



Installation

RECOMMENDED METHOD OF INSTALLATION: These notes have been prepared as a guide only, the information is supplied in good faith but without guarantee as site conditions vary and are beyond our control.

1. POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU START YOUR INSTALLTION:

- **LOOSE LAY OR GLUE?** R-Tile can be installed over any hard surface and in most situations will not require gluing. We recommended gluing the tiles in the following situations.
- **DIRECT SUNLIGHT** – It is advisable to glue the tiles in areas subject to direct sunlight such as glass fronted entrance foyers, shop fronts, south facing loading bay doors etc. It is possible that the tiles in direct sunlight will get very hot and expand at a faster and higher rate than the remainder of the floor.
- **HEAVY TRUCKS AND/OR TIGHT TURNING CIRCLES** – Certain fork lift and pallet truck designs can cause a problem, heavy trucks with small wheels, especially electric trucks where the battery is located over the main drive wheel. If you use this type of vehicle we strongly advise you to test the tiles with the trucks before making a decision on which thickness to use.

Installation

- **EXTERNAL HEAT SOURCES / CATALYTIC CONVERTERS** – Ovens, furnaces and catalytic converters can make the floor extremely hot and may cause the tiles to expand. To avoid this problem, glue the tiles in the area in front of the oven or where the catalytic converter will sit when the car is parked.
- **STAINING / DISCOLOURING**
 - **STAINING FROM RUBBER TYRES** – It is possible that certain rubber tyres and wheels may stain the tile, this is a result of a chemical reaction that occurs between the anti-oxidant that is used in some rubbers and the plasticizer used in vinyl. The reaction is brown in colour so is less visible in certain colours of the tile (dark grey, terracotta and black). R-Tile recommends that if your application is susceptible to staining from tyres, hair dyes and other harsh chemicals, to consider the application of our anti- colour/anti-stain two-part solvent free waterborne polyurethane sealer. We recommend using Dr Schultz products.
 - **UV STABILITY** – R-Tile is not recommended for external use and the colours are not UV stable.
- **BATCH CONTROL** – We are unable to guarantee 100% colour consistency between individual production batches. Each individual order will be supplied from a single batch but in the event that you need additional tiles or wish to extend the area we cannot guarantee subsequent orders will be supplied from the same batch.

2. TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:

All you need is a non-marking rubber mallet or engineering hammer, chalk line or another method of keeping the tiles square and a way to cut the tiles. R-Tile can be cut using several methods, a lot will depend on personal preference, experience and the tools you have on hand but we recommend the following:

- Magnum shear / guillotine
- Stanley / utility knife with a concave blade – Always use a straight edge and wear cut proof gloves
- Electric jig saw with a medium or rough wood blade
- Table saw or band saw with a medium or rough wood blade.

Installation



Guillotine



Electric Jigsaw



Stanley knife with
conclave blade

3. INSTALLATION: KEY SUMMARY –

- Let the tiles acclimatise, the minimum recommended installation temperature is 15°C.
- Split the pallet and spread the tiles across the floor prior to starting installation.
- Start from the centre and create your square using a chalk line or laser line.
- Don't force the tiles, offer up the corner of the tile and gently hammer the joints together.
- Allow the floor to settle before measuring and cutting up against walls and fixed points.
- Leave a minimum of 5mm gap between the tiles and any fixed point.
- Create a template for difficult/complicated cuts.

STEP 1 – TEMPERATURE – ALLOW THE TILES TO ACCLIMATISE

- Installation should not take place at temperatures below 15°C.
- Do not try and install the tiles straight after delivery, the tiles must be allowed to acclimatise to the ambient room temperature prior to installation. We recommend you allow 24 hours but this will be dependent on temperature, the warmer it is the quicker the tiles will acclimatise. If time is short we recommend you breakdown the pallet of tiles into small packs to help them acclimatise and settle.
- If installation has to take place at a temperature below 15°C leave a larger expansion gap between the tiles and any fixed point and/or incorporate an expansion gap every 8 to 10 meters.



Installation

STEP 2 – PREPARATION

- Sweep or vacuum the floor to remove any loose impediments.
- Remove any high points in the floor.
- Fill any holes with a rapid setting floor repair compound such as Ardurapid A46 or similar.
- For uneven surfaces that require smoothing use a soothing compound such as Ardex Feather Finish.



