

The Mohawk Group

COMMERCIAL FLOOR TILE INSTALLATION

Temperature

Congoleum tile products are designed to be installed in enclosed, heated areas only.

For best results the tile should be installed at the same temperature as the room(s) will be when occupied or in service. The subfloor, all flooring material, and adhesive must be conditioned at a constant temperature between 65°F (18°C) and 85°F (29°C) for 48 hours before, during and 48 hours after installation. Thereafter, maintain room temperature between 55°F (13°C) and 100°F (38°C).

Failure to condition the materials and subfloor or maintain proper temperatures can lead to tile joint peaking or separation. Congoleum will not assume liability for installation or performance failures resulting from improper temperatures.

Storage and Handling

Proper storage of tile is necessary to prevent distortion. Store tile on a smooth floor in a clean, dry, interior area where it is protected from the elements. Ideal long-term storage temperatures range from 50°F (10°C) to 70°F (21°C). Storage on an uneven surface or in extreme temperature can cause distortion.

Limit stacking tile to five cartons high. Stack in straight tiers. Do not place heavy weight on top of cartons. Always handle cartons carefully and avoid dropping.

Suitable Substrates

Congoleum tile flooring is recommended for installation over properly prepared suspended wood floors, concrete on all grade levels, metal, terrazzo, ceramic and marble. Refer to Section II Subfloor Recommendations for details.

Composition tile can also be installed over approved, existing resilient flooring over on- and above-grade levels. Do not install tile over existing flooring installed below grade level.

Installation over existing flooring may reduce the indentation resistance of the new floor. The use of an embossing leveler is not recommended. The substrate must be clean, dry, smooth, structurally sound, and free of paint, varnish, oil, grease, wax, solvent and other foreign material than can affect the adhesive bond. Do not install tile in areas where excessive moisture, hydrostatic pressure, or alkali conditions exist.

GENERAL INFORMATION

When using tile from two or more cartons, make sure the pattern and shade numbers are the same. Pattern and shade numbers are stencilled on the outside of each carton. On large installations, mix tiles from several different cartons to help blend minor shade variations.

Tiles with arrows printed on the back should be installed with arrows pointing in the same direction unless stated otherwise on the carton insert. Alternating direction may be specified for composition tile.

ADHESIVES

| PRODUCT | ADHESIVE | TROWEL | APPROX. COVERAGE SQ. FT./GALLON |
|---|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Forum Solids | AD72 | 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" | 125-135 |
| Choices Alternatives Special Effects Selections CX Series | AD42 | 1/16" x 1/32" x 1/32" | 250-300 |
| | *Cut-back Adhesive | Refer to Adhesive manufacturer's recommendations | |

AD42 Clean Thin-Spread Tile Adhesive

AD42 is a clear, thin-spread tile adhesive designed for installing composition tile over suspended wood, concrete on all grade levels, metal, terrazzo, ceramic, marble, and approved resilient floor covering installed over on- and above-grade levels. Do not use AD42 for installing Forum Solids.

AD72 Latex Adhesive

AD72 is a wet-set adhesive designed for installing Forum Solids over suspended wood and concrete on all grade levels. AD72 is not recommended for use over existing resilient floor covering or other nonporous surfaces.

*Cut-Back Adhesive

A high-quality asphalt cut-back adhesive can be used for installing vinyl composition tile over concrete and metal floors and on renovation jobs where existing floor tile was removed and a residual asphaltic adhesive is remaining. Refer to manufacturer's recommendations for warranty, application and cautionary information.

CAUTION: Solvent-based asphalt cut-back adhesive is a flammable mixture. Read and follow cautions on container label.

⚠ WARNING: Some previously manufactured asphalt cut-back adhesives may contain asbestos.

In preparation for new floor tile, residual cut-back adhesive must be scraped to a thin, smooth film following recommended work practices in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations. See Warning Statement on inside cover.

Precautions

The use of the correct adhesive and proper application is critical for quality, trouble-free installation. Excessive amounts of adhesive will result in telegraphing or exudation (oozing) between the tile in service depending upon the type of adhesive used; whereas, insufficient coverage, caused by spreading too thin or using worn trowels, will prevent proper adhesion of the tile.

