

PORCELAIN INSTALLATION GUIDE

PREPARE

1. The success and longevity of tile installation rely on a solid base. Unless you are dealing with new construction, this usually means removing the original flooring material before installing your new tile.
2. Ceramic and porcelain tile should be installed on a clean, level, and rigid floor. If your floor flexes or has uneven areas, repair and add support where needed. Follow up with a cement board or fiber cement underlayment, as both are resilient to moisture and impervious to liquids
3. Choose your installation pattern. There are endless options, and the pattern should reflect the overall tone and look you are trying to achieve
4. Map out your installation. Measure to find the center of a room on two opposite walls and use these points to snap a chalk line across the room. Do the same on the other walls to create perpendicular lines, and check to ensure they are square.
5. Dry-fit your tile. Start from the center point, leaving enough space for grout joints. The goal is to work with as many full tiles as possible.

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INSTALLATION

1. Begin laying the tile from the center of the room, using your reference lines as a guide.
2. Spread thinset with the notched edge of a trowel. Larger tiles require more thinset and a larger notched trowel.
3. As you lay the tile, use plastic spacers to ensure straight grout lines. Remove the spacers before the thinset dries.
4. Clean up any excess thinset immediately, following the manufacturer's instructions.
5. After installing a few rows of tile, set them with a tile level and a mallet.
6. As you reach the perimeter of the room, cut and adjust tiles as needed to complete the installation. A wet-cut tile saw is recommended for cutting porcelain. Do not dry-cut using motorized equipment due to the potential exposure to harmful silica dust. Use a wet saw or a score-and-snap tool for necessary cuts during installation.
7. Allow the tile to set according to the manufacturer's instructions, then grout the tile.
8. Clean the tile surface with a damp sponge and clean water.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

As with any flooring material, general cleaning techniques for porcelain and ceramic tile depend on the surface, texture, and condition of the material. Water and a soft sponge are usually sufficient to clean the surface of M S International ceramic and porcelain products.

If using a cleaner other than water, opt for a neutral pH cleaner that will not affect the finish. Neutral cleaners are available at most home centers and tile showrooms. Always test the cleaner on a small area first.

For heavily soiled tile or stone, we recommend consulting a professional cleaning company to determine the proper cleaning technique.

FITTING AND POINTING

FITTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Installing ceramic tiles requires selecting the appropriate fitting technique based on all factors involved in the system. Below are some general recommendations to consider for correctly installing ceramic tiles.

Always read the manufacturer's recommendations and the data sheets for all products and materials used. It is essential to have qualified professional tilers perform the work to ensure the highest quality and the best final result in terms of both technical performance and appearance.

Important steps:

- STEP 01. SELECTING THE TILE AND DESIGNING THE TILING SYSTEM
- STEP 02. MARKING OUT THE AREA
- STEP 03. SURFACE PREPARATION
- STEP 04. INSTALLATION AND MOVEMENT JOINTS
- STEP 05. FITTING PROCESS
- STEP 06. GROUTING
- STEP 07. CLEANING

FITTING PROCESS



THE FLEXIBILITY OF LARGE SIZES

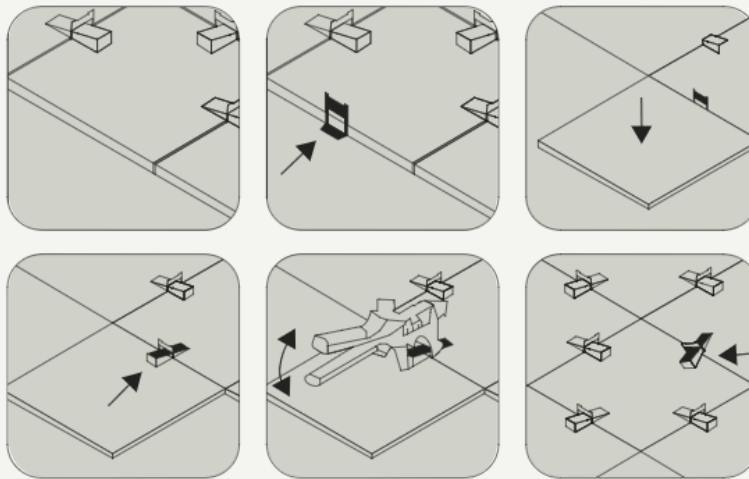
Flexibility is one of the key features of these tiles, which are proportionally thinner in relation to their length and width, making them easier to install. The mechanical properties of porcelain allow for the production of more flexible units without compromising resistance to breakage. Using clays with a high level of plasticity and a dry pressing process gives our tiles a degree of flexibility.

When the appropriate fitting systems available on the market are used, the resulting surface is perfectly flat and uniform.

Several systems are available to aid in the installation of large-format porcelain tiles. These systems mechanically adapt to the curvature of the tiles due to their flexibility, helping to overcome any unevenness in the floor. This improves the flatness of the final surface and prevents movement while setting.

One such system has been developed by Rubi. It reduces installation time and enhances performance. The system consists of reusable strips and caps, which are installed using pliers designed for precise adjustment and simple, accurate cutting of strips.

OPTION 1 LEVELLING SYSTEMS



THE IMPORTANCE OF GROUT

Cementitious grouts are particularly suitable for residential applications, such as bathrooms, kitchens, swimming pools, façades, balconies, and terraces. They are also ideal for commercial spaces, including floor tiles in supermarkets, restaurants, airports, and other public facilities, as well as industrial flooring.

When installing large or exterior tiles, using grout is especially important for the following reasons:

1. It significantly reduces the elastic modulus, thereby decreasing the rigidity of the cladding layer.
2. It improves control over joint regularity, enhancing the durability and ensuring the aesthetic, mechanical, and functional integrity of the installation.

For these and many other reasons, the UNI 11493 standard—"Floor and Wall Ceramic Tiling," published in June 2013—introduced several regulatory guidelines, including the requirement for a minimum joint width between tiles.