STEP 3 – SETTING OUT

- Setting out/the starting point is different for the open join and hidden join tiles.
- Important: It is essential for both that the tiles are kept square to each other at all times. We strongly recommend that you use a chalk line; laser line or carpenters square to set out the site and ensure you keep the tiles right angled to each other.



STEP 4 – INSTALLATION METHOD

- Once you have identified your starting point and created your straight lines, it's time to start fitting the tiles.
- Our first recommendation is to lay the tiles out on the floor; this will allow them to settle.
- Next, connect the tiles together by offering up the tile and lining up the corner, ensuring the joints are in line.
- Starting from the corner, use a rubber mallet to gently tap the joints together.



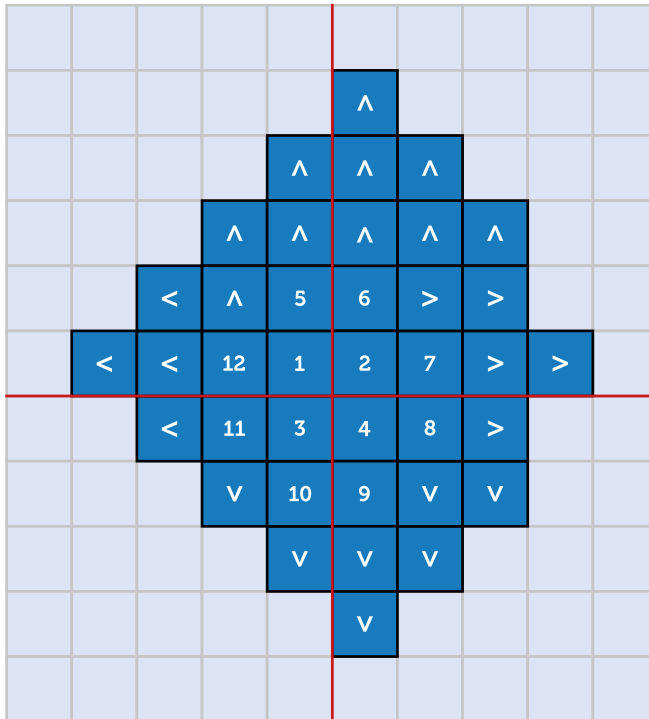
Hint – R-Tile installations are as simple as putting together a jigsaw puzzle, if the joints don't fit together without you having to force them, chances are you are doing something wrong. The first sign of trouble will always be if the tiles do not connect together with a simple tap of the hammer, this will indicate that the tiles are not lined correctly.

Installation

HERE TO START: The starting point for the open joint tiles should always be as close to the centre of the room as possible. The hidden joint tile should start from one corner of the room.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR R-TILE OPEN JOIN TILES:

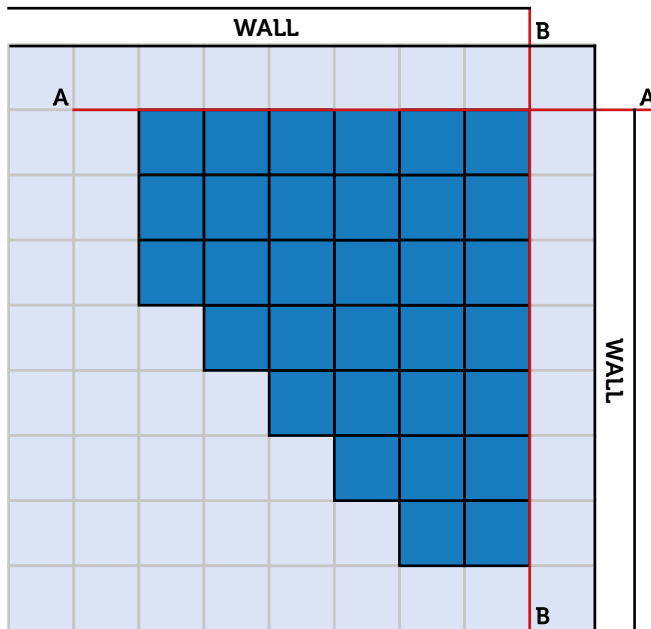
1. Start from as close to the centre of the room as possible.
2. Use a chalk or laser to create lines A-A and B-B. Make sure these lines are at right angles.
3. Using the rubber mallet, tap the line together, starting at the corner of the tile & working your way outwards towards the edge of the tile.
4. Work out in a circular pattern filling in the corners.
5. Once all full tiles have been installed allow the floor to settle before measuring and fitting finishing cuts.
6. Ensure that you allow at least 5mm expansion gap between the tiles and any fixed point.



