

TILES

Large, small, statement or neutral, this wet area go-to has no limits when it comes to size and style

Interview with Zoe King, Studio M design team leader at National Tiles

How can people inject personality into their bathrooms with tiles? Personality is a reflection of style. To determine how to add personality, an individual needs to consider what style or palette they gravitate towards. Tiles are highly versatile, coming in all shapes, colours and textures to suit a variety of styles. Personality can be added through bold feature tiles or calming tones, depending on the individual.

Are there benefits to installing a fully tiled bathroom? Having a bathroom fully tiled creates a cohesive look and reduces maintenance with ease of cleaning and general robustness.

What are the emerging trends in bathroom tiles? While trends are constantly changing and evolving, I have noticed a shift towards more unusual shapes and patterns. There's a lot more emphasis on creating bespoke bathrooms and veering away from the normal everyday styles. Green tones have also become popular in bathrooms, being used to create a calming and restorative atmosphere.

Are larger-format tiles better to use in a bathroom than smaller ones? In some cases, depending on the size of the smaller tiles, it can actually cost more to install them than larger tiles due to the labour cost.

How do you help people find their 'tile style'? I always ask clients what they are drawn to in terms of colour and finishes, as well as what feeling they want to create for their home, to help narrow down the style and palette. From there, we look at inspiration images to make sure we're on the right

track. You know you've found the customer's tile style when their eyes light up and they are smiling!

How do you decide which grout colour to use? Grout colours can completely change the appearance of a tile. For a seamless look, keep the grout in a similar colour to your selected tile. However, if contrast is desired, then look to a lighter or darker grout, which can be a fabulous finish for a statement wall.

Is there a fail-safe tile formula to follow when it comes to a cohesive bathroom design? All the elements in the bathroom need to be considered – not only how the tiles pair together but also how they work with the cabinetry colours, benchtops and tapware. All the elements working together will create a cohesive bathroom. One trusted formula I follow is to stick to a maximum of three different tiles in one space.

Can you share your go-tos when it comes to tiling a bathroom?

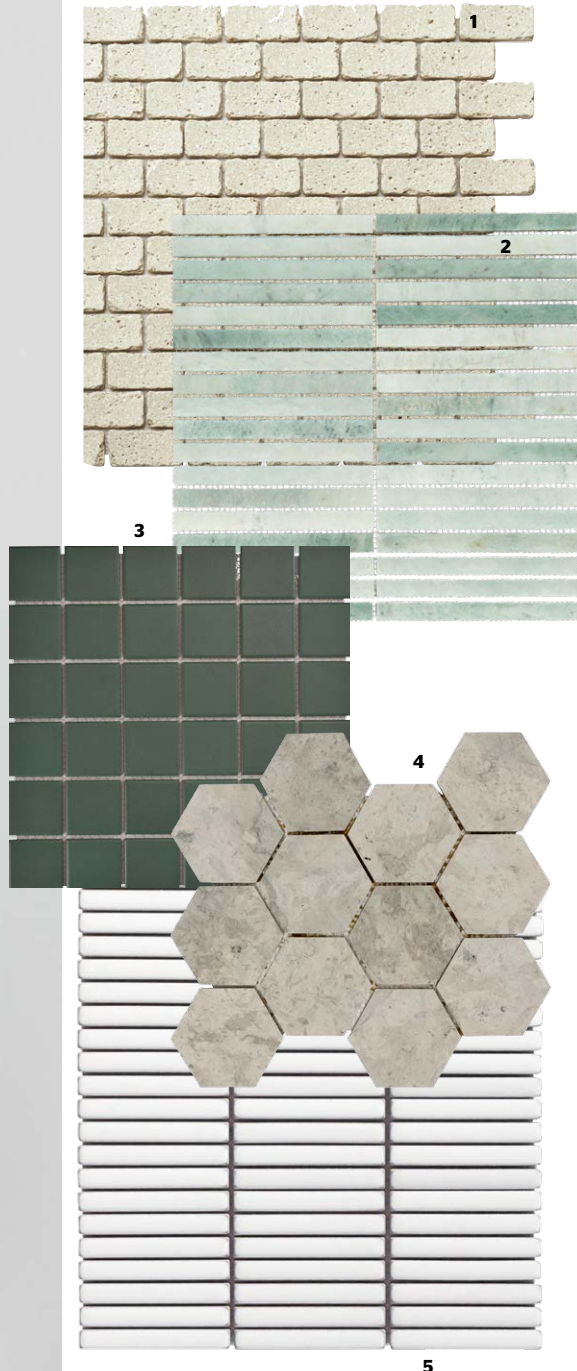
- + Always consult with a professional tiler.
- + Select grouts to complement your tiles.
- + Consider the functionality of the space with the selected tiles in mind.
- + Always measure the square metreage of the tiles required and allow for a little extra.
- + Don't forget to use tile spacers.
- + Don't underestimate the use of large tiles in a small space as larger tiles can make small bathrooms look and feel a lot bigger.

nationaltiles.com.au

need to know
PROJECT Sable Lodge.
DESIGNERS Project 718 in collaboration with Kate Walker Design; building design by Rod Hannah.
DETAILS Manhattan Stone White ceramic tiles by KWD & Co adorn the walls, creating a rich contrast to the rust-coloured curtains from Lynch's Window Fashions.



PHOTOGRAPHY: ARVELLE HABIB



1 Inax 'Arc ROS-6' tiles, Artedomus. **2** Colosseum Ming Green honed tiles, National Tiles. **3** Cove Tiles 'Hyatt Grid' matt porcelain mosaic tiles, The Build by Temple & Webster. **4** Cove Tiles 'Thala Honeycomb' stone mosaic tiles, The Build by Temple & Webster. **5** Antique Porcelain kit-kat tiles in White Gloss, Tilemall.