Faux Finish Tile
Installation Instructions

Faux Finish Tile is an 18.5" x 18.5" (2.38 ft^2/tile) interlocking floor tile. Faux Finish Tile is designed to be a free-lay system and does not require use of adhesives. Adhesive free installation combined with 100% vinyl composition means Faux Finish Tile can perform effectively in basements and other damp areas where other flooring products frequently fail. Due to the large size of the tiles, when estimating a job, a general waste or contingency factor of 3 - 5% may be required. The following will make your installation of Faux Finish Tiles quick and easy:

- ☑ A lightweight plastic or lightweight dead-head hammer
- ☑ A utility knife in conjunction with a straight edge
- ☑ A carpenter's square
- ☑ A chalk line
- ☑ A jig saw, orbital or similar cutting tool for irregular cuts (optional)
- ☑ A table saw with a fine-tooth blade (for making multiple cuts). Use extra caution to ensure tiles do not grab on the saw blade (optional).
- ☑ End Cut Template (optional—instructions for preparing a Template are below)

Receiving and Storing
Faux Finish Tile is shipped in boxes containing ten tiles. Never store the tiles upright. Stack the boxes of tiles (or loose tiles) on a flat surface with the edges of the boxes flush to one another. Improper storage or overhanging edges will distort the shape of the tiles and cause difficulty when installing. Allow the tiles to acclimate to the installation environment for a minimum of 48 hours. If Faux Finish Tile has been shipped or stored in cold conditions, then acclimate the tiles for at least 72 hours. This is critical. Tiles that are less than 68° degrees F during installation may be difficult to install. Cold tiles will warm more quickly if the cartons are unstacked and opened.

Preparing the Sub-floor
Faux Finish Tile may be installed over concrete, wood, asbestos tile, rubber, vinyl composite tiles and other standard floors. Faux Finish Tile is not recommended for installation over carpets or any floor that is designed to compress or move.
- Remove all debris, sweep and vacuum the floor if necessary.
- Repair any major surface imperfections (cracks over 3/8") in the sub-floor.
- It is recommended that Faux Finish Tile be installed over existing floors. Appropriate caution and procedures must be used in the event a preexisting resilient floor covering is to be removed.
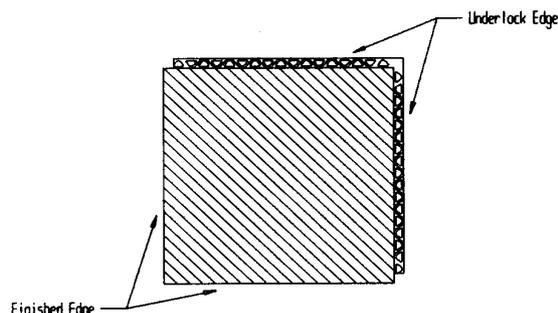
Basic Design Features
Each tile is comprised of a
- 2.38 ft2 finished surface,

- Two adjacent sides that are below and extend ¾" beyond the finished surface. These will be hidden when the tiles are interlocked (the Underlock Edges)
- Two adjacent finished sides with matching interlocks molded under the finished surface (the Finished Edges). The Finished Edges will be placed *over* the Underlock Edges during installation
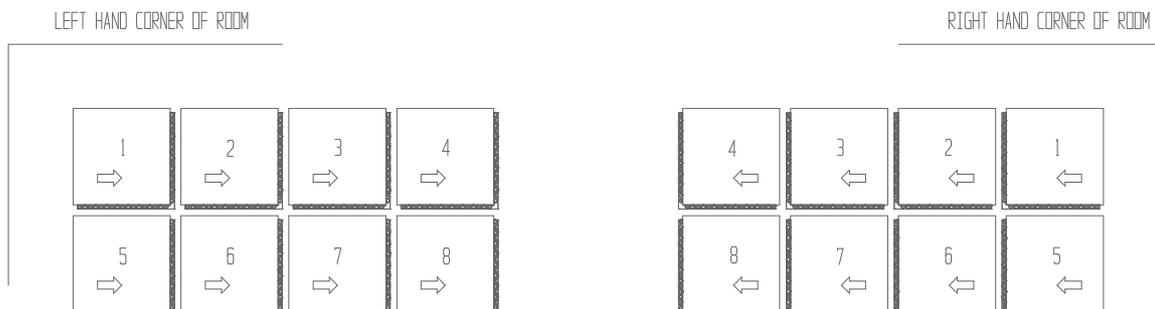
Figure 1

Planning Your Layout

Faux Finish Flooring is designed with a directional hidden interlock system that must *always* face the same way. It is helpful to think of the point where the two Underlock Edges come together as the point of an arrow, pointing you in the direction to install tiles. With this interlock feature it is easier and more effective to work in rows beginning from a corner. At your starting point the Finished Edges should be facing INTO the corner. This can be done working *either* out of a left hand corner (working left to right) or a right hand corner (working right to left).

