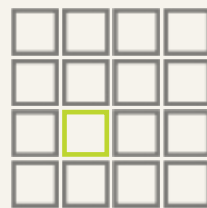
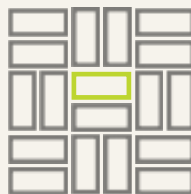
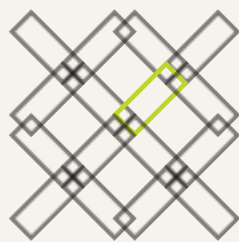


cavastone

"Where Unique Meets Luxury"

How Long Does Tile Installation Take?

A complete timeline and planning guide for architects, designers, contractors, and homeowners sourcing tile and natural stone in South Florida.



8
PAGES OF PLANNING
GUIDANCE

4
TIMELINE VISUALS AND
CHARTS

2026
EDITION

PREPARED BY

Connie Davalos
Founder, Cavastone | Boca Raton, Florida

Planning Your Project Timeline

QUICK ANSWER

Tile installation takes 2 to 5 days for an average-sized room, from tear-out through grout, plus 24 to 72 hours of cure time before the space handles regular use. A small bathroom often wraps in 1 to 2 days, while a whole-home renovation with multiple rooms, custom patterns, or natural stone can stretch to two weeks or more.

2-5 DAYS Average-Sized Room	24-72 HOURS Grout Cure Before Heavy Use	1-2 DAYS Small Bathroom (Tile Only)	2X SUBFLOOR RIGIDITY Natural Stone vs. Ceramic
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Why This Guide Exists

I am Connie Davalos, founder of Cavastone. For nearly 20 years, our team has sourced and specified tile and natural stone for architects, designers, contractors, and homeowners across South Florida. The question I hear most before a project begins is simple: how long will this actually take?

This guide breaks down real installation timelines by room, material, and pattern complexity, so you can plan your project, coordinate your trades, and set honest expectations before the first tile arrives on site. Use it alongside your installer's site walkthrough. General timelines get you close, but every subfloor, every room, and every material choice shifts the schedule in its own way. The sections ahead walk through exactly where those shifts come from.

A note on scope: Cavastone sources and supplies premium tile and natural stone. We do not perform installation. The timelines in this guide reflect industry standards and typical project experience, and every project should move forward with a licensed, qualified installer who can evaluate the conditions of your site.

Who This Guide Is For

- Architects and designers planning material specifications can use these timelines to set realistic construction schedules and coordinate trade sequencing before drawings go final.
- General contractors can use the room-by-room figures to build accurate client-facing schedules and identify which stages carry the most schedule risk on a given project.
- Homeowners can use this guide to ask sharper questions during bids, compare installer quotes on equal footing, and plan around the parts of daily life a renovation will interrupt.

Your Installation Timeline, Visualized

Every tile project moves through the same four stages. Room size, material, and pattern complexity determine how many days each stage takes, but the sequence itself rarely changes. Understanding these four stages upfront helps you read a contractor's proposed schedule with confidence, and spot a timeline that looks unrealistic before work begins.



What Can Add Time to This Sequence

- ✓ A subfloor with cracks, moisture, or more than 1/8 inch of variation over 10 feet needs leveling before setting begins.
- ✓ Complex patterns, like herringbone or a mixed-format layout, require more layout time and precise measurements.
- ✓ Natural stone needs sealing before grout and again after, which adds a full day or more to the sequence.
- ✓ Large-format tile needs a flatter substrate and often a second installer to place each piece safely.
- ✓ Last-minute material changes can send an order back to the supplier and stall the schedule entirely.

Pro Tip: Ask your installer for a written, stage-by-stage schedule before work begins. A clear sequence, with dates for tear-out, setting, grout, and cure, keeps every trade on the same page and gives you a real benchmark to check progress against.

