



Hard Surfaces Technical Bulletin

Installation Tips for Ceramic Patterned Laminate Flooring

Lay out several planks in order to determine the best installation pattern for the area. Visually, the most appealing layout will have the same width of tile at both sides of the room. Also, the width of the first row of tile planks should be approximately the same width as the last row. This may require cutting the first row plank to a smaller width. Measure across the room (inches) and divide by the width of a tile plank to see how many full width planks will be used, and what size width will be needed for the last row. The last row should never be less than 2" in width.

When Installing the Shaw Ceramic Patterned Laminate flooring, it is important to fully measure the room to be installed and determine if the walls in the room are square to each other in the corners, or if the walls are running "out of square".

Ceramic Look Laminate planks should be staggered using a full board to start the first row, with a half board used to start the second row with alternation of this stagger pattern.

The width measurement of the room may require that the full start board may need to be shortened in order to achieve the same size cut tile at each end of the row. For this reason, it is advisable that you add approximately 13% waste factor into the required square footage of the installation area. Installations diagonal to the walls of a room will increase this waste factor to approximately 15%.

Grouted tile planks may have slightly thinner or thicker grout areas on one end of the plank or the other. In order to make the grout lines appear uniform throughout the installation, planks with thin grout lines at the end should be mated to planks with thicker grout lines on the ends.

The **center** of each grout line should be used when aligning the grout lines in the tile planks with those of the previous row. This will allow slightly larger or smaller grout widths to appear straight and uniform when viewed across the room. Any variances in the grout line thickness are minimized by splitting the variance to both sides of the center line. **Do not** line up grout lines using either the right or left edges.