

# Project Planner

## Tile a Patio

Transform an ordinary concrete patio into a beautiful outdoor living area by tiling over the concrete. Setting tile takes effort, but it is a project that you can divide easily into manageable work sessions. The beautiful results will add real value to your home.

- Step 1: Prepare the surface.** Start by cleaning the surface using a concrete cleaner and either a pressure washer or a stiff scrub brush. If the slab is finished or excessively rough, grind the surface with a scarifier.
- Step 2: Isolate any cracks.** If you have wider-than-hairline cracks in the concrete, use a liquid-applied isolation membrane so cracks won't show through the tile.
- Step 3: Lay out the tiles.** Draw two perpendicular chalk lines marking the center of the patio. Use a grout joint on these centerlines or center a tile course over them to give you the best layout. Use plastic spacers to test your layout.
- Step 4: Place mortar setting bed.** Mix a latex-Portland cement mortar. Spread the mortar with a notched trowel over a 2' x 5' section of the floor.
- Step 5: Set the tiles.** Butter the back of the tile with mortar. Set the tiles using plastic spacers to maintain desired grout joints. Press each tile into place and tap it with a rubber mallet to firmly set and level it with adjoining tiles.
- Step 6: Grout the floor.** Mix grout to a sour cream consistency and apply it with a rubber float. Allow the grout to stiffen and sponge off the excess with a damp sponge. Sponge off the grout haze the next day.

For more details go to [gardenplace.com](http://gardenplace.com)



### What you'll need:

- Concrete cleaner
- Pressure washer or stiff brush
- Scarifier
- Isolation membrane
- Chalk line
- Grout joint
- Ceramic tile
- Plastic tile spacers
- Latex-Portland cement mortar
- Notched trowel
- Rubber mallet
- Floor grout
- Rubber float
- Sponge