Some concrete floors are excessively porous and absorptive. Premature set-up of the adhesives is first-hand evidence of excessive absorptivity (i.e., when adhesive sets up in less open time than specified on the label). This condition can be corrected by priming the subfloor with the required adhesive (using a straightedge steel trowel for application of the adhesive). The prime coat should be as thin as possible.

ROOM LAYOUT

IMPORTANT: Avoid positioning tile seams directly over the underlayment joints or seams in the old floor covering.

There are two basic tile layouts: square and diagonal. Two or more colors from the same or coordinating product lines can also be mixed or matched to create decorative borders and special effects.

Square Layout

- Place a mark in the center of the floor at each end of the room. Snap a chalk line down the center of the floor to connect the marks (AB).
- Find the center of the line and snap a second chalk line (CD) at a right angle using the 3', 4', 5' method to form a right angle (Figure 1).

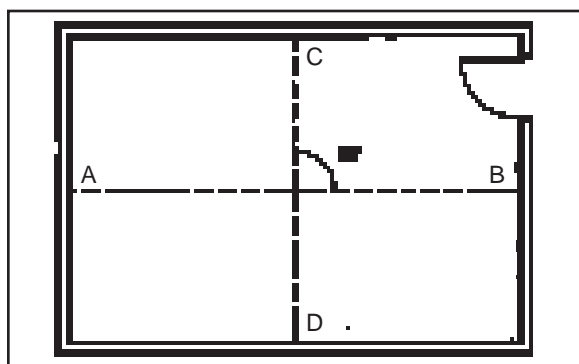


Fig. 1. Square layout

Starting at the center of the room, lay a row of loose tiles along the chalk lines to one end wall and one sidewall. If the distance between the edge of the last full tile and the wall is less than a half tile, establish a new center line(s) one-half the dimension of a full tile away (Figure 2).

When installing tile in irregular shaped rooms, check the size of the last tile along all walls and adjust the centerlines if necessary to achieve the best layout.

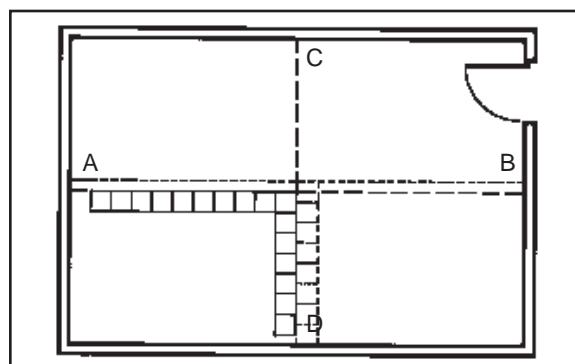


Fig. 2. Adjust the center line(s).

Diagonal Layout

- Lay out the center and perpendicular lines as previously covered under Square Layout.
- Place a mark on each line, an equal distance away from the center point (E, F, G, H).
- Using a slightly larger measurement, swing an arc on both sides of each line from points E, F, G, H. Snap diagonal chalk lines at the point where the marks intersect (Figure 3). If done correctly, the chalk lines will intersect the center point.

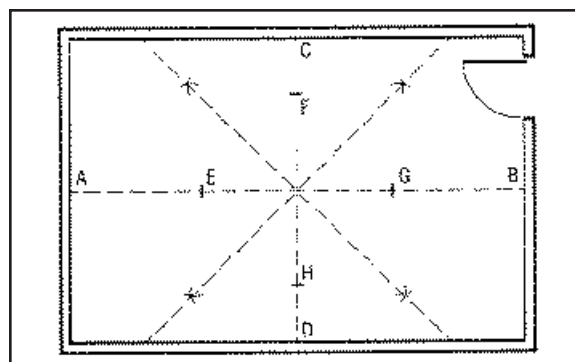


Fig. 3. Diagonal layout.

If the layout includes a border, adjust the size of the border to allow half tiles to be used at the edge of the field tiles. When using two different colors, i.e. checkerboard design, it will be necessary to adjust

the layout to allow the same colored tile to be used at the edge of the field.

To adjust the layout, snap new diagonal chalk lines one-half the distance of a full tile away from the original lines (Figure 4). It may also be necessary to adjust the size of the border.

