



## **National Unit Specification: general information**

**UNIT** Wall and Floor Tiling: Fixing Wall Tiles Using Thin Set Adhesives  
(SCQF level 6)

**CODE** F6P5 12

### **SUMMARY**

This Unit is suitable for candidates undertaking a Modern Apprenticeship in Wall and Floor Tiling and will develop the candidate's craft skills in the preparation of backgrounds for tiling including the gauging and mixing of thin set adhesives. Candidates will be required to fix tiles to various backgrounds. This Unit also requires the candidate to grout and finish the tiled area. This Unit is also designed to develop candidates underpinning knowledge and understanding of setting out methods, materials and components.

### **OUTCOMES**

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of preparation, setting out methods, materials and equipment in relation to fixing wall tiles.
- 2 Prepare and set out background for tiling.
- 3 Gauge, mix and apply thin set adhesive.
- 4 Fix tiles to a prepared background.
- 5 Select and install finishing components.
- 6 Grout and finish the tiled area.

### **RECOMMENDED ENTRY**

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates undertaking the Professional Development Award in Wall and Floor Tiling at SCQF level 6 must meet the requirements of the Modern Apprentices which include being employed in the relevant craft industry.

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#### **Administrative Information**

**Superclass:** TG

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## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

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### **CREDIT VALUE**

2 credits at SCQF level 6 (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6\*).

*\*SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

### **CORE SKILLS**

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit. Opportunities for developing aspects of the following Core Skills are highlighted in Support Notes of this Unit:

- ◆ Problem Solving at SCQF level 4
- ◆ Working with Others at SCQF level 4
- ◆ ICT at SCQF level 3
- ◆ Numeracy at SCQF level 3
- ◆ Communication at SCQF level 4

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT**      Wall and Floor Tiling: Fixing Wall Tiles Using Thin Set Adhesives (SCQF level 6)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of preparation, setting out methods, materials and equipment in relation to fixing wall tiles.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify preparation methods used in tiling walls.
- (b) Identify setting out methods used in setting out walls.
- (c) Identify materials and equipment used in wall tiling.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Prepare and set out background for tiling.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Check background for plumb correctly.
- (b) Check background for contamination and soundness correctly.
- (c) Manufacture staff stick accurately.
- (d) Set out background correctly.
- (e) Comply with current health and safety regulations in all activities.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Gauge, mix and apply thin set adhesive.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select thin set adhesive correctly.
- (b) Gauge and mix thin set adhesive correctly.
- (c) Apply thin set adhesive correctly.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety regulations in all activities.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**UNIT**      Wall and Floor Tiling: Fixing Wall Tiles Using Thin Set Adhesives  
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### **OUTCOME 4**

Fix tiles to a prepared background.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Fix tiles correctly.
- (b) Fix tiles in the correct sequence.
- (c) Comply with current health and safety regulations in all activities.

### **OUTCOME 5**

Select and install finishing components.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select tile trim to suit tiles.
- (b) Cut tile trim correctly.
- (c) Install tile trim correctly.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety regulations in all activities.

### **OUTCOME 6**

Grout and finish the tiled area.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Mix grout correctly.
- (b) Apply grout correctly.
- (c) Remove grout residue correctly.
- (d) Check wall is free from grout holes and bloom.
- (e) Comply with current health and safety regulations in all activities.

## National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

**UNIT** Wall and Floor Tiling: Fixing Wall Tiles Using Thin Set Adhesive (SCQF level 6)

### EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved this Unit to the standard specified in all the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. All working practices must be in line with relevant and current Health and Safety legislation and regulations.

#### Outcome 1

Written and/or oral evidence is required to show that the candidate has achieved the standards specified in the Performance Criteria in Outcome 1. Assessment of the candidates underpinning knowledge should be carried out using a closed-book question paper. This must be carried out under controlled supervised conditions.

#### Outcomes 2, 3,4, 5 and 6

Product and performance evidence supplemented with an assessor observation checklist is required to show that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes to the standards specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will be observed to show that they can: prepare and set out backgrounds; gauge, mix and apply thin set adhesives; fix tiles; install finishing components; and grout and finish the tiled area to the standards stated below:

Summary of Standards	
Item	Measurement of standard
Background surface	Prepared, checked for plumb, flat and square
Staff stick	±1 mm
Level/set out wall area	As per drawing/instruction
Tile batons fixed	Level
Adhesive selected and mixed	As per manufacturer's instructions
Adhesive applied and spread	Strong bond between background and tiles
Tiles fixed	Fully bedded, joints ±1mm of specified width
Tolerance	±3 mm in 2 m
Grout	Full, uniform neat appearance
Cut trim	±1 mm
Trim installed	As per manufacturers instructions
Surface finish	Thoroughly cleaned on completion
Working area	Clean at all times/existing wall tiled area cleaned
Tools and equipment	Cleaned and stored safely
Health and Safety	Complies at all times

The minimum area to be tiled for each pattern must be 3.5 m<sup>2</sup>. Candidates should fix tiles to each of the following patterns and areas: ris-bond; broken bond; tiling on 45° angle; around openings; internal and external angles; attached piers.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

### **UNIT**      **Wall and Floor Tiling: Fixing Wall Tiles Using Thin Set Adhesive** **(SCQF level 6)**

Assessment of this Unit should be carried out when the candidate has received sufficient training and is deemed ready to be assessed.

