Small Vanity Tile Layout Guide

Map out a custom, room-expanding backsplash and calculate your materials.

Calculate exactly how much tile you need and map out a vertical layout. Make your vanity area look twice its height with these precise steps.



Key Project Values

18-24 in
Counter-to-mirror run distance

0 offset
Vertical straight set alignment

1/16 in
Joint width for straight sets

5/16 in
Metal edge profile trim size

15%
Overage based on total footage

72 hours
Wait time before sealing grout

Light-bouncing glaze

Choose a high-gloss ceramic finish. It catches sconce glow and bounces it back, doubling the perceived brightness in a windowless or confined bathroom.

Perfect Symmetrical Layout

1. **Prep the wall** Sand and flatten drywall to ensure your perfect vertical lines do not fail.
2. **Mark the center** Find the faucet centerline and center your very first tile directly on that mark.
3. **Work outward symmetrically** This guarantees the cut tiles on the far left and right edges end up exactly equal.
4. **Set with mortar** Use powdered, polymer-modified thinset to prevent heavy tiles from sagging down the wall.

Choose Your Tile Size

Find your row: **Your sink or vanity**

Your sink or vanity	Your pick	Why
Very narrow vanity	2x8 inch tiles	Provides a modern, slender profile
Standard 36-inch wide sink	3x9 inch tiles	Offers a balanced, classic scale
Compact vanity layout	Avoid 4x12 inch tiles	Can look overly bulky

Pre-Installation Checks

- [ ] Measure vanity width by backsplash height to find total square footage.
- [ ] Check that sconce backplates center perfectly over a grout line.
- [ ] Match grout color closely to tile body for low-contrast lines.
- [ ] Get unsanded grout for joints smaller than 1/8-inch to prevent scratches.
- [ ] Match metal trim finish directly to your primary plumbing fixtures.
- [ ] Use a diamond-blade wet saw to cut around plumbing lines.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautifully tailored, room-expanding vanity backsplash!