The chalk lines on both square and diagonal layouts will serve as guidelines for positioning the tile and adhesive application.

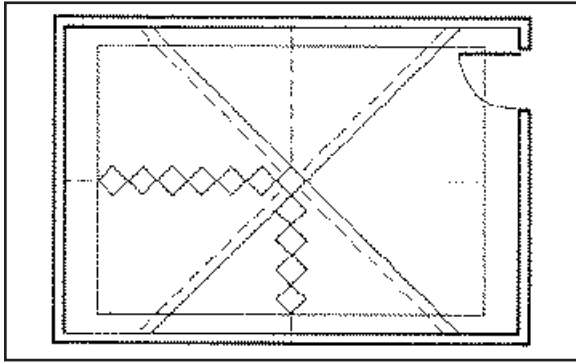


Fig. 4. Adjust the layout to allow the same colored tile to be used at edge of the field.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

COMPOSITION TILE (ALTERNATIVES, CHOICES, CX SERIES, SELECTIONS, AND SPECIAL EFFECTS)

Prepare the subfloor and determine the layout as previously described.

Use AD42 Adhesive for installing the listed products.

Spread the adhesive with a 1/16" x 1/32" x 1/32" semicircular notch trowel. Adhesive can be spread over one-half of the floor provided it can be covered with tile in approximately 6 hours. Periodically check trowel for wear, particularly on concrete floors. Worn trowels should be re-notched or replaced.

Allow the adhesive to dry to a tack before starting to install tile. The adhesive is dry when opaque color has changed to translucent amber and the adhesive does not transfer to the finger when pressed into it lightly. Drying time varies with temperature and humidity. A typical set-up time is 45-60 minutes.

Tiles should be laid starting at the center of the room, working towards the wall. The border tiles should be scribed to the wall, cut and fitted in place after the field tiles have been installed.

Set the tiles into position. Position each tile tightly against the edges of the previously installed tiles before pressing down firmly. Do not slide tiles into position.

Immediately upon completion, roll the entire floor diagonally to the joints in both directions with a minimum 100-pound, three-section roller.

Remove any adhesive that gets on the face of the tile with a clean, white cloth dampened with mineral spirits or lighter fluid.

CAUTION: Mineral spirits and lighter fluid are extremely flammable. Read and follow cautions on container label.

Reroll the entire floor after one to two hours.

Do not wash or apply polish to the floor for a minimum of 48 hours after installation.

FORUM SOLIDS

Prepare the subfloor and determine the layout as previously described. Use AD72 Latex Adhesive for installing Forum Solids.

Either of the following starting locations may be selected when installing tile in wet-set adhesive.

1. Start installing tile at the center of the room working out toward the walls (Figure 5).
2. An alternate method to starting at the center of the room involves shifting the center lines out toward the walls furthest from the doorway (Figure 6). Position the new lines 2' to 3' from the wall depending on your reach and the tile layout. This method will help to reduce tile shifting and eliminate the need to work on freshly laid tile.

Spread the adhesive with a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notched trowel. Do not apply AD72 Adhesive to an area larger than can be tiled in approximately 20 minutes. After spreading the adhesive, wait for it to become tacky before installing the tile, but DO NOT allow the adhesive to skin over. (This waiting time can vary according to humidity and porosity of the subfloor.) Skinned-over adhesive must be scraped up and replaced with fresh adhesive.

Install tile according to room layout. Position each tile lightly against the previously laid tile with corners lined up and press firmly into adhesive. Avoid sliding tile into position to prevent adhesive from squeezing up between tiles. Periodically check to be sure at least 95% of the adhesive pattern has transferred to the back of the tile.

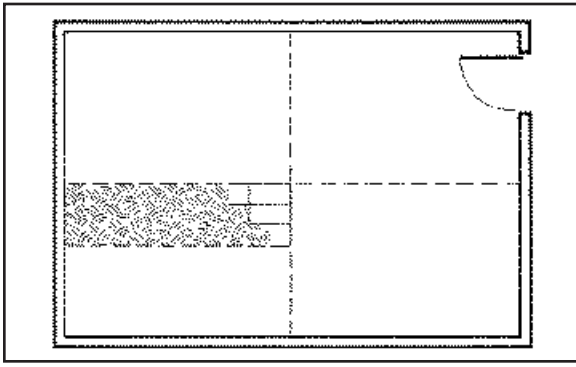


Fig. 5.

