

## *Glossary of Terms and Definitions*

### **Tile pieces**

- **Bead** – (Also known as Quarter Round) This is the trim piece used to finish the edges. If you are to look at it, it would look like a quarter of a round
- **Beak** – The outside corner trim to go with Bead or Quarter Round
- **Bullnose** – A trim tile with a convex radius on the edge. This tile is used for finishing the top of an area or turning direction
- **Bullnose Corner** – (also known as Down angle or Double bullnose) A type of bullnose trim with a convex radius on two adjacent edges
- **Down Angle** – (also known as Bullnose Corner or Double bullnose) A type of bullnose trim with a convex radius on two adjacent edges
- **Double Bullnose** – (also known as Bullnose Corner or Down angle) A type of bullnose trim with a convex radius on two adjacent edges
- **Mosaic** – Tiles usually less than 3x3 on a backing so they can be installed easily and uniformly
- **Quarter Round**– (Also known as Bead) This is the trim piece used to finish the edges. If you are to look at it, it would look like a quarter of a round
- **V-cap** – (also called apron trim) The edge trim piece on a counter. Usually it has a raised edge so as to hold water on the deck and not let it roll to the floor. If you are standing at the counter it is the piece that is up against your belt buckle
- **Grout** – A rich or strong cementitious setting material used for filling tile joints

## Areas

- **Apron-** Trim or facing on the side or in front of a countertop edge.
- **Butler Pantry** – A counter usually in a room adjoining a dining room or kitchen. Usually there is not a sink at this counter
- **Cookie Cutter cook top** – A top set cook top that is placed on the counter. The oven is a separate unit and usually not below the cook top
- **Drop in/slide in range** – The range is a one piece unit cook top and oven. A space is left for it to “Slide” in to place sometime after the counter is installed
- **Drop Vanity** – A counter that is lower than the rest of the counters in a bathroom.
- **Eye Level Liner-** The accent piece that would be placed at about eyelevel in a wall area. Since everyone is a different height the accepted height is in the neighborhood of 60inches from the floor unless specifically outlined by the diagram provided
- **Field Tile** – An area of tile covering a wall or floor. The field is usually bordered by a tile trim
- **High bar-**The raised counter area in a kitchen
- **Jamb** – This is a narrow side wall for defining an area
- **Diagonal box** - (Also known as a picture frame) A feature block of tile usually framed with a liner but not always. Even though it is called a “diagonal box the tiles inside the box are not always diagonal, sometimes they are straight.
- **Picture frame** - (Also known as a diagonal box) A feature block of tile framed with a liner
- **Pre-cast pan** - A shower floor that is made of materials other than tile. Usually it comes up the wall a few inches so it can hold water if the drain is stopped
- **Prefab pan** – A shower floor that is made of materials other than tile. Usually it comes up the wall a few inches so it can hold water if the drain is stopped
- **Pullman-**The bathroom counter
- **Soap Niche** – This is a recessed area in the tile wall that is framed prior to tile installation.
- **Dam** – The short curb at a shower that holds the water in as needed
- **Wainscot** - The lower part of an interior wall when finished in a material different from that of the upper part
- **Wet bar** – A counter that has a sink not in the kitchen

## Installation

- **Backsplash**-The area at a counter that is usually drywall
- **Bond coat** – (also known as Skim coat) A material used between the back of the tile and the prepared surface
- **Broken Joint** – (also known as brick joint) Ceramic tile installation featuring each row offset for half its length
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- **Caulking** – A process of sealing a joint or the materials used.
- **Chair Rail** – A decorative trim used as a transitional piece.
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- **Floated splash** – The back splash of a counter that has a cement strip that brings it away from the drywall
- **Full height splash at the cook top** – The back splash in a kitchen that goes all the way to the base of the cabinets only behind the cook top area
- **Full wrap window**-The window has tile at all sides and there is no drywall exposed at the window sill
- **Hot mop**-The waterproofing that is done at the shower area. Usually the shower floor, dam and seat. The hot mop will also go up the wall several inches from the floor.
- **Lath** –solid backing to provide firm anchorage of metal lath. A moisture barrier membrane is directly applied to the backing, then metal lath is attached and a mortar bed is applied to accept the tile installation.
- **Leg** – A tile wall running alongside a bathtub. The term is sometimes used to describe a narrow strip of tile that goes down to the floor.
- **Mastic** – Organic tile adhesive generally used over wood or Drywall
- **Mastic splash** - When the installer adheres the backsplash directly to the drywall.
- **Mortar** – (Also known as Mud) A cement and fine aggregate mixture that is utilized to create a flat, square and level surface to install tile on
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- **Pick up** – The loose ends that might arise and need be completed after the original installation
- **Picture frame** - (Also known as a diagonal box) A feature block of tile framed with a liner
- **Pre plotting** – When a builder decides to select the upgrades instead of the home buyer

