No-Demo Tile Overlay Guide

Transform your old laminate counters with a modern ceramic surface.

Skip the messy demolition and use your existing counters as a stable base. This complete framework walks you through prepping, setting, and grouting a fresh new look.



Key Measurements

1/16 in
Grout lines using rigid horseshoe shims

95 %
Mortar coverage required for food prep

3 rows
Dry-fit grid before mixing mortar

1/8 in
Expansion gap around appliances and sinks

7 days
Wait before placing heavy appliances

The Overlay Sequence

1. **Over old laminate** Degrease, scuff with 60-grit sandpaper, clean, and roll on bonding primer evenly.
2. **Stacked grid layout** Comb thinset with a 1/4-inch trowel, back-butter tiles, and press firmly into place.
3. **Sleek metal edge** Miter cut corners at 45 degrees and tape the brass profile for protection.
4. **Stain-resistant epoxy** Pull two-part grout diagonally, shaping at 90 degrees. Scrub excess surface resin immediately.

Prevent Epoxy Haze

Always use ice-cold water to wash the tiles. Warm water accelerates the curing process, and leaving haze to dry requires harsh chemical strippers to remove.

Styling Your Countertop

Find your row: **Your room aesthetic**

Your room aesthetic	Your pick	Why
Moody Industrial Charcoal	Matte black edge	Hides coffee spills effortlessly
Warm Mediterranean Terracotta	Glowing copper trim	Brings instant rustic charm
Soft Utility Sage	Brushed nickel edge	Calming, clean laundry aesthetic
Vintage Modern Cream	Polished brass trim	Nostalgic yet highly tailored

Pre-Installation Checks

- ○ Verify laminate is structurally sound and firmly attached to base cabinets.
- ○ Press edges and seams to check for lifting or water damage.
- ○ Measure existing drop-in sink cutouts exactly before setting any tile.
- ○ Check for tile lippage with a flat level every few minutes.

Prep & Cleaning Checklist

- ☐ Tape heavy-duty plastic sheeting under countertop overhang.
- ☐ Scrub entire surface with TSP substitute to degrease.
- ☐ Ensure no shiny spots remain after orbital sanding.
- ☐ Wipe a dark cloth across counters to check dust.
- ☐ Stir gripping primer vigorously for three minutes.
- ☐ Change wash water bucket every ten square feet.
- ☐ Fill gaps with color-matched 100-percent silicone caulk.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautiful, durable new kitchen surface—you earned it!