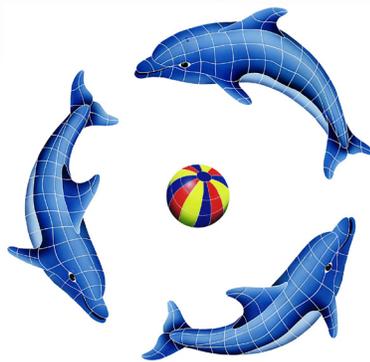


# AQUABELLA



**ACCENTS & MOSAICS  
INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**



## SEA CREATURES & MOSAICS INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**You will need: Thin-set, grout, three buckets (one for water, one for thin-set, one for grout) one large and one small smooth sponge, level, pencil, hand mixer, towels, rubber gloves, trowel, and a razor knife.**

1. Make sure the surface that you are installing on is clean and mostly dry if possible.
2. Release your sea creature or mosaic from package by cutting around the outer edge of sea creature or mosaic with a razor knife. Leave the plastic on the face of the sea creature or mosaic for now.
3. Choose a location for your sea creature or mosaic. Do not allow the back of the product to get wet at this point.
4. Some Aquabella mosaics may be installed on a curved surface, but bear in mind that grout spaces will open in a convex installation or close when installed on a concave surface. Also, there are limitations to how far the mosaic will flex before grout spaces are sealed completely, making it difficult to properly grout. Also, keep in mind that mosaics installed on a pool wall less than 24 inches down from the waterline will experience a prism effect from the water. The closer to the waterline they are, the more 'squashed' they will appear when viewing them from the pool deck.
5. Hold your sea creature or mosaic up in a location you like, considering how your product will look from many different views. Then draw an outline approximately ¼" away from the item's outside edge with a construction pencil.
6. Make clear guide marks on the pool shell at a few of the sea creature or mosaic's main points to aid re-positioning. Make them far enough out as not to get covered by a thin-set bed.
7. For larger mosaics, you may want to cut it in half or sections for easier handling and placement if you are alone.
8. Slowly and carefully remove the plastic by peeling it back from the mosaic. Watch for any pieces stuck in the plastic after un-packaging.
9. Trim away any excessive screen remaining around the mosaic.

**For INDOOR or covered area applications:** Apply a generous layer of tile adhesive to the back of your mosaic, but not so much as not allowing room for the grouting stage of this process. Allow adhesive to dry for at least 2-4 hours, preferably overnight before grouting.

**For OUTDOOR or POOL installations:** Mix thin-set according to manufacturer's



instructions. Apply a ½ “thick bed of thin-set inside the outline you traced in step six. Your thin-set bed should be moist but not runny and able to support the item’s weight without settling. Take care not to allow the surface of your thin-set bed to dry out before you lay on the product. Allow thin-set to dry for at least 2-4 hours, preferably overnight before grouting.

10. You should end up with the face of your mosaic raised about ½” high from the surface of the pool shell to allow for proper plaster thickness when floated. For wall applications, the face of the product should be the same height as the waterline tile.
11. Position your sea creature or mosaic over a thin-set bed and press it into place, making sure to apply light and even pressure to all pieces while keeping the item flat.
12. Using a damp sponge, carefully wipe off any excess thin-set from all painted surfaces while still partially wet.

**Grouting:** Once your thin-set has set up correctly, use a modified sanded grout in the color of your choosing. Mix grout according to manufacturer’s instructions. Apply grout generously over the entire face of the sea creature or mosaic, pushing wholly and down, filling all grout joints with your fingers or rubber float. Then, in a circular motion, use a damp sponge rinsing your sponge often. Wipe all excess grout off of the face of the tiles. Allow your item to dry for 15 minutes or so. Then, with a clean, soft towel, buff your sea creature or mosaic to a polished shine.

**For “Surface” or “Over plaster” applications:** After grouting all the internal seams of your sea creature or mosaic, begin applying grout along all the outer edges with your fingers. Then with a sponge, work the grout up onto the sides of your item into a beveled edge around all of the exposed sides of it. When completely grouted and beveled, remove all excess grout using a circular motion with a damp sponge rinsing your sponge often. Allow your sea creature or mosaic to dry for 15 minutes or so. Then, with a clean, soft towel, buff your product to a polished shine.

## RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

- **SGM:** GMT Thin Set & Security Polymer Grout.
- **TEC:** Super Flex™ Ultra-Premium Thin Set Mortar or 3N1 Performance Mortar.

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