CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of installing a tile for use in a wall, the method comprising:

applying a trim material to the tile;

securing the tile to the wall; and

removing the trim material from the tile after securing the tile to the wall.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein applying the trim material comprises:

applying at least a portion of the trim material on at least a portion of a front surface of the tile and at least a portion of the trim material on at least a portion of one or more side surfaces of the tile;

wherein the trim material extends over a front edge of the tile where the front surface and the side surface of the tile meet.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein applying the trim material comprises applying the trim material so that it extends lengthwise along the front edge of the tile.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the trim material is softer than the tile material.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the trim material comprises an easy release tape on a side thereof that makes contact with the tile, thereby enabling the trim material to be secured to the tile.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the easy release tape remains on the trim material when the trim material is removed from the tile.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein securing the tile to the wall comprises exerting a force on the trim material.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein applying the trim material comprises applying at least a portion of the trim material on at least a portion of a front surface of the tile directly opposite to a tile attachment element on a rear surface of the tile.

9. A method of installing a tile for use in a wall, the method comprising:

applying a padded trim material to at least a front surface of the tile before installing the tile; and

removing the padded trim material from one or more edges of the tile after installing the tile.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein applying the padded trim material comprises:

applying the padded trim material so that the padded trim material extends partway over the front surface of the tile and partway over a side surface of the tile;

wherein the padded trim material extends widthwise over a front edge of the tile where the front surface and side surface of the tile meet.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein applying the padded trim material comprises applying the padded trim material so that the padded trim material extends lengthwise along a front edge of the tile.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein applying the padded trim material comprises applying a padded trim material that is softer than the tile material.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the padded trim material comprises an easy release tape on a one side thereof, the easy release tape making contact with the tile when the padded material is applied to the tile, thereby enabling the padded material to be secured to the tile.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein removing of the padded material from the tile removes the easy release tape from the tile.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein applying the padded trim material to the front surface of the tile comprises applying the padded trim material opposite to a tile attachment member disposed on a rear surface of the tile.

16. The method of claim 9, further comprising securing the tile to the wall.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein securing the tile to the wall comprises exerting a force on the trim material in a direction generally normal to the front surface of the tile.

18. A method of installing a tile for use in wall, the method comprising:

providing a tile having a front surface, an opposing rear surface, and one or more tile attachment elements disposed on the rear surface;

applying a padded trim material to at least the front surface of the tile so that the padded trim material is disposed directly opposite the one or more tile attachment elements;

securing the tile to the wall by exerting a force on the tile by pushing on the padded trim material; and

removing the padded trim material from the front surface of the tile after the tile is secured to the wall.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein applying the padded trim material comprises applying the padded trim material to one or more front edge or side surfaces of the tile.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein removing the padded trim material comprises removing an easy release tape from the tile.

21. A trim for protecting sides of a tile prior to installation of the tile, the trim comprising:

a spine having a curved interior surface that is configured to be positioned adjacent to or in contact with a side surface of the tile; and

first and second opposing legs extending from opposite sides of the spine such that the tile can be received and held between the first and second opposing legs,

wherein:

each of the first and second opposing legs having a curved interior surface,

the curved interior surface of the first leg is configured to be position adjacent to and in contact with a front surface of the tile, and

the curved interior surface of the second leg is configured to be position adjacent to and in contact with a rear surface of the tile.

22. The trim of claim 21, wherein the spine and the first leg form a corner, wherein:

the curved interior surfaces of the spine and the first leg form a gap between an interior of the corner and a front edge of the tile; and

the gap is configured to protect the front edge of the tile.

23. The trim of claim 21, wherein:

the spine and the second leg form a corner,

the curved interior surfaces of the spine and the second leg form a gap between an interior of the corner and a rear edge of the tile; and

the gap is configured to protect the rear edge of the tile.

24. The trim of claim 21, wherein the curved interior surfaces of the opposing first and second legs form cooperate to form a flared opening in the trim.

25. The trim of claim 21, wherein the trim has one or more mitered ends that correspond to mitered ends of additional trim.