WITH 3 EASY STEPS™, MUSSELBOND REPLACES MORTAR WITH PEEL & STICK SIMPLICITY™

STRONG ADHESIVE, LASTING BOND, NO MORTAR, NO MESS, SAVES TIME AND EFFORT, GROUT IMMEDIATELY

3 EASY STEPS:

1. PEEL
2. SET
3. GROUT

TOOLS AND ITEMS NEEDED TO COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT:

UTILITY KNIFE  TAPE MEASURE  GROUT FLOAT  SPONGE  PREMIXED GROUT  TILE SPACERS

Some projects may also require tile wet saw/cutter and level.

COVERAGE PER ROLL: 15 SQ. FT. (1.39M²)

12 inches x 15 feet
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is MusselBound Adhesive Tile Mat? MusselBound is a white, double-sided adhesive mat that replaces messy and difficult to use mortar with Peel & Stick Simplicity. Beautifying tile backsplashes, countertops and tub/shower walls with new tile is Quick, Easy and Clean with MusselBound.

Why use MusselBound instead of traditional mortar, thinset or mastic adhesives?
MusselBound is QUICK, EASY and CLEAN! Mortar, thinset and mastic are not.
- No trial and error when mixing powder and water and no special tools
- No rushing to set tiles before mortar dries out
- No sagging tiles on vertical applications
- No mortar to clog spaces between tiles. Eliminates tedious cleaning prior to grouting!
- No show-through that changes the color of glass tiles
- No waiting up to 24 hours for mortar to cure before grouting. Finish project same day!

Is MusselBound strong? Yes! MusselBound is very strong! When MusselBound’s adhesive combines with grout it creates a lasting bond.

Can all types of tile and stone be adhered with MusselBound? MusselBound is versatile! It can be used with flat-backed glass, stone, porcelain, ceramic, or metal tiles, as well as, mesh-backed mosaics. Tiles must not be heavier than 7 lbs (3.2 kg) or exceed ½" (12.7 mm) in thickness or be larger than 12” x 12” (20 x 20 cm). There are no minimum tile size restrictions with MusselBound. Grout spaces must be a minimum of 1/8” (3.18 mm) and should be grouted within 24 hours of setting the tile.

What if I want to use tiles of dissimilar thicknesses, but I want the surface to be uniform? It’s EASY! MusselBound is a 1/32” (0.8 mm) thick adhesive mat that can be layered to offset tiles of different thicknesses e.g., stone and ceramic, to create a uniform thickness.

On what surface types can MusselBound be applied? MusselBound can be applied to most clean, flat, painted/unpainted, well-bonded surfaces, such as drywall, cement-board, plywood, laminate and even existing tile. This application shortcut prevents costly and time consuming demolition.

For which applications should I not use MusselBound? MusselBound should not be applied in an outdoor application. MusselBound is not recommended for floors, ceilings, fireplaces, steam rooms, shower floors and submerged projects. While MusselBound is moisture impermeable, it is not intended to replace waterproofing products for tile.

What other materials or tools are needed to complete my tiling project? In addition to tile and grout, you only need a clean, flat workspace to utility knife cut MusselBound. The required tools include a utility knife, measuring tape/straight edge, grout float, sponge and bucket. Optional tools can include tile spacers and a tile saw or tile cutter and level.

Can I reposition MusselBound on the wall or reposition tiles on the MusselBound adhesive mat? It’s EASY! MusselBound is designed to be gently positioned on the wall and if needed, removed and repositioned. Pressing firmly on the adhesive mat activates its strong bond. Similarly, gently applied tiles may be repositioned prior to activating the adhesive with firm pressure.

How much time do I have to install tile once adhesive has been applied to surface? MusselBound allows the flexibility to install tiles immediately or at your own pace. Simply leave the release liner on until ready to install tiles.

Where can I find installation information? Easy-to-follow installation instructions with application photos are provided on the following pages. You can also visit www.musselbound.com for instructional videos and additional information.
GETTING STARTED:
Helpful instructional videos can be found at: www.musselbound.com

PLEASE NOTE FOR ADVANCED TILING PROJECTS:
Countertop projects involving tiling around sinks, cooktops or other obstructions will require knowledge of how to remove and replace these items. Tub/shower wall projects require knowledge of how to apply appropriate waterproofing material and remove/replace plumbing fixtures. Tiling projects with many corners, angles and obstructions and/or elaborate tile design patterns may be complicated. Consulting a professional is recommended before starting these types of projects.