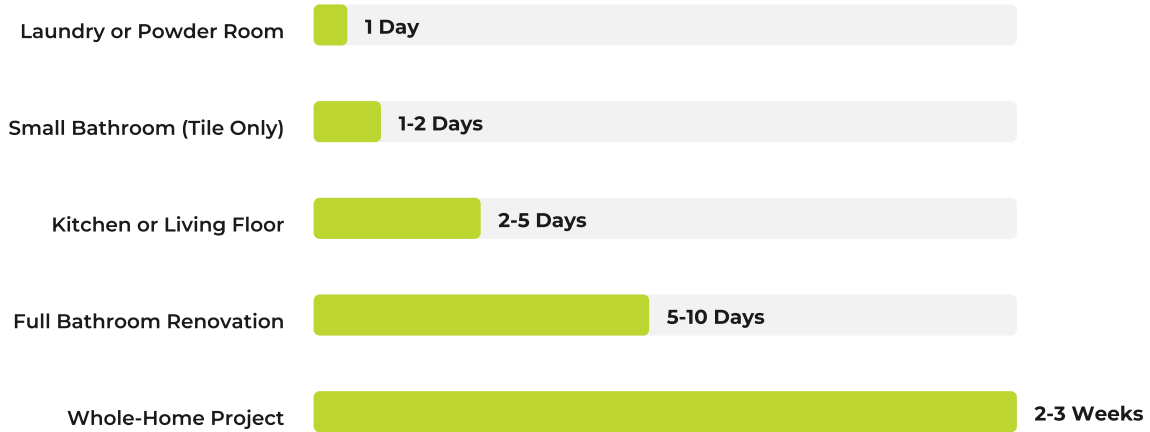
Who Is Typically on Site at Each Stage

Tear-out and prep often involves the tile crew alone, though plumbers or electricians may need access first if fixtures or outlets sit in the work area. Setting and grouting are handled by your tile installer, and large-format projects sometimes bring a second installer to help lift and place oversized pieces safely.

During cure time, no trade should work directly on the tiled surface. This is the natural window to schedule painting, trim work, or other tasks that do not require walking on the new floor.

Tile Installation Timeline by Room

Every room carries its own rhythm, driven by fixtures, moisture requirements, and how much square footage an installer covers in a day. The chart below reflects typical ranges Cavastone sees across South Florida projects.



Good to Know: A five-day tile installation and a five-day bathroom renovation mean two different things. The tile timeline above covers setting and grout. A full renovation timeline adds demolition, plumbing, and inspections on top of it.

A Note on Multiple Rooms

A whole-home flooring project that spans a kitchen, hallway, and two bathrooms can run two to three weeks. Installers move sequentially through spaces to protect finished work and manage material staging, so ask your installer for a room-by-room schedule instead of one blended number.

This sequencing matters most when your household needs to stay functional during the project. Ask which rooms lose water access or become temporarily unusable, and for how long, before work begins rather than discovering it mid-project.

Questions to Ask About a Multi-Room Schedule

- ✓ Which room does the crew start in, and why was that sequence chosen?
- ✓ Will more than one room lose water access at the same time?
- ✓ How many days will each individual room stay off-limits?
- ✓ Does the schedule account for material delivery gaps between rooms?

Tile Sizes and Measuring Your Space

Tile size changes both the look of a room and the installation timeline. Larger formats cover more ground per piece, while smaller formats need more layout and cutting time.



Mosaic
1" to 2" pieces



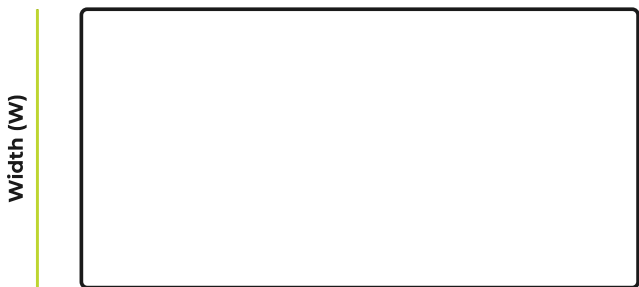
Standard
12" x 12"



Large-Format
24" x 48" and larger

How to Measure Your Space

Before you order material, measure the length and width of the room in feet. Multiply the two figures for your square footage, then add 10 percent to cover cuts, waste, and pattern matching.



L x W = Square Footage

+ 10% for cuts, waste, and
pattern matching

Pro Tip: Cavastone's online tile calculator at cavastone.com/tile-calculator walks through this math for you and helps confirm exact material quantities before you place an order.

Overage Guidance by Layout

The standard 10 percent overage assumes a straight, grid-aligned layout. More complex patterns waste more material in cuts and need a larger buffer.

