



## CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



### CERAMIC AND MOSAIC TILE (C-54)

#### Content of the Examination

The Ceramic and Mosaic Tile (C-54) Examination is divided into five major sections:

- 1. Planning and Estimating (18%)**
  - Review plans and specifications
  - Select materials
  - Estimate material quantities and costs
- 2. Preparation for Tile and Stone Installation (16%)**
  - Demolition, disposal, and job site preparation
  - Substrate preparation
  - Membranes and barriers
- 3. Installation and Repairs (33%)**
  - Install tile and stone
  - Joint treatment for tile and stone installations
  - Repairs and restoration
  - Showers and steam rooms
- 4. Specialty Installations (15%)**
  - Specialty tile installation
  - Stone slab and countertop installation
  - Accessories
- 5. Safety (18%)**
  - Personnel safety
  - Job site safety

*\*Percentages are approximate\**

#### Test Policy

This is a closed-book examination. No reference materials may be used during the examination.

#### Test Strategy

This is a multiple-choice examination with four choices per question. Examination questions are written to provide only one BEST answer. Some questions require mathematical computation. A calculator will be provided.

There is no penalty for guessing. If you are unsure about a particular question, it is better to try to answer the question than to leave the question blank.

Plenty of time is provided to answer all examination questions, so be sure to read each question and its four choices completely and carefully before selecting the BEST possible answer to the question.

## Sample Questions

Below are three typical examination questions.  
The correct answer is marked with an asterisk (\*).

1. How many square feet of tile are needed for an area that measures 2-1/2" by 4" on a plan that is drawn to a 1/8" scale?
  - a. 10 sq. ft.
  - b. 160 sq. ft.
  - c. 576 sq. ft.
  - d. 640 sq. ft.\*
2. Which of the following types of tile requires sealing before grouting?
  - a. Vitreous body
  - b. Semi-matte
  - c. Crackle-glazed\*
  - d. Ceramic
3. What does a tile setter need to do to reduce tile waste on a job?
  - a. Use a level.
  - b. Use setting tools.
  - c. Use proper bonding agents.
  - d. Use alternative layout methods.\*

*\*All questions are written and reviewed by licensed contractors who are actively working in the trade\**

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## Resources

*Publisher information for reference books and code is provided below. Other sources for reference books may be found online.*

**California code books can be viewed online:**  
[www.dgs.ca.gov/bsc](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/bsc)

**2025 California Building Code.** California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.  
PHONE: (800) 786-4452  
INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

**2025 California Plumbing Code.** California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).  
PHONE: (909) 472-4100  
INTERNET: [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)

**ANSI A108/A118/A136.1 Specifications for the Installation of Ceramic Tile.** Tile Council of North America, Inc.  
PHONE: (212) 642-4980  
INTERNET: [webstore.ansi.org](http://webstore.ansi.org)

**Dimension Stone Design Manual.** Natural Stone Institute.  
PHONE: (440) 250-9222  
INTERNET: [www.naturalstoneinstitute.org](http://www.naturalstoneinstitute.org)

**NTCA Reference Manual.** National Tile Contractors Association.  
PHONE: (601) 939-2071  
INTERNET: [www.tile-assn.com](http://www.tile-assn.com)

**State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2023.** California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.  
PHONE: (877) 626-2666  
INTERNET: [www.mancomm.com](http://www.mancomm.com)  
VIEW ONLINE:  
[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm)

**TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation.** Tile Council of North America, Inc.  
PHONE: (601) 939-2071  
INTERNET: [www.tile-assn.com](http://www.tile-assn.com)

*\*Publisher information is current as of 3/26\**