Installation

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR R-TILE HIDDEN JOINT TILES:

1. Carefully measure 20cms out at each end of wall and use a chalk or laser to create lines A-A & B-B. Make sure the lines are at 90 degrees to each other.
2. Lay the tiles with the hidden joint to the walls and the exposed joints on the left. Very important – lay the first few rows perfectly straight, any mistake will impact the entire installation.
3. Lay the tiles from right to left always placing the hidden edge on top of the exposed. Line up the tabs at the corner to help align tiles. Install one row at a time, completing each row before beginning the next.
4. Cut in perimeter tiles allowing at least a 5mm expansion gap between the tile and any fixed point.

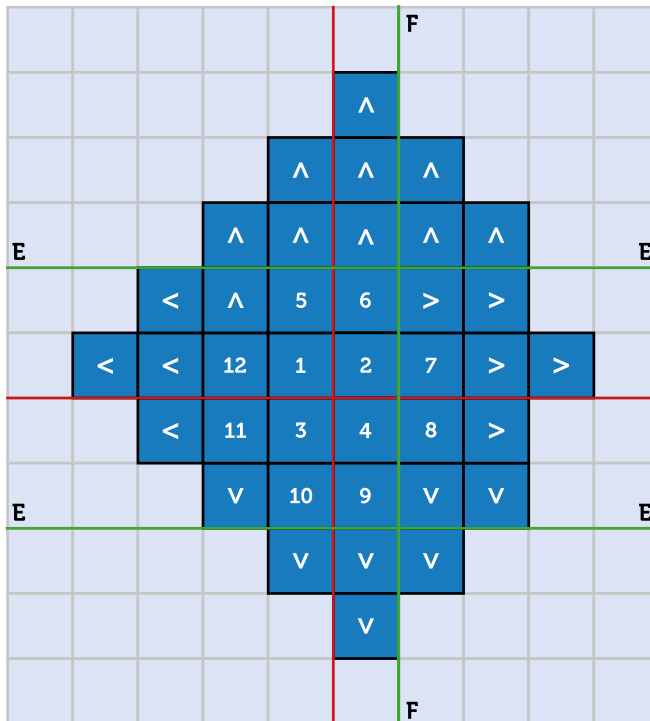


Installation

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR ESD INSTALLATION TILES:

ESD contains stainless steel fibres that may be visible on the surface of the tile. This is unavoidable and a fundamental part of the manufacturing process that ensures optimum ESD performance. Please check the tiles, if the marking is unacceptable do not continue with installation as we will not accept responsibility to replace or refund the cost of any goods after 10m² or more have been installed.

To achieve a fully ESD flooring the tiles need to be grounded. This is achieved by laying a grid of black conductive tape under the dove tail joints of two tiles so that it is in contact with every tile in one direction and 5m centres in the opposite direction (see Picture). One grounding point is needed for every 60 to 80m² of R-Tile ESD and / or one grounding point for each separate section / room of R-TILE ESD installed. Place the grounding point in the corners of the room or along the wall to avoid creating a trip hazard.



Installation

4. FITTING AND FINISHING

FOR THE PERFECT FINISH:

- Leave a minimum of a 5mm gap between the tiles and any fixed point (walls and machinery).
- Cover the 5mm expansion gap between the tiles and the walls with skirting profiles.
- Undercut wood doorjambs and slip the tiles underneath.
- With metal doorjambs cut the flooring material to within 5mm and then chalk around the jamb.
- Use R-Tile ramp and corner sections to create a mat area or provide safe access to wheeled traffic.
- The tiles may require gluing if they will be in direct sunlight.
- To keep your floor looking good give it a sweep on a regular basis and use a rotary scrubber dryer for routine maintenance.