Figure 2

Once your starting line is properly established ALWAYS MAINTAIN THE SAME ORIENTATION FOR EACH TILE, line up the edges of the tile and position a Finished Edge over the Interlock Edge.

Interlocking the Tiles

Once the tiles are precisely lined up they may usually be pressed together by hand. It is generally most effective to begin interlocking the tiles at the midpoint of each seam and then work towards the ends. If you are using your hands you will feel the interlock snap into place. Once the edges begin to snap into place, press along the seam towards each end using your hand or by firmly tapping the interlocks using a dead head hammer. CAUTION: IF THE TILES ARE NOT INTERLOCKING DO NOT HIT HARDER WITH THE HAMMER. THIS WILL DEFORM THE INTERLOCKS AND PREVENT PROPER INSTALLATION.

HINTS: Make sure the tiles are warm prior to installation. A slight amount of "cupping" is normal to the product. This will flatten out over time but can interfere with proper match-up of the interlocks during initial installation. Odd as it seems, the easiest way to install the tiles is to use your stocking feet. Use your heel to press the interlock in place and the work towards the ends. This is effective because the added weight of your feet over a greater surface area flattens the tile and facilitates proper matching of the interlocks. Sections of the seams may pop up during installation; go back over these areas with your feet or the hammer to flatten them.

Establishing a Starting Point

Like all tile products, layout planning begins by finding the center of the room or area to be covered and establishing perpendicular lines to guide your layout. Use the method outlined below to then create Guide Lines along the two walls of the starting corner. Using these methods will provide a square installation with balanced cut rows along each wall. For simpler installation with fewer cuts see Step 6.

1. Determine which corner will be your starting point. Do not start in a corner with a doorway.
2. Locate the center of the room by snapping a chalk line between the midpoints of two parallel walls. Measure and mark the midpoint of that line. Use a carpenter's square to establish a line perpendicular to the first line at the midpoint and snap a perpendicular chalk line extending to the walls. This will create a cross that intersects at the center of the room, such as in Figure 3.
3. Starting from the intersection of the Center Lines determine how many full rows of tiles are required in each direction. You may determine this either by calculation (using multiples of 18 ½") or by laying tiles along the lines to the walls. NOTE: the hidden Underlock Edge that extends beyond the top, finished surface, is *not* to be included in these measurements.
4. Mark the point near the wall where the last full row will end. Measure the length from that point back to the Center Line. Draw at least two more lines of that length from the Center Line back towards the wall. Make sure they are square to the Center Line and mark their endpoints. Using those marks, snap a chalk line along the wall. This line will be parallel to the Center Line. See dotted lines in Figure 3.
5. Repeat Steps 3 & 4 for the other wall that adjoins the Starting Corner.
6. Following Step 5, if you find that the tile required to fill the final cut row along the wall is less than 1/3 of a tile you may want to consider beginning with a full tile against the wall. In this case follow all of the steps above. Measure from the center line to a point 1/4" from the wall. Mark a point the same length along the lines you drew in Step 4. Snap a chalk line along the wall. This is your starting line.
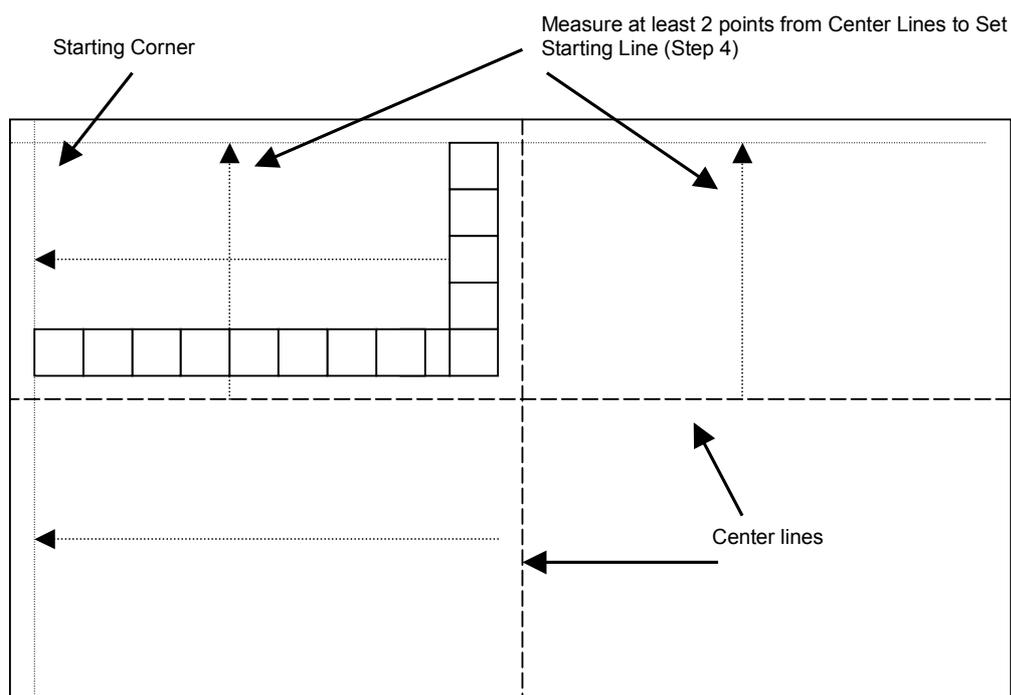
Starting Corner

