



Disclaimer: Please note that installations can vary based on the product and the installation site, this guide is only intended to provide a basic guideline for installation. Always consult a professional before starting.

\* For any questions please contact us at 1-877-631-2845 and one of our sales representatives will be happy to assist you. For other useful information please refer to the tile council of North America's site.

### Step 1: Check & Clean Subfloor

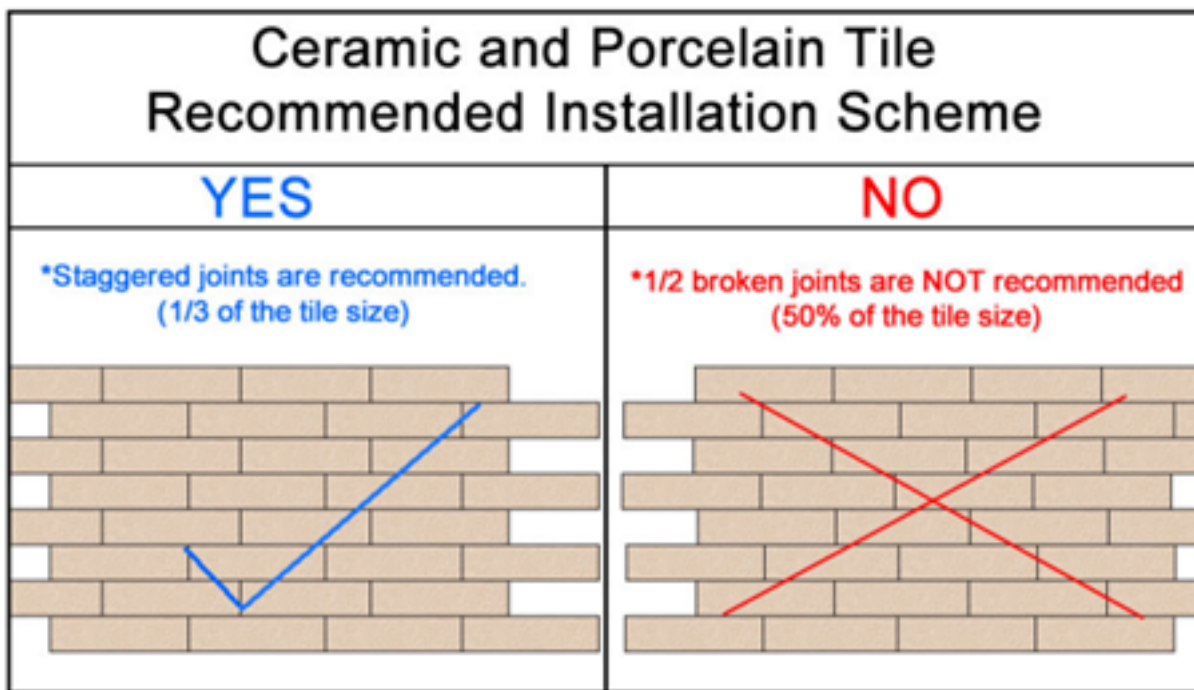
Ensure subfloor is flat, the quality of your installation will depend on this. Take your time to repair, patch, and level any damaged or uneven areas. Also for best results, make sure your subfloors are clean, smooth, and dry.

### Step 2: Layout & Chalk lines

Plan your layout to ensure you've dealt with all layout challenges beforehand, sketch and dry lay your tile. For an efficient layout, start by marking the center point in the room. Next, snap chalk lines between the center points to pinpoint the center of the room.

Starting at the center point, lay a row of loose tiles along the center lines in both directions, using tile spacers as you go to for even, uniform joints. Once you reach the walls, you'll need to cut tiles for a proper fit. If the cuts needed are smaller than half of a tile, you can adjust the center line by snapping a new line a half-tile size closer to the wall. If necessary, repeat this step along the intersecting center line for a precise design.

To make a large room more manageable, divide each section into smaller 2' x 3' grids by snapping additional lines parallel to the centerlines. For rectangular sized tiles, we recommend installation with staggered joints (1/3 of the tile size) to minimize bowing effect.





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**Tip:** For best results, the temperature of all tiling materials, room and adhesives should be at 50 (°F) to 70 (°F) degrees for 24 hours before, and 48 hours after, installation.

## **Step 3: Cutting the Tile**

Start by marking carefully measured cuts-to-be with a pencil or felt-tip pen on the tile surface. You can use a tile cutter to achieve pinpoint straight or diagonal cuts. Make curved cuts with a nipper, chipping away small pieces for best results. After your cuts are made, smooth out any sharp edges with a carborundum stone to give a soft finish to your tile.

## **Step 4: Mix & Apply Mortar**

Only mix enough of the mortar to be used within 30 minutes. Thoroughly mix the appropriate thin set for your project to a toothpaste consistency.

Using the flat side of the trowel type recommended on the mortar package, spread a 1/4" coat on the surface of one grid area without covering the guidelines.

After doing so, hold the trowel at a 45-degree angle and use the notched side to comb the mortar into standing ridges. When you remove the excess mortar, you leave behind a uniform, ridged setting bed for your tile. As another rule of thumb, do not spread a larger area of your mortar than can be set in 15 minutes.

## **Step 5: Set Tile**

Now that you've primed the surface, created the layout, cut the tile and applied the mortar, you are fully prepared for the actual installation of your tile.

Begin by installing tiles in the center of the room, one grid at a time, finishing each grid before moving to the next. Within each grid, it will help to start with the first tile in the corner and work outward.

Using a slight twisting motion, set tiles one at a time and avoid sliding them into place. Be sure to either insert spacers as each tile is set or leave equal joints between tiles. Save the perimeter tiles in each grid for last, leaving a 1/4 gap between the tile and wall.

Once a grid is completely installed, tap in all tiles with a rubber mallet or hammer and wood block to ensure a solid bond and level plane. Remove excess adhesive from joints with a putty knife and from tile with a damp sponge to prevent an uneven appearance.

**Tip:** Do not attempt to set tile into mortar which has dried. Set tile that must be cut last.

## **Step 6: Dry for at least 24 hours**

Allow your hard work at least 24 hours to set before walking on it. Avoid high traffic for 72 hours.



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## Step 7: Grout & Polish

After reading and following all instructions and precautions on the grout package, make only enough to use in a 30-minute period. As you remove the tile spacers and spread grout on the tile surface, use a rubber grout float or a squeegee to force it down into the joints.

Tilt the float at a 45-degree angle and with the edge of the float, remove the excess grout from the surface immediately. Now tilt the float at a 90-degree angle and scrape it diagonally across the tiles.

Once you've let the grout set slightly for around 15 to 20 minutes, use a damp sponge to clean any residue from the surface and smooth the grout joints. Make sure to rinse your sponge frequently and change the water when needed.

Polish with a soft cloth when the grout has dried and haze forms on the tile surface, and rinse again with sponge and clean water if necessary.

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