- ✓ Straight or grid layout: 10 percent overage
- ✓ Diagonal layout: 15 percent overage
- ✓ Herringbone or basketweave: 15 to 20 percent overage
- ✓ Rooms with many angles, niches, or curves: 20 percent overage or more

Material Comparison and Grout Cure Time

Natural stone and porcelain follow different installation timelines, even when the room size and layout match exactly.

Porcelain Sealing required: No Subfloor standard: Standard rigidity (L/360) Typical timeline: Baseline, shortest and most predictable	Natural Stone Sealing required: Yes, before grout and again after Subfloor standard: Roughly twice the rigidity of porcelain (L/720) Typical timeline: Add 1 to 2 full days versus a comparable porcelain layout
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Subfloor rigidity standards referenced from Ceramic Tile Education Foundation technical guidance on natural stone installed over wood framing.

Grout Cure Timeline

Grout drying time depends on the grout type, room humidity, and ventilation. Standard cement-based grout reaches light-traffic readiness within 24 hours and full cure within 48 to 72 hours.



Watch Out: Grouting too soon after setting tile disrupts the mortar cure underneath and can lead to hollow-sounding tile or cracked grout lines within months. Confirm your installer is giving the mortar its full initial set before grout goes in.

After Installation: Ongoing Sealing Schedule

Sealing is not a one-time step for natural stone. Plan on resealing to keep the protective layer effective over time.

- ✓ High-traffic floors and kitchen counters: reseal every 12 to 18 months
- ✓ Bathroom floors and shower surrounds: reseal every 12 months
- ✓ Lower-traffic areas, such as accent walls: reseal every 2 to 3 years
- ✓ Porcelain never needs sealing, regardless of location or traffic

Pre-Installation Planning Checklist

Most delays trace back to decisions made before the installer ever arrives on site. Work through this checklist with your installer before demolition begins.

- ✓ Confirm full material quantities, including overage, before demo begins
- ✓ Lock plumbing and fixture timelines with every trade on site
- ✓ Test the subfloor for moisture and level before ordering tile
- ✓ Ask your installer for a written, room-by-room schedule

Sources and Further Reading

Tile Council of North America (TCNA)

Publishes the industry handbook for ceramic, glass, and stone tile installation, including substrate and cure-time standards referenced throughout this guide.

tcnatile.com

Ceramic Tile Education Foundation (CTEF)

Provides installer training, certification, and technical guidance on subfloor preparation, underlayment, and natural stone installation requirements.

ceramictilefoundation.org

Natural Stone Institute

Sets installation standards for natural stone, built around ANSI A108 specifications, covering subfloor rigidity and sealing best practices.

naturalstoneinstitute.org

Good to Know: Every timeline in this guide reflects industry-standard practice, not a guarantee for your project. Site conditions, material availability, and installer scheduling all shape your final timeline, which is exactly why a written, room-by-room schedule from your installer matters so much.

Questions to Ask Before You Sign a Contract

- ✓ What is the written, stage-by-stage schedule?
- ✓ How is a material shortage or delay handled?
- ✓ Who handles demo, and is it included in the quote?
- ✓ When can fixtures and cabinetry go back in?
- ✓ What happens if the subfloor needs unplanned repair?
- ✓ Who is the point of contact if the schedule slips?

Why Source Through Cavastone

A tile installation timeline only works when the materials show up on schedule and the guidance behind them holds up. Since 2006, we have supplied South Florida's architects, designers, contractors, and homeowners with premium tile and natural stone, backed by nearly 20 years of material expertise.

- ✓ Exclusive collections sourced directly from Spain and Italy, many unavailable elsewhere in South Florida
- ✓ Two warehouses holding more than 600 SKUs in stock, with 24 to 48-hour turnaround on stocked materials
- ✓ Trade pricing for design professionals and retail pricing for homeowners, with the same knowledgeable team for both
- ✓ A boutique, consultative approach: our team helps you choose the right material for your timeline, budget, and design
- ✓ Nearly two decades of South Florida project experience, from single-room renovations to full commercial builds

WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR CONSULTATION

Room measurements, photos of the space, any inspiration images, and your installer's proposed timeline. Our team will help you match materials to your schedule and confirm exact quantities before you order.

SHOWROOM

646 Park of Commerce Way
Boca Raton, Florida 33487

PHONE

561-994-9100

ONLINE

cavastone.com/contact-us



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consultation