

Tile Merchant

Installation Guides

Floor Tiles

As with other building work it is important to work safely and to take suitable safety precautions including the wearing of protective clothes, gloves, safety goggles and dust mask.

Before Beginning the Work

- Floor tiling: you will start tiling from a central point and work to your corners, a single tile at a time. You must tile, in a pattern that will allow you to leave the room, without walking on just laid tiles, so plan your pattern of installation accordingly. Prioritise routes to toilets, kitchen areas and exits to your home too.

— What you will need ***Tools***

- Ruler
- Tape measure
- Marker
- Trowel
- Notched Trowel
- Tile Cutter / Wet Saw
- Hacksaw
- Tile nippers
- Eye protection and hearing protection
- Sponge and bucket
- Cartridge gun / Sealant
- Grout float

— What you will need ***Materials***

- Floor tiles
- Tile Adhesive
- Tile Spacers
- Sanitary sealant
- Thin-set tile adhesive
- Grout
- Multi-purpose cloths
- Trim

Floor Tiles

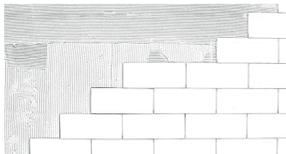
one

Mark your start point, and start here, using a trowel spread tile adhesive on the floor, use a notched trowel to move the adhesive across an area of roughly 1m² at a time. With the smooth side of the trowel, spread the tile adhesive on the floor, then with the serrated edge, run it back through the adhesive to form ridges on the surface. This will leave an even depth of adhesive to help create a level surface.

two

Tile: place your first tile firmly into the adhesive. Use a twisting action when placing the tile, this helps bed it into the adhesive.

Keep repeating this process, use tile spacers between each tile to ensure they're evenly spaced. Do not forget to ensure the spacers are well below the surface of the tile, so they will be hidden easily at the grouting stage.



three

Throughout the installation process, use a spirit level to check the tiles are flat. If they're not level, tap them lightly with a rubber mallet to level them.

As you install, remove any adhesive from the tile face with a damp cloth – once the adhesive is set, it is much harder to remove.

four

When the tiles are down, you must wait until the adhesive has set fully you place any weight (walk) on them. Depending on your adhesive, this can take up to 48 hours.

five

Cutting: You will need to fill gaps between the last whole tile and the wall, so now you will be required to measure and cut some tiles.

An easy way to do this is simply lay the tile that needs to be cut on top of the nearest whole tile.



five - cont.

Then lay another tile on top, use this as a guide.

Position tile spacers against the wall, then push the top tile to the wall, then mark for cutting. Leave space for grout. Repeat this process.

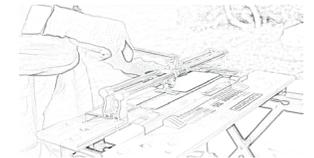
six

Ensure you use the correct cutting equipment, double check in store when purchasing your tiles. Wear protective goggles and gloves.

We generally recommend using either a flat bed or electric tile cutter to cut the tiles that you have marked. Smooth rough edges post cutting with a tile file.

seven

When you have the tile cut, position it in the gap, checking if you need to make further adjustments. Using tile nippers for smaller adjustments. When you are happy with the fit, apply adhesive to the back of the tile and place it on the floor.



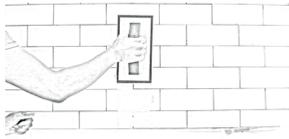
Floor Tiles - grout

one

Brush any dust or debris from the surface of your floor tiles, and make sure no tile spacers are protruding above tiles.

two

Grouting: use the gauging trowel to take grout from the tub and then place it into the joints using a grout float until the grout is level with the surface of the tile, ensuring to cover the spacers.



three

Once you have grouted several rows of tiles, using a grout finisher compact the grout and to leave a nice clean uniformed finish. Wipe away any extra grout on the surface of the tiles as you grout, using a damp sponge before it begins to set.

— Once your adhesive is set, you can begin to grout your floor tiles.

Ensure you have the right amount of coverage. Grout coverage m² listed on each bag.

four

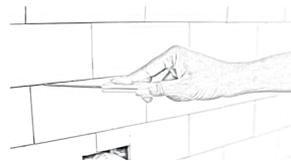
Continue grouting, finishing and wiping away across your floor. When you have finished grouting, avoid walking on the tiles and leave the grout to set.

Check the manufacturer's instructions for how long the grout takes to set, as each grout can differ.

five

Once set, wipe the floor again with a damp cloth and dry with a dry cloth to ensure no grout is on the surface of the tiles.

If there are any set grout areas on the tiles, you can use a cleaning agent, but make sure the grout is fully dry before allowing any water contact.



six

Next, seal around the edges with a flexible sealant that matches the grout. This will help accommodate any movement or expansion between the wall and the floor. Place masking tape either side of the area you're going to seal to help keep clean. Work from one end of the skirting to the other and apply a continuous bead of sealant, keeping a steady pressure and speed.

seven

Avoid using the floor for 24 hours after grouting and sealing.