

# TILING

## Tiler

Do you enjoy working with your hands? Are you precise? Do you have an eye for detail? Are you creative and artistic? Then, you could become a tiler!

## What the work is like

Tilers cover interior and exterior walls, floors and ceilings with marble or ceramic tiles.

They are employed by construction companies and masonry contractors, or they may be self-employed.

Tilers work in the new home building and renovation, and institutional and commercial construction sectors.

## Your duties

As a tiler, your duties may include:

- Laying and setting tiles to create decorative wall, mural and floor designs
- Cutting and fitting tiles around obstacles and openings using hand and power cutting tools
- Preparing, measuring and marking surfaces to be covered
- Mixing, applying and spreading cement, glue or other adhesives using hand tools
- Aligning and straightening tiles using levels and squares
- Applying plaster between tiles and removing excess plaster
- Cutting, polishing and installing marble and granite
- Removing and replacing cracked or damaged tiles
- Preparing cost estimates and orders



## Work conditions

The standard work week for tilers is 40 hours (8 hours a day, 5 days a week). As with many careers in construction, there are peak periods that will require you to work overtime. The number of additional hours you work each week depends on the construction sector and region you work in, and will vary from one job to the next.

As a tilers, you may work indoors and outdoors, alone or with a team of other construction professionals. The job is physically demanding—you may have to bend and kneel for long periods of time, and often have to lift heavy materials.

As with all careers in the construction industry, safety is the top priority. Tilers are trained to work safely, and take special precautions to protect themselves from injury.

## Building your career

With additional training you could transfer your skills to other construction trades. You can also move into more senior positions, including supervisory roles such as foreman or superintendent.

Another option is to become self-employed and contract your services for smaller renovation projects.

As with most careers in the construction industry, your skills are portable. If you want to move, you can take your skills with you.

## More information:

Gauteng Master Builders Association

Tel: 011-805 6611  
[www.gmba.org.za](http://www.gmba.org.za)