Measure at least 2 points from Center Lines to Set
Starting Line (Step 4)

Figure 3

Center lines

Installing Tiles

Position the first tile in the Starting Corner. Make sure it is aligned with and flush with both lines.
Orient the tiles as shown in **Figure 2.** Install Row 1. Keep the first row flush to established lines
at all times. When the first row is complete, return to the starting corner and begin another row.
Continue until the main part of the floor is installed.

1. FLATTEN TILES TO LINE UP INTERLOCKS. If cupped tiles are causing difficulties
   getting the tiles to interlock, kneel or stand on the cupped tiles to flatten them. This will
   help the interlocks match up.
2. DUE TO ANY RESIDUAL EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION THAT MAY OCCUR
   DURING INSTALLATION, CUT AND INSTALL ALL PERIMETER TILES AT THE END
   OF THE JOB.
3. MAKE SURE TO LEAVE A ¼" GAP FROM THE EDGE OF THE TILES TO THE WALL,
   COLUMNS OR ANY VERTICAL OBSTRUCTION. Cover expansion spaces with cove
   base. When expansion cut is exposed, if desired, fill area with a matching colored silicon
   caulk to allow movement and prevent dirt accumulation.
4. Faux Finish is durable—but not indestructible. Care should be given not to scratch the
   tiles during installation.

Fitting Partial Tiles

To complete the job you will install partial tiles around the perimeter of the room
1. Create an End Cut Template by removing both of the Underlock edges (**Figure 1**) from a
   tile. Make clean cuts.
2. Beginning in a corner, place a loose tile over the installed corner tile. Line up the edges
   precisely. BE SURE THAT THE INTERLOCKS ARE ORIENTED IN THE SAME WAY
   AS THE INSTALLED TILE.
3. Place spacers against the wall you are working against. Butt the End Cut Template
   against the spacers. Template over the tile to be cut. Line up edges and mark your line.

4. Cut tile using the methods and safety procedures suggested below
5. Lift the Overlock Edge of the Row 1 Tile, slide the partial tile into position and tap interlocks
6. Continue using this method around the perimeter of the room

Cutting

When cutting Faux Finish, the installer must exercise appropriate safety precautions. Protective eyewear and gloves must be worn. The following cutting tools are all appropriate tools for cutting Faux Finish tiles:

☑ Utility knives or carpet knives. Score the tile until it is cut all the way through. Always have a supply of sharp blades on hand.
☑ A jigsaw or orbital saw can be used for shaped cuts.
☑ A straight edge and/or carpenter's square can be used to ensure straight and square cuts.