These Evidence Requirements will be met by the completion of the Training and Assessment Programme (TAP) *Wall & Floor Tiling*.

## National Unit Specification: support notes

### **UNIT**      Wall and Floor Tiling: Fixing Wall Tiles Using Thin Set Adhesives (SCQF level 6)

This part of the Unit Specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

#### **GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT**

This Unit has been developed as a mandatory Unit in the Professional Development Award (PDA) in Wall and Floor Tiling at SCQF level 6, which is a mandatory component of the Modern Apprenticeship.

This Unit would be offered to candidates from the construction and related services industries. The skills and knowledge and understanding are transferable within different working environments but the Unit is primarily aimed at candidates whose normal place of work would be a site, workshop, or similar environment. It should be delivered as part of a structured programme of training and orientated to the context of the candidates work and area of responsibility.

The successful completion of this Unit will provide candidates with the required underpinning knowledge and skills relating to materials, and methods used to set out and tile using thin set adhesives. Candidates will also be provided with the skills to install finishing components and grout and finish tiled areas in a variety of patterns and situations.

The context of this Unit allows for a holistic integrated approach for other Units within the PDA in Wall and Floor Tiling. Therefore there are opportunities within this Unit to integrate aspects of *Wall and Floor Tiling: Repair and Restoration* and *Wall and Floor Tiling: Setting Out for Tiling Applications* at SCQF level 6.

Health and Safety and Sustainability are integral and key to the Construction Industry and so throughout the Unit emphasis will be placed where appropriate on the application of Health and Safety and Sustainability. Safety working practices should be looked at in accordance with current safety codes of practice and regulations. Sustainability should include reference to legislation affecting the conservation of the environment and its relevance to this trade and to the construction industry in general. Attention should also be drawn to the dangers of not implementing this legislation.

#### **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT**

Learning and teaching for this Unit should be a combination of workshop and classroom learning. Candidates should be made aware of the different materials tools and equipment used in fixing wall tiles. The correct methods of preparing background should be emphasised, with the basic principle of mixing and applying adhesives explained as the candidate prepares the background and adhesives in the workshop. The critical importance of the correct procedures used in wall tiling should be emphasised during the practical activities. Both internal and external mitres should be practised when installing tile trim.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

### UNIT Wall and Floor Tiling: Fixing Wall Tiles Using Thin Set Adhesives (SCQF level 6)

It is recommended that candidates practice their skills in a workshop environment with the relative underpinning knowledge taught both in the workshop and classroom. The candidate should be given the opportunity to further develop their skills through visual aids, electronic presentations, reference books, classroom exercises and group discussions. Candidates should also be introduced to different material specification guides.

Candidates will be required to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) whilst carrying out the practical activities, keep a clean working area and adopt safe working practices throughout all practical activities.

It is recommended that candidates should work in pairs during Outcome 2 and work individually in all other Outcomes.

Opportunities should be taken throughout delivery of this Unit to meet the requirements of the generic Units of the Training and Assessment Programme including:

- ◆ Conform to Efficient Working Practices
- ◆ Conform to General Workplace Safety
- ◆ Move and Handle Resources
- ◆ Confirm Work Activities and Resources for the Work
- ◆ Develop and Maintain Good Working Relationships
- ◆ Confirm the Occupational Method of Work

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The Core Skill of *Problem Solving* could be developed to SCQF level 4 as candidates undertake this Unit. Candidates will need to take account of a range of factors in order to work efficiently and safely, such as the choice of tools, appropriate materials, safety issues, safety equipment and sustainability. Individual discussions with assessors will enhance the evaluation of efficient working practices.

There are opportunities for candidates to develop *Working with Others* to SCQF level 4, particularly in Outcome 2 during the setting out of wall areas. As part of learning and teaching Candidates can agree responsibilities and provide support and information to each other during this assessment. After assessment, they should be encouraged to consider how effectively they supported each other.

Opportunities in Outcome 1 also arise for candidates to develop the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology* to SCQF level 3 by researching materials and equipment used and the Health and Safety legislation affecting their area of work.

*Numeracy* skills could be developed to SCQF level 3 through the calculations used in setting out in Outcome 2 and the measurement of tile sizes in Outcomes 4 and 5.

Candidates could have the opportunity to develop *Communication* to SCQF level 4 for the practical aspects of this Unit. As candidates complete practical tasks, they should be expected to communicate with others using the correct terminology, tone and style suited to the workplace.



## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

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### **GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT**

Centres are advised to use the Wall and Floor Tiling Training and Assessment Programme (TAP) which has been developed centrally by the SQA. Any other instruments of assessment used must be comparable to the TAP and have been through prior verification.

Section 4 of the Wall and Floor Tiling TAP provides detailed assessment material for this Unit. It is expected that candidates will be given as much practice as possible and should be deemed competent prior to being set the assessment tasks contained within the TAP

#### **Outcome 1**

A suitable method of assessing underpinning knowledge would be through the use of multiple choice questions.

#### **Outcomes 2 to 6**

The candidates' ability to prepare backgrounds, gauge and mix materials will be assessed through practical tasks. An assessor observation checklist should be used to record evidence of the candidates' ability to set out for tiling; fix tiles; install components; grout and finish completed tile work. The candidate must be provided with all the tools, materials and equipment to complete the practical tasks.

#### **Opportunities for the use of e-assessment**

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

### **DISABLED CANDIDATES AND/OR THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)