treat each wall as its own run.



Please also tell us

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Tile size and finish, if you have chosen | ☐ Condition of the wall — plaster, plasterboard, or old tiles |
| ☐ The pattern you want — straight, brick bond, herringbone | ☐ Whether the area is in a shower or gets wet |
| ☐ Grout colour, and any trims or edging | ☐ Parking and access |
| ☐ Sockets, switches and any pipework in the area | ☐ Any date you are working towards |

PHOTOGRAPHS & PRICING

Photographs

Four or five is plenty. One wide shot of the whole area, one of each wall or run taken square on, one of the existing floor or wall surface, and a close-up of anything awkward — a threshold, a socket, a pipe, an uneven corner.

Supply only, or supply and fit. We are happy to do either. Tell us which you have in mind and we will price it accordingly. There is no design fee on tiling work — that only applies to full bathroom and wet room projects where we produce a 3D design.

What happens next

Send your measurements and photographs with your enquiry, or bring them into the showroom, and we will come back to you within one working day. We confirm every dimension on site before anything is ordered or any work starts.

WHERE TO SEND IT

Email sales@letchworthtilesandbathrooms.co.uk, WhatsApp **07399 928391**, or bring it into the showroom. Please attach your photographs to the same message.

FILL THIS IN AND SEND IT BACK

Your measurements

Fill in whatever you can. Anything you are unsure about, leave blank and add a photograph instead — we would far rather have a gap than a guess.

AREA / ROOM	LENGTH (M)	WIDTH (M)	AREA (M ²)	WASTAGE	TOTAL (M ²)
<i>Kitchen floor</i>	<i>3.20</i>	<i>2.40</i>	<i>7.68</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>8.45</i>

Split awkward rooms into rectangles and give each one its own row. For walls and splashbacks, use height in place of width.

About the job

TILE CHOSEN, IF YOU KNOW — NAME AND SIZE

LAY PATTERN — STRAIGHT, BRICK BOND, HERRINGBONE, DIAGONAL

WHAT IS UNDERNEATH — CONCRETE, FLOORBOARDS, CHIPBOARD, EXISTING TILES, VINYL

SUPPLY ONLY, OR SUPPLY AND FIT

ANY DATE YOU ARE WORKING TOWARDS

ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD KNOW