

Stove-Zone Tile Layout Cheat Sheet

Plan and size a flawless, intentional stove-only backsplash column.

Transform your stove zone into a deliberate architectural focal point. This guide helps you map perfect boundaries, select edge trim, and sequence your installation.

● Key Dimensions & Materials

30 or 36 in

Align to hood width exactly

1 whole row

Layout down from top ceiling

1/8 in

Metal edge profile for sides

100% clear

Silicone base at countertop joint

Min. 1/16 in

Grout spacer for thermal expansion

Min. 2 in

Extension below the countertop profile



The Top-Down Secret

Start your sequence looking straight up. A perfectly whole row of tiles meeting the ceiling establishes calm symmetry and hides horizontal cuts completely out of sight behind the stove.

● The Installation Sequence

- 1 Map the Boundaries** Plumb a dead-center chalk line to balance left and right cuts equally.
- 2 Apply Modified Thinset** Use a non-sag adhesive so heavy tiles grip instantly and stay leveled while curing.
- 3 Set Edge Profiles** Cap raw sides with crisp metal trim set perfectly plumb before finishing.
- 4 Grout and Seal** Apply high-quality penetrating sealer to grouted faces to protect against daily cooking splatters.

Select Your Tile Scale

Find your row: Your space style

Your space style	Your pick	Why
Transitional or modern	Square (4x4 or 5x5)	Classic, grid-like symmetry
Farmhouse or classic	Subway (3x6 or 2x8)	Traditional horizontal width
Contemporary or minimalist	Vertical Stack (2x8)	Heightens the ceiling

Choose Your Grout Strategy

Find your row: Desired visual effect

Desired visual effect	Your pick	Why
Soften the impact	Match grout to tile	Emphasizes glaze and texture
Highlight strict geometry	Choose a contrasting tone	Creates a highly graphic grid

Check Before You Start

- ☐ Calculate full tile spans to eliminate awkward sliver cuts at outer edges.
- ☐ Adjust electrical outlet placement to avoid L-shaped cuts in your grid.
- ☐ Match your metal edge finish to prominent kitchen hardware or lighting.
- ☐ Apply premium scrubbable wall paint in a satin finish to flanking walls.
- ☐ Verify clearance behind your slide-in range for the lower tile extension.

Project Notes & Measurements

Step back and admire your perfectly symmetrical, high-end culinary focal point!