



# HOW TO INSTALL FLOOR TILES

## Installing tiles on concrete floors

While installing ceramic tile on a concrete floor may seem a bit daunting at first, it is actually one of the easier tile installations. Concrete is an ideal surface for installing ceramic tile, and most concrete floors need very little preparation. Installing ceramic tile over your existing concrete floors yourself will save you quite a bit of money, since hiring a contractor to do the job can be expensive.

For the Ceramic and Porcelain Tiles a special rating, the PEI (Porcelain and Enamel Institute) rating, has been developed as a guideline for quality and use of these tiles. We have included these ratings for your reference in the next table.

PEI RATING/TRAFFIC	APPLICATION
<b>PEI 1</b> Very light Traffic	Not suitable for foot traffic, use on walls only. Could possibly be used in a bathroom that gets very light traffic, such as a guest bathroom.
<b>PEI 2</b> Light Traffic	Walls, light residential traffic, including bathrooms and countertops. Not intended for high traffic areas such as kitchens or entryways
<b>PEI 3</b> Moderate Traffic	Suitable for all residential floors. May be ok with very light commercial use, but not generally recommended.
<b>PEI 4</b> Moderate to Heavy Traffic	Appropriate for light commercial use, including restaurants, hair salons, etc.
<b>PEI 5</b> Heavy Traffic	Suitable for heavy commercial or industrial use, highly resistant to

**Thinset mortars:** the most commonly used adhesive in tiling projects is thinset mortars.

**Grout:** Grout is applied to fill the joints between ceramic or stone tiles and also strengthens the entire surface, increases flexibility, helps prevent water damage to the subsurface and contributes to the design of the installation.

**TIP 1:** Make sure when buying to maintain the same batch number as tiles tend to vary, even if it is little bit slightly, in size and color.

**TIP 2:** One of the materials that must be carefully selected to ensure a successful tiling job are the adhesives, grouts and sealers.



### CHECKLIST

#### MATERIALS

Tile crosses

Grout sealer

Contour gauge

China marker

Glue/grout spreader

Sponge

Latex gloves

Groat float

#### TOOLS

Tile trowel

Rubber mallet

Tile cutter

Tile nipper/

compound tile plier

Tile saw

Considering the conditions on the island in terms of dust and sand, we advise to always apply PEI 4 or higher quality tiles for your living room and other high traffic floors in your home or company.

# Step 1:

Examine the floor to identify any cracks that will need to be fixed before beginning, and repair the floor accordingly.

# Step 2:

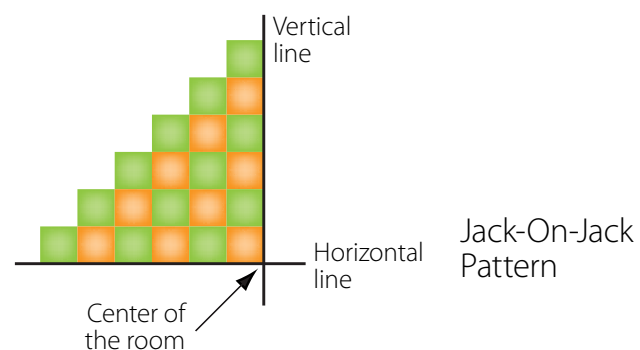
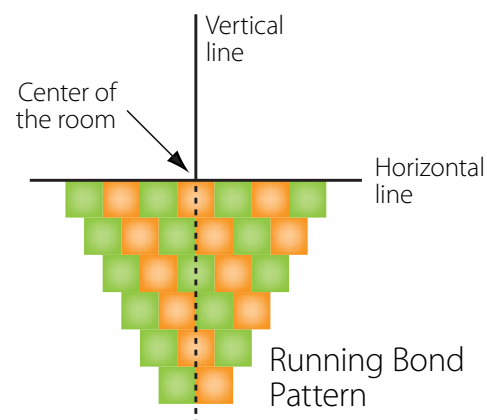
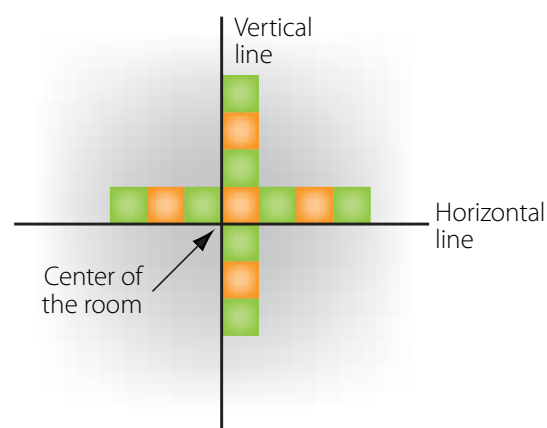
Survey the floor for uneven areas, and use the patching or leveling product according to the manufacturer's instructions to create an even surface. Allow this product to dry completely before going further.

# Step 3:

Evaluate your concrete surface. It should be clean, dry and free of defects. However, if the concrete is too smooth, the mortar will not stick, so use a concrete sander or acid etching agent to rough the surface up a little bit.

# Step 4:

Plan the layout of your tile, starting in the center of the room. This is important because you will most likely have to cut some tiles, and you will want the cut tiles to be in the most inconspicuous spots.



# Step 5:

Mix the thin-set tile mortar according to the manufacturer's instructions. Don't mix too much at one time, because it will begin to harden fairly quickly. A premixed adhesive can also be used.

# Step 6:

Use the trowel to spread the mortar over a small area. Then comb through it with a notched trowel. Press the tiles into the mortar, jiggling lightly to set. Use the spacers to ensure that the spacing between tiles is even.

# Step 7:

Allow the mortar to dry once all of the tiles are in place. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's specified drying time, and give the mortar ample time to dry.

# Step 8:

Mix the grout according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the grout float to liberally spread the grout over the tiles. Ensure that there aren't any uneven areas in the grout, and use a clean, damp rag to wipe the excess from the tile surface.





## Step 9:

Allow the grout time to set, and repeat Step 9. Allow the grout to dry completely this time.

## Step 10:

Use wet rags to wash the entire floor once it is completely dry. Allow it to dry, and rub the tiles with a dry cloth to remove any grout haze. You may want to use a grout sealer to prevent any stains.

**TIP 3:** It is recommendable to mix the grout with a latex additive instead of water, if the powdered grout you purchase does not contain a dry polymer. This increases flexibility, strength, color, retention and mildew and stain retention.



**TIP 4:** Always buy about 15% extra tiles to have a spare stock in case of cutting waste, repairs or other situations that may require adding to or replacing tiles on your wall or floor.