CHECKLIST:

☐ Appropriate Projects: Indoor backsplashes, countertops and tub/shower walls. MusselBound should not be applied in an outdoor application. MusselBound is not recommended for floors, ceilings, fireplaces, steam rooms, shower floors and submerged projects. While MusselBound is moisture impermeable, it is not intended to replace waterproofing tiling products.

☐ Surface Types: MusselBound can be applied to most clean, flat, painted/unpainted, well-bonded surfaces, such as drywall, cement-board, plywood, laminate, waterproofing tiling products and existing tile.

☐ Surface Prep: Patch or level if needed. Be certain the surface to be tiled is smooth, clean and flat. If surface is not flat, apply surface-appropriate leveling patch to wall before beginning your tiling project.

☐ Compatible Tile: Tiles must be flat backed and made of glass, stone, porcelain, ceramic or metal. Mesh-backed mosaic tiles are also appropriate. Individual tiles must not exceed 7 lbs (3.2kg) or exceed 1/2” (12.7mm) in thickness or be larger than 12” x 12” (20x20cm). There are no minimum tile size restrictions. Grout spaces must be a minimum of 1/8” (3.18mm). Ensure that the tile selected for countertops is suitable for water and wear ratings.

☐ Required Tools: In addition to tile and grout, you will need a clean, flat work surface on which to cut MusselBound with a utility knife (unless Trim-In-Place method is used as described in General Preparation instructions on page 4). Required tools include a utility knife, flat-tipped screw driver or putty knife, measuring tape/straight edge, felt tipped pen, grout float, sponge and bucket. Optional tools may include a level, tile spacers and a tile saw or tile cutter.

☐ Product Coverage: One roll of MusselBound Adhesive Tile Mat covers 15 square feet (1.39m²).

☐ Frequently Asked Questions: Review FAQ’s located on outside of roll label or previous page.
BROCHURE/INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL PREPARATION:

Electrical: Turn off power to electrical outlets, then remove outlet covers. Follow all electrical codes and safety procedures.

Clean surface to be tiled: Surface must be free of dust, dirt, loose paint, grease. Use a cleaner appropriate for the surface to be tiled. Be certain surface is dry prior to installing MusselBound.

Plan your layout: Successful tiling projects start with careful tile layout planning. Arrange (dry fit) your tiles on your work surface in the pattern that is most pleasing and, if desired, requires the fewest tile cuts. Do not forget to allow space between tiles for grout. Advanced tile layout patterns typically recommend adjusting the layout to avoid using cut tiles that are less than 1/3 the tile width. Seek instruction for advanced tile layout tips.

BECOME FAMILIAR WITH HOW EASY IT IS TO HANDLE MUSSELBOUND ADHESIVE TILE MAT:

Carefully cut a 1” (25.4mm) wide or less strip from the roll. GENTLY place the exposed adhesive side of your sample piece onto an out-of-the-way area of your work surface.

Notice that with light pressure, MusselBound may be easily lifted and repositioned.

Notice that firm pressure activates the strong bond that will make MusselBound very difficult to lift and reposition.

Repeat by applying tile to MusselBound in the same manner in order to become familiar with tile repositionability.

TWO METHODS FOR EASILY TRIMMING MUSSELBOUND TO FIT SURFACE TO BE TILED:

1. Trim-In-Place on the surface to be tiled: Align MusselBound’s leading edge at top of wall or back of countertop as instructed in 1. PEEL. LIGHTLY press into place. Trim the bottom (and top if necessary) of the sheet to fit with utility knife. Hold the material to be cut with a straight edge to aid in achieving a clean trim with utility knife.

