



## INSTALLATION GUIDE

### GETTING STARTED

Before you begin installing your new tile, it is important that you have everything you need. Here are the recommended tools and materials to acquire before you begin:

- 5-Gallon Buckets
- Cement Backer Board
- Cement Board Screws
- Earplugs
- Grout
- Grout Sponge
- Handsaw or Jamb Saw
- Kneepads
- Level
- Mixing Paddle
- Notched trowel
- Pencil
- Power Drill
- Rubber Grout Float
- Safety Glasses
- Scoring Cutter or Wet Saw
- Sealer
- Speed Square
- Tape Measure
- Thin-set Mortar
- Tile

### FOUNDATION

Your surface should be clean, smooth, and dry. Remove all old floor coverings. Repair and level all damaged and uneven areas. Double check the surface is architecturally sound and can support the weight of tile flooring.

Remove any moldings, trim or appliances that may interfere with the installation. Check beneath doorjamb to confirm you have enough room to lay the tile.

## PREPARATION

Lay out the tile in advance to double check you have enough tile to complete your project. This will also give you a rough idea of what the result will look like.

Begin your layout by accurately pinpointing the middle of the room. Mark the center point of each wall and draw chalk lines between the center points of opposing walls. The intersecting lines will create perfect squares.

Starting from the middle of the room, lay rows of loose tile along the center lines in both directions. To display even, uniform joints, use tiles spacers as well. Once you reach the walls, you'll most likely need to cut tiles for them to fit. Should the cuts be smaller than half of a tile, adjust the center line by snapping a new line a half-tile size closer to the wall. That will help to ensure that your design looks even and professional. Repeat this step along the intersecting center line as needed.

For larger rooms, divide each section into smaller 2' x 3' grids by snapping additional lines parallel to the center lines.

## ADHESIVE APPLICATION

\* Please refer to the instructions on the adhesive package in addition to following the below steps. \*

Always mix just enough adhesive to be used within 30 minutes, otherwise the adhesive will harden. Use the flat side of a trowel to apply 1/4" thick coat to the surface of one grid area, staying within the guidelines.

For this next step, it is important that you do not spread more adhesive than what you will set within 15 minutes. Position the trowel at a 45-degree angle and use the notched side to move the adhesive into the ridges. Remove any unneeded adhesive to form a consistent ribbed setting in which to place your tile.

## CUTTING INSTRUCTION

On the surface of the tile, mark any cuts with a pencil or felt-tip pen. Use a tile cutter for straight or diagonal cuts. Use a rod saw for full-length curved cuts. Use a nipper for lesser curved cuts and chip small pieces away one at a time.

Use a carborundum stone to smooth out any sharp edges.

## TILE INSTALLATION

To maintain a fluid and professional look, it is important to set the tile one grid at a time. Complete setting all tiles in each grid before moving on to the next grid. Also, save the perimeter tiles in each grid for last in order to leave an adequate gap between the tile and wall.

Start in the center of the room and begin with the first tile in the corner of the grid. Work outwards from there. Do not let the edges of your tiles hit each other. To prevent this from happening, do not slide the tiles into place.

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Start in the center of the room and begin with the first tile in the corner of the grid. Work outwards from there. Do not let the edges of your tiles hit each other. To prevent this from happening, do not slide the tiles into place. Instead, slightly rotate each tile as you set them. It is also important to either insert spacers as each tile is set or place equal joints between tiles.

Once a grid has all tiles completely installed, tap in each tile with a rubber mallet or hammer and wood block. This step solidifies bonding and levels the surface. Use a putty knife to remove unnecessary adhesive from joints. Use a damp sponge to remove excess adhesive from the tile for an even appearance, as well as a clear space for the grout.

\* Allow the tile to sit for at least 24 hours to set before walking on it. \*

## GROUT APPLICATION

*\* Please be sure to carefully read and follow all precautions and instructions displayed on the grout package in addition to following the below steps. \**

A few important notes before you begin grout application:

1. Do not allow time for any excess grout to dry on your tile.
2. It is important that you make just enough to use within 30 minutes to prevent any grout from drying before you can apply it.
3. Use two buckets of water: one to remove the excess from the sponge and the other to rinse the sponge. Make sure to rinse your sponge often and change the water frequently.
4. Allow the grout to dry for at least 72 hours before placing anything weighted on the tile (i.e., pieces of furniture or appliances)
5. Wait three weeks' time before applying any sealers or polishes.

Start by removing the tile spacers and spreading the grout on the tile surface. Use a rubber grout float or a squeegee to press the grout down into the joints.

You'll need to remove the excess grout from the surface immediately. To do so, start by tilting the grout float at a 45-degree angle and using the edge of the float to remove unnecessary grout. Next, tilt the grout float at a 90-degree angle and scrape the excess grout diagonally across the tiles.

Allow the grout to sit for approximately 15 to 20 minutes, then use a damp sponge to clean any residue from the surface and smooth the grout joints. Once the grout has dried, wipe each tile with a soft cloth.

## COMPLETION

Congratulations! You have completed the installation steps for your new floor. As a friendly reminder, let the grout dry for approximately 72 hours. You will need to let the grout or approximately 72 hours before any heavy use and at least three weeks before applying sealers or polishes.