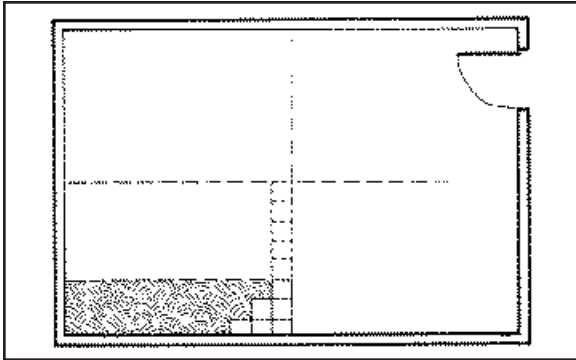


Fig. 6.

Remove adhesive smears from tile surface and joints immediately with a clean, white cloth and soapy water. Dried adhesive can be removed with a cloth dampened with mineral spirits or light fluid.

CAUTION: Mineral spirits and lighter fluid are extremely flammable. Read and follow cautions on container label.

Roll the installed flooring diagonally to tile joints in both directions with a minimum 100-pound, three section, steel roller immediately after completing each section.

Reroll the entire floor after one or two hours. Use a steel hand roller to level raised corners or edges.

Do not wash or apply polish to the floor for a minimum of 72 hours. Restrict heavy or rolling traffic for 24 hours.

CUTTING AND FITTING

Cut and fit border tiles after installing field tiles. Exception: Cut and fit border tile immediately before adhesive skins over when installing Forum Solids tile in wet-set adhesive (AD72) to avoid shifting. As an alternate method, dry fit tile prior to spreading adhesive.

Straight Walls

1. Place tile to be cut, hereafter called Tile A, precisely over the tile in the row closest to the wall.
2. Lay another tile, hereafter called Tile B, tight against the wall and directly over Tile A, (Figure 7).

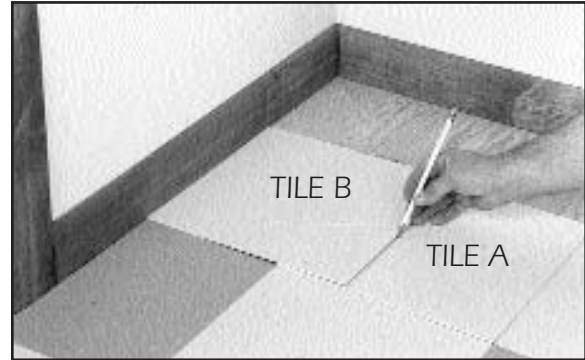


Fig. 7. Fitting to straight walls.

3. Using the edge of Tile B, as a guide, mark Tile A with a pencil.
4. Cut along the pencil line or score along the line with a utility knife and snap off the excess trim material.
5. Place the tile into position with the cut edge along the wall and press firmly.
6. Where arrows are marked on the back of the tile, the tile should be installed with the arrows facing in the same direction, unless specifically instructed to do otherwise.

Irregular Walls/Obstacles

Use direct scribing or pattern scribing to fit tile to irregular shapes.

Direct Scribe

1. Place tile to be cut, hereafter called Tile A, along the wall, overlapping the last whole tile.
2. Place a mark along the back edge of Tile A (Figure 8).
3. Set dividers to the distance between the mark and the edge of the tile (Figure 9).
4. Reposition the tile and scribe (Figure 10).
5. Heat the tile from the back before cutting.

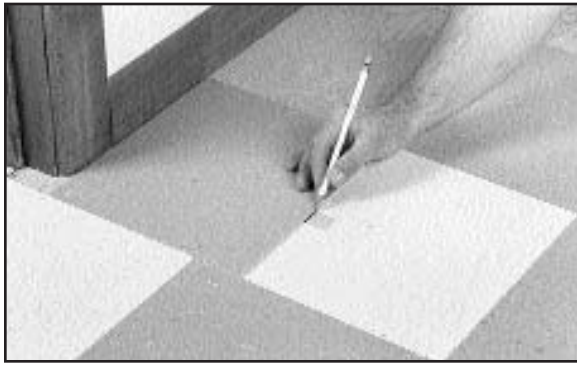


Fig. 8.