- **Return** – The ending of a small splash wall or a wainscot at a right angle to the major wall
- **Rubber Spacers** - (also known as rubber spacers) Cross and Tee-shaped objects used to space tile on floors or walls, available in various sizes
- **Scratch** - The thin coat of rough cement under a finished coat of cement.
- **Skim Coat** - (also known as Bond coat) A material used between the back of the tile and the prepared surface
- **Spacers** – (also known as rubber spacers) Cross and Tee-shaped objects used to space tile on floors or walls, available in various sizes
- **Thinset** - This is the adhesive used over cement
- **Tiled in sink** – Tiling to an under mount sink with a quarter round trim to finish it.
- **Tiled in tub**-The tub unit has a lip that the installer uses a trim piece to finish off their edges. This usually transforms an oval tub to a rectangle for a cleaner look
- **Top set tub**-The lip of the actual tub unit is higher than the tub deck. Even though it looks like the tub was installed after the tile, in most cases the tub was already in when the tile was installed and the installer just cut to it.
- **Tub deck**-The horizontal area of the tub cabinet. In many cases you can sit on it.
- **Tub face**-The vertical area in the front of the tub. If you were standing in front of the tub your shin's would be touching it
- **Tub leg**-when tiling a tub the tile will come down to the floor by the tub face. This area is usually 2-6 inches wide, depending on the size of the field tile
- **Under mount Sink** – A recessed sink, not sitting on the counter deck
- **Wrapped Jam** – Tiling to the outside wall of a shower area. It usually looks like you have framed the shower opening.

### **Generic terms**

- **Estimate**-(also known as a take off) Projected cost of materials and labor for a specific installation and value
- **Crazing** – The cracking which occurs in fired glazes. Many upgraded tiles have this effect to add character and old world charm
- **Sub Contracting**-Try as we might we can not do everything. Sometimes the work that needs to be preformed needs to be done by a different company. When this happens we try to make the builders life a little easier by hiring the other company ourselves and doing all the coordination required to get the installation completed. When we do this we are responsible for the customer service side of things as well as the billing side of things.
- **Take off**-(Also known as an estimate) Projected cost of materials and labor for a specific installation and value
- **Walk list**-When the installation is complete the superintendent “walks” the job and writes a “list” of what might need to be fixed or completed. A copy of this list is given to the installer and a copy is kept in the superintendents file so they can verify that the change has been completed on a future date.

## Types of materials

- **Ceramic Tile** – Typically they are glazed and the glazed layer can be extremely durable. However, as there are differences from one glaze to another, it is important to make sure the glaze hardness is suitable for your application.
- **Porcelain tile** – Porcelain tiles are typically made with “porcelain” clay that has specific properties. Typically, these tiles are dense and by definition, they have water absorption of 0.5% or less. Non-porcelain tiles have water absorption greater than .5%. Porcelain tiles are very hard.
- **Marble** – Marble has both a scientific and commercial definition. Scientific marble was once limestone that achieved metamorphosis from intense pressures and high temperatures within the earth. This altered its crystalline structure and introduced other minerals that produced the valuable colors and veining. Commercially, any stone capable of taking a polish (with the exception of Granite) is known as marble. This includes travertine, onyx, serpentine and limestone. Marble is not recommended on a kitchen counter deck but is okay for the back splash, bathroom counter, walls and floors
- **Marble-Tumbled** – Tumbled marble is marble that has been distressed by human means. Due to the distressing process the stones typically will have softer edges, non-uniform shape or size, pitting and rough texture. This is a similar process to rock tumbling.
- **Travertine** – Travertine is a variety of limestone formed in pools by the slow precipitation of hot, mineral-rich spring water. The “holes” characteristic of travertine were created when carbon dioxide bubbles were trapped as the stone was being formed. Although the classic travertine’s are recognizable by their homogenous ecru to dark colors. Travertine is available in a variety of finishes including polished and honed. Travertine is not recommended on a kitchen counter deck but can be utilized for the kitchen backsplash, bathroom counters and walls as well as floors.
- **Granite** – Granite is an igneous rock, which means it was once molten and formed as it cooled deep within the earth. Minerals within granite typically appear as small flecks throughout the stone, once creating a “salt and pepper” look. Other types have veining similar to marble. Granite is a dense-grained, hard stone. It can be highly polished or finished in a variety of other ways. A broad spectrum of color is available. Due to the hardness of Granite it can be used in any area of the home interior.
- **Limestone** – Limestone is widely used as a building stone because it is readily available and easy to work with. It is a sedimentary stone, layered and formed from the skeletons and shells of sea creatures that lived in vast, warm seas millions of years ago. Much domestic limestone is gray to buff in color, while some pastel shades of yellow to pink are available. Imported limestones are available in colors ranging from light beige to dark brown, red and black. When mineral dolomite is present, it makes the limestone harder and capable of being polished in the same manner as metamorphic marble. Limestone is not recommended on a kitchen counter deck but can be utilized for the kitchen backsplash, bathroom counters and walls as well as floors.

- **Mosaic** – Small tile or bits of tile, stone or glass. These are used to form a surface design or an intricate pattern.
- **Quartz** - Quartz based stones vary widely in color because of the different materials and clays contained within the stone. These stones can be found in varying hues of light gray, yellow, green and red. They may be either sedimentary in formation (such as the sandstones, bluestones and brownstones) or metamorphic (as in quartzite that is formed in exceedingly hard layers). Quartz is not recommended on a kitchen counter deck but can be utilized for the kitchen backsplash, bathroom walls as well as floors.
- **Slate** – Slate is a fine-grained, metamorphic stone derived from sedimentary rock shale. It is uniform in color, available in shades such as dark to light green, mottled purple, black, gray or dark red. Unless its surface has been honed smooth, slate can be recognized by its distinct cleft pattern. Slate is not recommended on a kitchen counter deck but can be utilized for the kitchen backsplash, bathroom walls as well as floors.
- **Onyx** – Onyx marble is translucent, layered calcitic stone in pastel shades. It is typically formed in caves as stalactites and stalagmites by the slow precipitation of cold, mineral-rich water. Onyx is not recommended on a kitchen counter deck but can be utilized for the kitchen backsplash and bathroom walls.