

Your step by step guide to floor tiling

EASY D.I.Y.

FLOOR

TILING.

TILE

> DIRECT

Big Savings. Big Selection.



You can do it yourself and here's how.
Remember to take your time and you'll get a great job you can be proud of.

➤ **CHOOSE THE RIGHT TILES FOR THE JOB**

Make sure you buy the right tiles for the job. The staff at TILE DIRECT will help you with your choices for bathrooms, kitchens, patios, entrance ways, vanities, splash-backs, fire surrounds or other areas.

➤ **HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED**

- ✓ Tiles
- ✓ Tile adhesive
- ✓ Tile spacers
- ✓ Tile grout in appropriate colour
- ✓ Tape measure
- ✓ Chalk line & chalk
- ✓ Straightedge
- ✓ Spirit level
- ✓ Notched trowel
- ✓ Tile cutter/nipper
- ✓ Rubber float/squeegee
- ✓ Sponge
- ✓ Tile sealer & cleaner
- ✓ Primer
- ✓ Trims
- ✓ Waterproofing

➤ PROFESSIONAL HINTS

Avoid placing cut tiles in locations where they are easily seen, ie entrances or corners. Plan the layout to use as many uncut tiles as you can. Try to keep cut tiles no less than half their original size if possible and avoid narrow cut tiles.

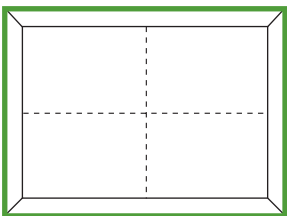
➤ SURFACE PREPARATION

All areas to be tiled must be clean, dry and free from dust, grease, wax, curing compounds and all other contaminants. Porous surfaces must be sealed/primed. Remember wet areas will need water proofing. We have product for you to use.

Timber floors - should be well nailed to avoid excessive movement. Sand painted surfaces and seal/prime. We recommend the laying of tile and slate board to the floor.

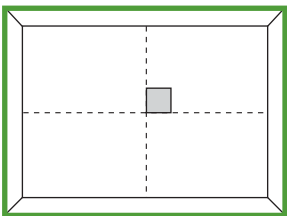
Concrete floors - New concrete should be cured for at least 28 days prior to tiling . Apply diluted hydrochloric acid to etch the surface, leave for 15 minutes and wash down completely with a stiff broom and lots of water. Allow to dry completely before tiling.

➤ HOW TO LAY YOUR FLOOR TILES



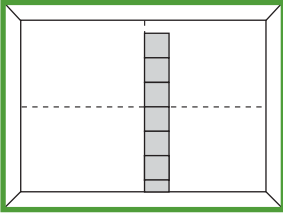
STEP 1. Start in the centre of the room and work outwards to the walls.

STEP 2. Measure the centre point of the room from each of the opposite walls and with your chalk line make straight lines to intersect at this point.

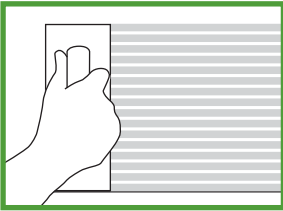


STEP 3. Lay your first tile so it lines up along the two edges of these lines with the corner of the tile positioned into the corner of the intersecting lines.

STEP 4. Place four single rows of loose tiles outwards from your first tile towards all four walls. Do not apply adhesive yet.

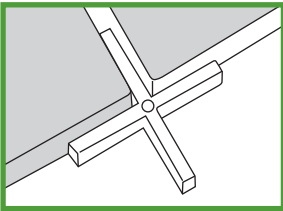


STEP 5. Check the space left for the last tile at each of the four walls. The tiles to complete these rows may have to be cut. Adjust the position of the rows of tiles, if required, to ensure the final tile to be cut in each row is as close as possible to a half tile size, or as little to be cut off as possible. Don't cut these tiles now; only cut at the end of cementing full tiles in place.



STEP 6. Adjust the guidelines to suit any re-measurement required.

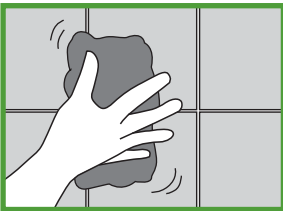
STEP 7. Mix the adhesive as per instructions. Always read the back of the adhesive packaging for correct mixing and application methods.



STEP 8. Using a 10mm or 12mm notched trowel spread ATLAS tile adhesive; make sure the ribs are running in one direction.

STEP 9. Working from the centre of the room begin to lay tiles one row at a time.

STEP 10. Press and slide the tiles to give a full bed of adhesive coverage, use spacers between tiles.



STEP 11. With your chalk line and square, check that the rows are running straight. Adjust the grouting gaps in the tiles slightly if the rows go out of square.

STEP 12. From time to time lift a tile to ensure you have complete coverage on the back.

STEP 13. Make sure the exit from the room is the last part to be tiled.

➤ GROUTING

STEP 1. Wait approximately 24 hours until tile adhesive has set completely before commencing grouting. TILE DIRECT has a wide range of floor and wall grout to achieve the best results, which will enhance your tile selection.

STEP 2. Mix grout with water to the consistency of tooth paste.

STEP 3. Using a squeegee or rubber float work the grout into joints in a diagonal motion.

STEP 4. Wash off excess grout with a minimum amount of water using a sponge. Change water bucket frequently to give better cleaning results.

Always read the back of the Grouting bag for correct mixing and application methods.

➤ FINISHING

Any film of grout left on the tiles should be wiped off with a dry cloth, but only after grout in the joints is completely dry. You may polish or buff your tiles for a great finish.

➤ ADVICE

The team at TILE DIRECT will assist you with advice to help you with your DIY project. If you decide not to do it yourself, we can put you in contact with professional tilers who will do the job for you.

