

<b>Title</b>	<b>Prepare substrates for floor and wall tiling</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>20</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>The unit standard is intended for people working in the floor and wall tiling industry.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to prepare substrates for floor and wall tiling to the level required of a commercially competent floor and wall tiling trade professional.</p>
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<b>Classification</b>	Construction Trades > Floor and Wall Tiling
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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## Guidance Information

### 1 Assessment

This unit standard is one of a family of standards intended to align with the *New Zealand Certificate in Trowel Trades – Specifications*, and the New Zealand Certificate in Trowel Trades (Level 4) with strands in Brick and Block Laying, Floor and Wall Tiling, Proprietary Plaster Cladding Systems, Ferro-cement Tank Manufacture, Refractory Installation, and Solid Plastering (with optional strands in Fixing Cavities and Substrates, and Decorative Mouldings) [Ref: 3137].

Evidence for this unit standard must reflect commercial competence.

Commercial competence requires a candidate to be capable of consistently performing the requirements of the skill specification:

- to current regulatory, industry and commercial standards
- within a commercially viable timeframe
- in commercial environments
- without supervision
- in different and unfamiliar contexts.

Commercial competence must be confirmed by a person who has current expertise in the floor and wall tiling trade.

### 2 Definitions

*Cementitious* products are cement based and mixed with water or with additives, and include screeds, grout, floor-levelling compounds, and adhesives.

*Job documentation* refers to all documented information related to the specific scope of work, including manufacturer's specifications.

*Workplace procedures* refer to the documented procedures specific to a workplace which sets out the standard and the required practices of that workplace.

- 3 Legislation, standards and guidance information relevant to this standard includes the following, and any subsequent amendments and replacements:

*New Zealand Certificate in Trowel Trades – Specifications*, BCITO, August 2021, available from [www.WaihangaAraRau.nz](http://www.WaihangaAraRau.nz).

Legislation accessed at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz)

- Building Act 2004,
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015,
- The New Zealand Building Code.

Standard accessed at [standards.org.au](http://standards.org.au)

- AS 3958.1:2007 *Ceramic tiles, Part 1: Guide to installation of ceramic tiles*.

Best practice and good practice guidelines

- Pringle, T & Wierenga, J. (2015). *Good Practice Guide: Tiling* (3rd edition). Wellington: BRANZ
- *The Absolutely Essential Health and Safety Toolkit for Small Construction Sites*, and other Worksafe NZ publications available from [www.worksafe.govt.nz](http://www.worksafe.govt.nz).

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## Skill specification and performance level guidance

### Skill specification

Prepare substrates for floor and wall tiling.

### Knowledge

The different types and properties of substrates to which tiles are laid.

Range substrates include – plasterboard, tile and slate underlay that is fixed to steel or light timber frames, fibre cement sheet, timber, block and concrete solid substrates;  
surfaces also include – existing finishes to substrates including tiles, acoustic membranes, butyl rubber, rendered surfaces, cork tiles, metal, glass, painted surfaces and plastic.

The requirements to confirm the suitability of substrate and substrate surfaces over which tiles will be installed.

The preparation requirements of new and existing substrates and substrate surfaces for fixing tiles.

Range preparation takes into consideration – type and condition of surface and substrate, fixing pattern of sheet substrates, deflection and tolerance rates, fixing requirements, tiling requirements, contaminants on surfaces;  
may include – removal of floorcoverings and associated products, remedial work, grinding, priming, levelling, installation of joint fillers and backing rods.

The methods and requirements to apply primers.

The methods and requirements to apply mortar beds.

The purpose of, and how to perform moisture testing of cementitious substrates.

How to interpret moisture testing results of cementitious substrates.

The requirements to confirm the suitability and installation methods of pre-installed systems over which tiles will be installed.

Range includes – undertile heating systems, waterproofing systems, acoustic systems; knowledge of undertile heating systems includes temperature limits.

## Skills

Check quality, quantity, consistency and finish of delivered materials.

Assess new and existing substrates and surfaces to determine preparation tasks required.

Prepare substrates and substrate surfaces for fixing tiles.

Apply primer bond coats to substrates and substrate surfaces.

Apply levellers, beds, and screed compounds to substrates and substrate surfaces.

Confirm the suitability of substrate surfaces and pre-installed systems to confirm readiness and fit for tile installation.

## Performance level guidance

Performance must reflect workplace procedures, legislative requirements, good practice guide, and job documentation relevant to floor and wall tiling.

Performance must include internal and external surfaces, including – horizontal surfaces, vertical faces, internal corners, external corners, and shampoo recesses.

Floor levellers, beds, and screed compounds may be used to form showers and to level over underfloor heating.

<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2027
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## Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	25 August 2022	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	0048
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

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**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact Waihangā Ara Rau Construction and Infrastructure Workforce Development Council at [qualifications@WaihangAraRau.nz](mailto:qualifications@WaihangAraRau.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.