

# SCHOOLS 2 SKILLS

## WALL & FLOOR TILER—CAREER OVERVIEW

Wall and floor tiling may sound straightforward, but it can be a very complex job when transforming walls and floors into creative masterpieces. **Wall and floor tilers** tile surfaces on jobs ranging from domestic kitchens, bathrooms and balconies to industrial premises, swimming pools, shops, hotels and offices.

They work with a variety of materials including ceramics, terracotta, porcelain, stone, granite, marble, grouts and adhesives to achieve the most appropriate result for the use of the area.

### What might a wall and floor tiler's working day look like?

Each day can be different depending on the job, and you may be involved in:

- + Filling any holes and cracks in the surface to be tiled
- + Levelling and smoothing the surface
- + Cutting individual tiles to shape
- + Grouting, cleaning and polishing the new tiles

### As a wall and floor tiler you must be able to:

- + Estimate the quantity of materials required by measuring surfaces or reviewing a work order
- + Determine the best layout to achieve the desired pattern in a given space
- + Cut and trim tiles to cover odd spaces and to fit around obstacles and openings
- + Complete tile installation projects working from architectural plans and specifications
- + Set tiles or groups of tiles into position, align the tiles and tap into place
- + Pack grout into joints and remove excess
- + Reinforce surfaces or build an underbase if required
- + Mix, apply and spread adhesives such as mortar, cement, mastic or epoxy over the surface
- + Plumb and straighten corners, angles and walls
- + Remove and replace cracked or damaged tiles

### To be a successful wall and floor tiler you should:

- + Be interested in doing neat, accurate and decorative work
- + Have colour sense and an appreciation of design
- + Be able to understand drawings and plans
- + Enjoy doing a practical job
- + Have an awareness of safety issues, especially for working at heights and in confined spaces
- + Have the ability to work as part of a team

### Where does a wall and floor tiler work?

They usually work indoors, on jobs ranging from domestic kitchens and bathrooms to swimming pools, shopping centres, hotels and offices.

### What can the future hold?

If you're ambitious and willing to work hard, there are no limits to where a career as a wall and floor tiler can take you. You can work as a sub-contractor or even start your own company. Many business owners, supervisors and senior managers in the construction industry started their careers as tradespeople.

### Fantastic! How do I get started?

To become a tradesperson and get a trade certificate you'll need to complete an **apprenticeship**. For further information about gaining an apprenticeship, search Apprenticentre or call 13 19 54

### SKILLS FROM SCHOOLS