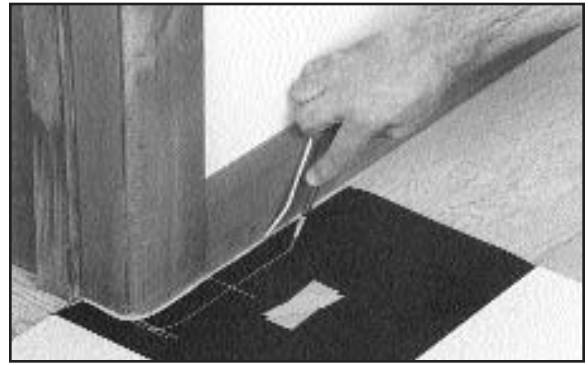


Fig. 11.

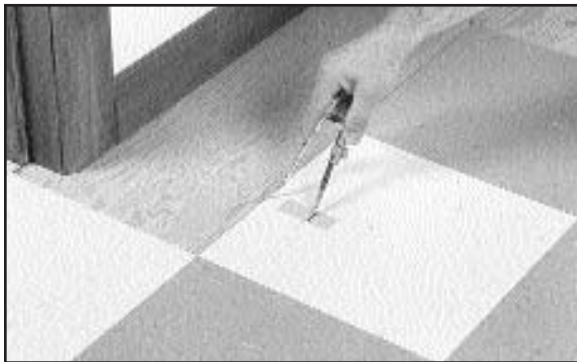


Fig. 9.

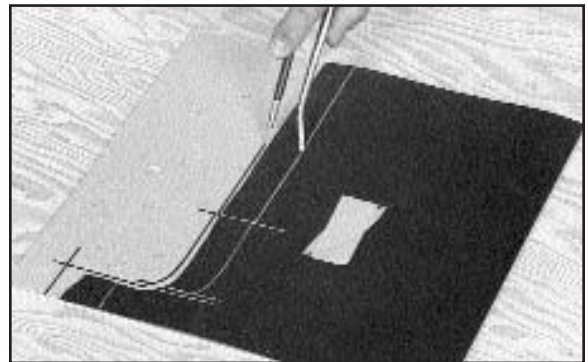


Fig. 12.



Fig. 10.

4. Remove the felt and reposition it accurately on a piece of tile. Transcribe the marks (Figure 12). Heat the back of the tile before cutting.

Diagonal Layout

Make a square template out of rigid sheet flooring or other rigid material. Use the exact dimensions of the tile when measured diagonally from corner to corner. (The diagonal dimension of a 12" x 12" tile is approximately 17".)

Follow the steps for fitting straight walls on square layouts, using the templates in place of Tile B (Figure 13).

Pattern Scribing

TIP: Cover adhesive with wax paper to avoid adhesive transfer if scribing felt is used. Remove wax paper before installing the tile.

1. Cut a piece of scribing felt the exact size of the tile.
2. Position the felt in the area to be fit and trim approximately 1/4" (6.4 mm) short of the walls.
3. Scribe the felt with dividers and extend reference lines (Figure 11).

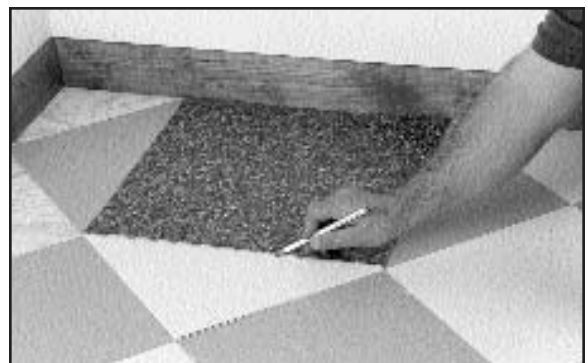


Fig. 13.

Radiator legs should never rest directly on the tile; they must be set on small pieces of metal having the same thickness as the tile. The metal should be

inserted prior to installation in a hole cut or punched in the tile. **NOTE:** Tile cuts easier and is less likely to break when heated.

Congoleum[®]