

COMPOTITE PVC NICHEs

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTALLING COMPOTITE PVC NICHEs

Compotite PVC Niches provide a durable, waterproof, and ready-to-tile solution for adding functional and aesthetically pleasing recessed storage to showers. Proper installation ensures longevity and a seamless finish. Below are detailed instructions for professional tile installers, emphasizing the use of thin-set or Compotite Elastiseal Pro, as well as seam tape and corners for optimal waterproofing.



BENEFITS OF A PVC NICHE

- ◇ **Waterproof Construction:** Made of PVC, the niche is naturally resistant to moisture and eliminates the need for additional waterproofing layers.
- ◇ **Ready-to-Tile Surface:** Speeds up the installation process and ensures compatibility with all types of tile.
- ◇ **Customizable Design:** Available in various sizes and configurations to suit different shower layouts.
- ◇ **Durability:** Resistant to cracking, warping, or water damage.

MATERIALS AND TOOLS REQUIRED

- ◇ Compotite PVC Niche
- ◇ Thin-set mortar (ANSI A118.4 or A118.15 compliant)
- ◇ Compotite Elastiseal Pro
- ◇ Polyethylene (PE) seam tape and corners
- ◇ Measuring tape and level
- ◇ Utility knife or saw
- ◇ Notched trowel (1/4" x 3/8" recommended)
- ◇ Flat trowel
- ◇ Screwdriver or drill (for framing adjustments)
- ◇ Sponge and clean bucket of water

PREPARATION

1. FRAME THE NICHE OPENING

1. Ensure the niche opening is properly framed within the wall cavity to provide solid support.

- ◇ Use 2x4 or 2x6 studs to create a square or rectangular opening.
- ◇ Ensure the framing is plumb, level, and adequately secured.

2. Verify the niche fits snugly within the framed opening with minimal gaps.

2. CHECK WALL PREPARATION

- ◇ The substrate (e.g., cement board) surrounding the niche opening must be clean, flat, and securely attached.
- ◇ If waterproofing membrane is already applied, ensure the niche area is cut out accurately.

INSTALLATION PROCESS**1. POSITION THE NICHE**

1. *Dry fit the Compotite PVC Niche into the framed opening.*
2. *Ensure it sits flush with the surrounding substrate and aligns with the tile layout.*
3. *Adjust the framing if needed for a snug and level fit.*

2. SECURE THE NICHE WITH THIN-SET OR ELASTISEAL PRO**1. Using Thin-Set:**

- ◇ Apply a layer of thin-set mortar to the back and sides of the framed opening.
- ◇ Place the niche into the opening, pressing firmly to ensure full contact with the thin-set.
- ◇ Use a level to verify the niche is plumb and properly aligned.

2. Using Compotite Elastiseal Pro:

- ◇ Apply a generous bead of Elastiseal Pro around the edges of the niche and along the framing.
- ◇ Insert the niche into the opening, pressing it firmly into place.
- ◇ Smooth excess Elastiseal Pro around the edges with a trowel.

3. SEAL EDGES WITH SEAM TAPE AND CORNERS

1. *Apply thin-set mortar around the niche's perimeter and corners.*
2. *Press polyethylene (PE) seam tape into the thin-set, ensuring it overlaps the niche flange and surrounding substrate by at least 2 inches.*
3. *Use pre-formed PE corners to seal inside and outside corners of the niche, pressing them into place over thin-set.*
4. *Smooth the tape and corners with a flat trowel to remove air pockets and ensure proper adhesion.*
5. *Reinforce all seams and corners with a thin layer of Elastiseal Pro for added waterproofing.*

4. BLEND THE NICHE WITH THE WATERPROOFING SYSTEM

1. *If a waterproofing sheet membrane is used, overlap the membrane onto the niche flange using thin-set and seam tape.*
2. *For liquid membranes, apply a continuous coat over the niche flange and surrounding substrate, extending at least 4-6 inches beyond the edges.*
3. *Ensure all transitions are fully sealed and watertight.*

5. FINAL INSPECTION

1. *Check that the niche is level, securely adhered, and properly sealed with no gaps or exposed seams.*
2. *Allow thin-set and/or Elastiseal Pro to cure as per manufacturer recommendations.*

TILING OVER THE NICHE

1. *Cut tiles to fit the niche dimensions, leaving space for grout joints.*
2. *Use thin-set mortar to adhere tiles to the niche, starting with the back wall, followed by the sides and top/bottom.*
3. *Ensure consistent alignment with the tiles on the surrounding walls.*
4. *Grout and seal as necessary to complete the installation.*

BEST PRACTICES

- ◇ **Plan Tile Layout:** Align the niche placement with the grout lines for a professional finish.
- ◇ **Use Pre-Formed Corners:** Simplify waterproofing and ensure proper sealing at all corners.
- ◇ **Avoid Excess Material:** Clean away excess thin-set or Elastiseal Pro during installation for a clean appearance.
- ◇ **Test Waterproofing:** If the niche is part of a larger system, conduct a flood test to ensure watertight integrity before tiling.

By following these detailed instructions, professional tile installers can efficiently install Compotite PVC Niches, achieving a secure, waterproof, and aesthetically pleasing result.