

Tough Tile

Installation Instructions

Tough Tile interlocking tiles have been developed to solve some of the flooring industry's most common problems. Tough Tile provides quick and easy flooring for a vast range of commercial, residential and industrial applications. The secret to the simplicity of the Tough Tile flooring system lies in the unique Tough Tile design. This patented, interlocking design features a unique hidden joining and sealing method. The Tough Tile joining system enables you to lay the tiles quickly and easily on any firm, flat surface. For most applications, the tile is installed without adhesive. The following will make your installation of Tough Tiles quick and easy:

- Rubber mallet
- Utility knife to cut the tiles to shape
- Carpenter square
- Optional saws for cutting (see Loose Lay Installation below)
- Polyurethane or acrylic adhesive for caulk (optional—see Loose Lay Installation below)
- Vinyl adhesive (optional for reducer strip installation only)
- Knee pads (optional for comfort)

Features

- Fast and easy installation: No special tools or installation expertise required
- Little or no down time: Because Tough Tile requires no adhesives or curing, it accepts foot traffic and rolling loads immediately.
- Minimal sub-floor preparation: Tough Tile may be installed over any smooth, structurally sound sub-floor.
- Install over contaminated or moisture problem slabs: Tough Tile may be installed where other floors cannot, with huge cost savings!
- Install over new/uncured slabs: Tough Tile may be installed over uncured concrete, saving precious days in the construction schedule.
- Reusable: Tiles can easily be removed and re-laid in another area if required.
- Easily repaired: Damaged tiles are easily removed and replaced.

Job Site Conditions

Tough Tile is recommended for interior applications only. The areas to receive flooring should be weather-tight and maintained at a minimum uniform temperature of 65° F for 48 hours prior to and during the installation. The material must be acclimatized at room temperature for a minimum of 24 hours before starting the installation. Failure to acclimatize the tile prior to installation may result in variances in tile size and difficulty in joining the Tough Tile interlock.

Sub-Floor Preparation

Because of the Tough Tile interlocking system, only minimal sub-floor preparation is required or needed when the tile is installed. It is not necessary to remove old paint, epoxy coatings,

concrete sealers and/or curing compounds, oils, grease or other contaminants that normally must be removed.

Wood sub-floors must be rigid, free from movement and have at least 18" of well-ventilated air space below. Sub-floor should be smooth, rigid, flat and level.

- Remove base shoe moldings if present.
- Remove, grind/sand down any protrusions such as: nails, bolts or lumps in the sub-floor.
- Fill any large holes, voids or cracks using a cementitious base-patching compound.
- Sweep or vacuum floor to remove all dirt and debris.

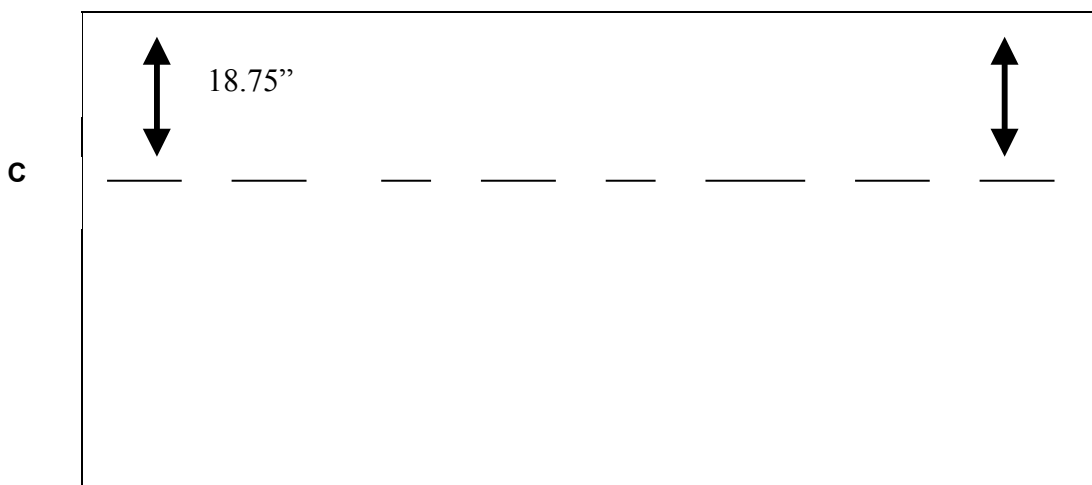
Loose Lay Installation

Installation of the tile should begin in a corner along the straightest wall. Leave a ¼" space between the tile and the wall to allow for the material to expand and contract with temperature changes.

Wood doorjamb can be undercut so the tile can slip underneath. With metal doorjamb, cut the flooring material to within 1/8" and then caulk around the jamb.

Cuts may be made using a carpenter square and utility knife with a sharp blade, table saw, band saw, tile cutter, Roto Zip™ or Dremel™. Border tiles should be cut ¼" away from the wall to allow for expansion and contraction of the tile due to temperature changes. If your application will have an excessive amount of fluids on the floor, it is recommended to caulk the gap between the wall and the tile using a polyurethane or acrylic adhesive commonly found at home improvement or hardware stores. To provide maximum expansion/contraction capabilities and to prevent the adhesive caulk from adhering to the concrete, place 2" wide masking tape tight to the wall, around the perimeter of the room and other permanent fixtures.

Carefully measure 18.75" out at each end of wall AB to create points C and D. Snap a chalk line between point C and D to create line CD (below).



Lay tiles smooth side down with the finished edge to the walls and the tab edges to the top (along the chalk line CD) and right side. It is very important to lay the first row very straight, as this will affect the entire installation.

Lay the tile from your left to your right always placing the finished edge on top of the tab edge. When installing each tile, line up the tabs at the corner to help align the *Tough Tile* joining system. Using a hard, no bounce, rubber mallet, tap tile together starting from the corner, working your way to the outside.

Install one row at a time, completing each row before beginning the next row. When installing the second and consecutive rows, line up the corner tabs. Using the rubber mallet, tap tiles together, starting at the corner and working your way out to each edge

Finishing Installation

If your application has an excessive amount of fluids on the floor, it is recommended to caulk the $\frac{1}{4}$ " gap between the wall using a polyurethane acrylic adhesive to prevent the fluids from seeping underneath the newly installed tile at the perimeter. These products are commonly found at home improvement or hardware stores.

Install wall base so that it barely rests on top of the tile and does not restrict the tiles ability to expand and contract.

Reducer Strips

My Gym Floor produces color-matched $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide reducer strips. Trim tile to desired size, apply a premium vinyl adhesive to the reducer flange that slips underneath the tile, slide reducer flange under tile and hand roll to ensure proper adhesive transfer. **Do not glue the reducer to the subfloor.**