

GUIDE TO INSTALLING THE TRU-LOCK™ INTERLOCKING PVC TILES

The following guide contains some important aspects to consider when installing the Tru-Lock™ Interlocking PVC Tiles that you may enjoy a quality finish and enjoy the installation experience.

This guide is focused solely on installation techniques recommended by Joynt Flooring and should you require product specific information, please refer to our **Tru-Lock™ Product Specifications Guide**. Tru-Lock™ can be Free-Laid (no adhesive) or Fully Adhered using Tru-Glu Adhesive. Please refer to our **Tru-Lock™ Applications Guide** to see which system is best suited to your application.

Prerequisite for areas to be tiled with Tru-Lock™ Tiles

- » Ensure tiles are acclimatised to the area in which they are being laid for 24 hours
- » The area must not receive intense, all-day direct sunlight if Free-Laid (no adhesive)
- » The substrate must be hard and level as the tiles finish will reflect the quality of the existing substrate
- » Tru-Lock Tiles can be installed onto any floor that is clean, level and firm - It is better to install when the temperature is between 16 – 24 C°
- » All severe cracks and holes must be filled - (Polyfilla Rockset or similar recommended)
- » Ensure sufficient lighting and power is available
- » Remove any heavy soiling using a diamond grinder
- » Sweep any loose debris and dust clear of the area
- » Ensure the floor is dry. A damp test is recommended for areas to be adhered
- » **Tools Free-Laid** - Knee-Pads, Gloves, Utility Knife (Fixed Blade), Straight Edge Square, Chalk Line, Dead-Blow Mallet or Claw Hammer, Bolster, Screwdriver, Broom and Mop.
Tools Fully Adhered – In addition to Free-Laid Tools, Thinners, Mutton Cloth, 2mm Notched/Serrated Trowel (for spreading glue), »»

Setting Out

- Setting out for a non-adhered and fully adhered floor is the same. I will guide you for a smaller/DIY installation as we recommend our experienced fitting teams for areas greater than 150 m².
- Firstly, you will want to chalk a starting line that will take the wastage as the main consideration. In my experience, I have found the easiest way to gauge this line is to interlock a double row of tiles for both the length and width of the room and shift them so you can have a better visual layout of where the mats will run. As an example, it is nice to have a full mat centred at a doorway adjoining two rooms. But minimising wastage is most important.
- Now that you have a good idea on your starting line, use a chalk-line to strike a true visible line. As the tiles are flexible, this line will serve as a means to keep the line straight as you progress further with the rest of the laying.

Laying

- For the most part, free-laid tiles can be readjusted at any time during the installation. The glued tiles, using Tru-Glu will begin to bond in twenty minutes and become very difficult to correct should you line go out. My suggestion is to glue down a row of two tiles wide for the length of the room and within fifteen minutes, use a mallet to gently tap into a straight line.
- Thereafter, leave the glue to begin curing for 15 min. In this time, the glue would have adhered and/or cured sufficiently to allow you to continue joining to the laid tiles without disturbing your line. Be sure to keep a cloth on hand to wipe away glue that may surface through the joins.
- For about every 20 m² of free-laid tiles, be sure to flap the tiles as you would a carpet. This will help the floor to settle better and evenly by equalising the stresses at the joins evenly.
- When joining two Tru-Lock mats together, be sure to use your one hand to tap the joins gently while using your opposite hand to “feed” or guide the joins into their position before tapping them neatly together.
- It is very important to tap gently and not hammer the tiles together as you will likely bend the underlying joint which will affect your surface finish.
- Cutting should be done with a sharp blade. Several light cuts are better than one heavy cut. Always cut away from yourself from front to back. Use a cutting board to prevent damage to the subfloor.
- It is important to leave a 3-5mm gap between the tiles and the wall to allow for expansion and settling of the floor