2. Trim on cutting board: Unroll a length of MusselBound and gently place the adhesive side down onto a clean, cut-safe work surface (cutting board). Measure the vertical length of surface to be tiled and mark the MusselBound release liner side with a felt tip pen. Cut with utility knife to size. Lift MusselBound off cutting surface and install as instructed.
1. PEEL

**Install first MusselBound sheet:** MusselBound is best installed vertically (top down like wallpaper). GENTLY place leading edge of adhesive side of MusselBound at top of wall (or back of countertop) square and plumb onto surface to be tiled. Lightly lift MusselBound to reposition if needed. When top position is square and plumb, lightly smooth and press the sheet downward. Trim-In-Place if using this as preferred method.

**Install next MusselBound sheet:** Position vertical edge of MusselBound against the previously installed sheet to create a tight seam, but DO NOT OVERLAP. When satisfied with position, lightly smooth and press the sheet in place. Trim-In-Place if using this as preferred method.

**Trim to accommodate outlets and other obstructions:** Carefully use utility knife to trim as needed. LEAVE RELEASE LINER IN PLACE.

**Press firmly in place:**
Only when satisfied with MusselBound’s placement, press adhesive firmly in place with grout float against release liner. A 5-second firm press to the entire sheet will also flatten bubbles and creases. To protect adhesive from dust or dirt, do not remove release liner until ready to set tiles.

**Peel release liner:**
When ready to begin setting tiles, peel off the release liner. It may be removed one section at a time as you work or all at once, so long as dust and dirt are not allowed onto the exposed adhesive.

**OPTIONAL - Level line(s):**
Should you determine the backsplash counter, etc. is not level and/or if you want level guidelines for installing tiles, draw a level line by GENTLY placing a level against the MusselBound adhesive. Find the lowest side of the area to be tiled and adjust the level until bubble is centered. Use felt tip pen to mark level line directly on MusselBound adhesive.
2. SET

Clean tile:
Most tiles retain residue from the manufacturing process. Clean the back of each tile with a damp sponge and dry thoroughly. Also, clean and dry each tile following the use of a tile wet saw.

Install tile:
Support the bottom row of tile with molding, tub edge, countertop, metal strip, tile spacer or similar edge. When placing tile around an outlet, be sure the outlet cover hides the tile edges.

OPTIONAL - Tile spacers:
If not using self-spacing tiles, place minimum 1/8" (3.175mm) tile spacers at top corners of tiles to ensure the following row of tiles is square and evenly spaced.

OPTIONAL - Dissimilar thickness tiles:
If tiles are not of similar thickness and you wish to make the finished surface even, MusselBound may be layered to bring the thinner tiles level with the thicker tiles.

Gently press in place:
Set tiles into desired layout by GENTLY pressing tiles onto MusselBound to ensure repositioning is possible if needed.

Reposition tiles:
If needed, remove tile with your fingertips or, if necessary, carefully pry up tile with a flat-tipped screwdriver or putty knife. Protect adjacent tile with a flat, sturdy object if required. MusselBound is still active and will re-bond to the tile.

Firmly press tiles:
When completely satisfied with tile layout, firm pressure will secure tiles into place. Follow immediately with 5-second press with grout float to activate lasting adhesive bond. Leave spacers in place until ready to grout.
3. GROUT
Grouting:
NO WAITING BETWEEN SETTING AND GROUTING IS REQUIRED. Leave tile spacers in place and remove just prior to grouting. You may grout tiles immediately or up to 24 hours after setting. OPTIONAL - Caulk: For wet area applications, the use of caulk in the bottom grout line may be preferred to applying grout.

Grout application:
Use grout float to scoop the grout.

Press grout into spaces:
Use grout float at 45 degree angle to the tile surface to firmly pack the grout into the grout areas.

Excessive grout removal with float:
Clean grout float in water bucket and use at 45 degree angle to grout lines to squeegee excess grout from tile.

Tile cleaning with sponge:
After the grout has become firm and taking care not to rub grout out of the grout areas, use slightly moistened sponge to wipe grout film from surface of tile. Make sure sponge is clean by rinsing sponge in water bucket; change water in bucket often. Repeat. Be sure to follow grout manufacturer’s specific instructions.

Finish:
When grout is completely clean and dry, replace removed sinks, cooktops or other obstructions. Re-install removed electrical covers (longer screws may often be required) and turn power on following all electrical codes and safety procedures.