

## Basic Mosaic Grouting Instructions

When mixing grout, use a disposable plastic container and add small amounts of water at a time to the powder.

### Instructions:

1. Mix grout and water in a plastic container following package instructions with a craft stick. With experience you will learn how much grout you need to mix. If the mixture gets too wet, add a little more powder. It is just like making icing! It should be thick enough not to drop off your mixing stick, and you should be able to spread it like icing. (Grout that is too wet is difficult to clean and prone to having air bubbles. It may also crack as it dries)
2. After mixing, leave the mixture to sit for a few minutes to start the chemical process, then restir and apply. Do **not** add more water at this stage.
3. Using a rubber spatula or wearing rubber gloves, spread grout over the design and push the grout into all areas between the tiles. Press hard to force out any air bubbles and work in different directions to push grout into all the little hidden spaces. Pay special attention to grouting around the edge to get a smooth finish.
4. Fill a bowl with water. Dampen a sponge, squeezing out excess water, Wipe away excess grout. Be sure there is grout between all the tiles. If you notice a hole or empty space, fill it with grout, then wipe. Rinse the sponge, squeeze out excess water, and wipe again. Try to use a clean part of sponge each time you wipe to make this job quicker. Do this until all tile pieces are visible through the grout. Use a paper towel to blot of any excess moisture.
5. Allow to dry 15 minutes.
6. Wipe again with a paper towel or well squeezed out damp sponge to remove any excess grout (Try not to get the grout wetter). Let dry naturally.
7. Polish – as the grout dries, a haze or film of dust will form over the mosaic. When the piece is completely dry, polish off the haze by rubbing with a soft cloth.

### Extra things to note about grouting:

- If using mosaic outside use a grout sealant after the mosaic is completely cured, about 1 week.
- White vinegar can be a good cleaner if grout dries on your tiles and you wish to clean them off.
- A mosaic piece where the tesserae are farther apart will require more grout than a piece of the same size where the tiles are placed close together.
- You can't save grout if you have mixed too much – if you are colouring your grout make sure you mix it all up at one time as you will not be able to mix it to the exact same colour unless you are experienced.
- Putting your mosaic in the sun or by a heater will cause your grout to crack.
- If you are sensitive to dust, wear a mask when mixing grout.

### And very important:

- Don't pour leftover grout down the sink or flush it down the toilet – it can clog your pipes. If you want to clean up anything, use a hose outside and avoid drains!

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