HOW TO TILE A FLOOR

PREPARATION

Ensure the surface of the floor has been cleared of any dirt and debris as this could prevent the adhesive from sticking effectively to the underlying substrate.

SNAP CHALK LINES

Measure to find the centre of the room, and snap two chalk lines that intersect exactly in the centre of the floor.

DRY LAYING

An advantage you have with tiling a floor over tiling a wall is you can dry lay a few rows of tiles first and therefore make necessary cuts and adjustments to tiles beforehand.

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SNAP ANOTHER CHALK LINE

Snap an additional chalk line the width of a tile out from each wall. This will help keep the tile placement perfectly straight. Continue laying out tiles and spacers until placement is correct.

MIX THE THIN-SET MORTAR

Use a self-mix thin-set mortar for the tile installation. Pour just about an entire bag of the dry mixture into a large bucket. Add just enough water to get the dry mixture wet, and begin mixing. Continue to mix until the texture is creamy. Then let the mortar stand for about 10 minutes to get tacky.

APPLY THE MORTAR

When the mortar is ready, begin working on one section of the floor. Spread the mixture on a 2'x2' section of the floor and use a notched trowel to obtain an even layer of mortar. Work in small sections to keep the mortar from drying before the tile is in position.

LAYING FLOOR TILES
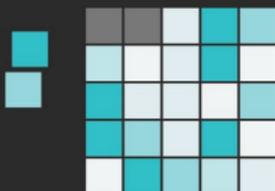
Starting from the middle of the floor will ensure you will lay a greater amount of whole tiles and any cuts will be made near the edge of the room which is less noticeable.

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SPREADING ADHESIVE

It's important you spread an even layer of adhesive in order to avoid an uneven tiled floor. Also if you are using fast set adhesive don't leave too long an interval between laying tiles as it may set in the meantime!

LEAVE YOURSELF AN ESCAPE ROUTE!

You shouldn't walk on freshly laid tiles for 24 hours so if you are tiling out from the middle of the room, lay rows of tiles towards the wall furthest away from the door to avoid blocking yourself in

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