

Installation Instructions

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

1. Clean the subfloor and make sure it is smooth, flat and dry. Remove any contaminants.
2. Floor should not exceed a dip of 3/16 inch in 10 feet and 1/16 inch in 1 foot. If not, level subfloor using recommended leveling treatments such as self leveler.
3. For concrete slabs, moisture level should be below 80% relative humidity. Ensure concrete is cured for 28 days before install.
4. Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and deflection free. Repair squeaky floor prior to installation. Sand down high spots or fill low spots with patching compound. For structural issues, please consult with a professional.
5. Check doorframe clearance by placing locking tile with underlayment against the doorframe. Mark the height and saw the door and doorframe to the marked height if needed.

CONNEXION UNDERLAYMENT

6. Starting in the corner, lay out the underlayment with the lip and tape side toward the open side of the room.
7. Install parallel to the wall in the opposite direction as you plan to install the flooring.
8. Align the second row of underlayment to the first row and continue in the same manner, making sure that the foam seams are butted together. Be sure to overlap only the moisture barrier lip and not the underlayment pad.
9. Remove the adhesive liner and adhere the underlayment to the film overlap.

Step 1-5



Step 6-9



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LAYING CONNEXION™

Acclimation in Freezing Climates: Connexion does not require acclimation if stored and installed above freezing temperatures of 32°F. If stored below 32°F, an acclimation period of 12 hours is required.

10. **Installation Prep:** Prior to installation, inspect the locking tiles for visible defects and consult pattern guide to select an approved pattern for your tile size. **NOTE:** Herringbone and straight grid patterns are NOT recommended.

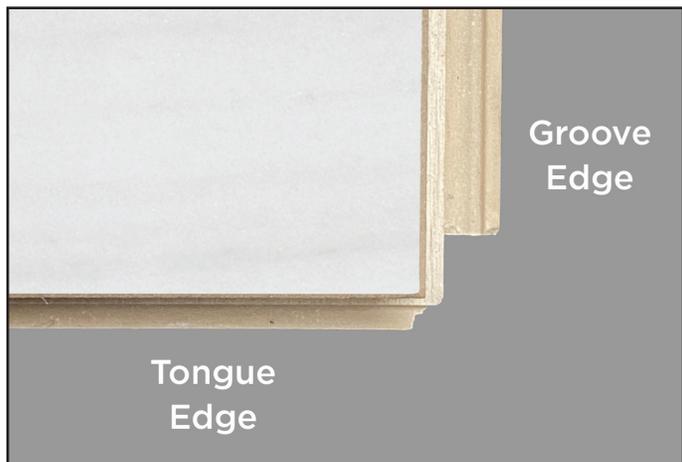
PRO TIP: Carefully inspecting each tile and dry laying prior to installation is recommended to ensure the best visual arrangement of the graphics.

11. Measure the width of the room and divide by the width of the tile. If the remainder is 3 inches or less, cut down the width of the first row to allow the last row to be more than 3 inches. Snap a chalk line along the base of the walls to determine uneven walls. Throughout the process you may need to double up on wall spacers to ensure the installation remains straight. Painters tape can be used to help hold up wall spacers as needed. Using construction adhesive, install any necessary transition or termination strips.
12. **Edges Explained:** There are two types of edges along the tile that interlock with each other - two groove edges and two tongue edges. The groove edges are the wider edges, the long groove edge has markers that show 33% and 66% offset indicators. The tongue edges are the smaller edges. **See images below for reference.**

IMPORTANT: Before you begin, cut a 6-inch or longer guide piece with a tongue edge, which will be used for installation later.

13. **Installation Direction:** Recommended installation is from left to right. It is also recommended to follow the diagonal method of installation for the first three rows as instructed in steps 5-10 below. Starting with the fourth row you can install full rows before moving on to the next row.

Edge Types



Side View - Tongue Edge



Side View - Groove Edge



How Edges Interlock

Side View



Correct



Incorrect



Gap Shown - Not Fully Interlocked

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14. **Setting the First Tiles:** Start by placing two tongue edges facing the walls in the corner you are starting in. Use your wall spacers to create a 1/4-inch gap along both sides. Wall spacers should be used along the entire perimeter of your project. Make sure the wall spacers are placed between the joints of each pair of tiles.
15. Select your second piece and lock the short tongue edge into the short groove edge of the first piece. Make sure to keep track of the chalk line throughout the installation.
16. **Starting Row 2:** The third piece will be used on the second row. Cut this piece to the marked offset indicator for 33% offset pattern or in half for a 50% offset pattern. The cut edge will go along the wall, be sure to use a wall spacer to keep your 1/4-inch expansion gap.
17. **How to Use the Guide Piece:** Lock the long side of the fourth piece into your first two pieces maintaining a gap no more than 1/4-inch from the third piece. To make it easy to tap your fourth piece into place, lock your guide piece into the long sides of the third and fourth pieces. **See Fig. 1.**

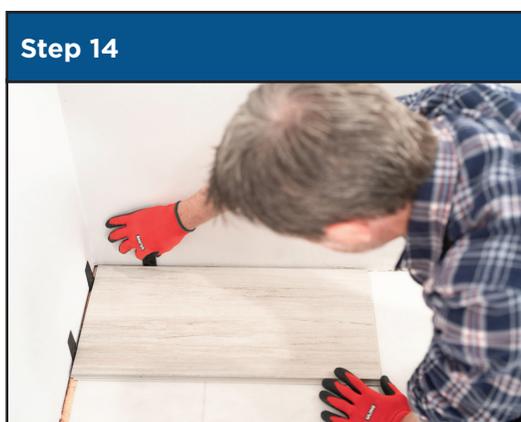
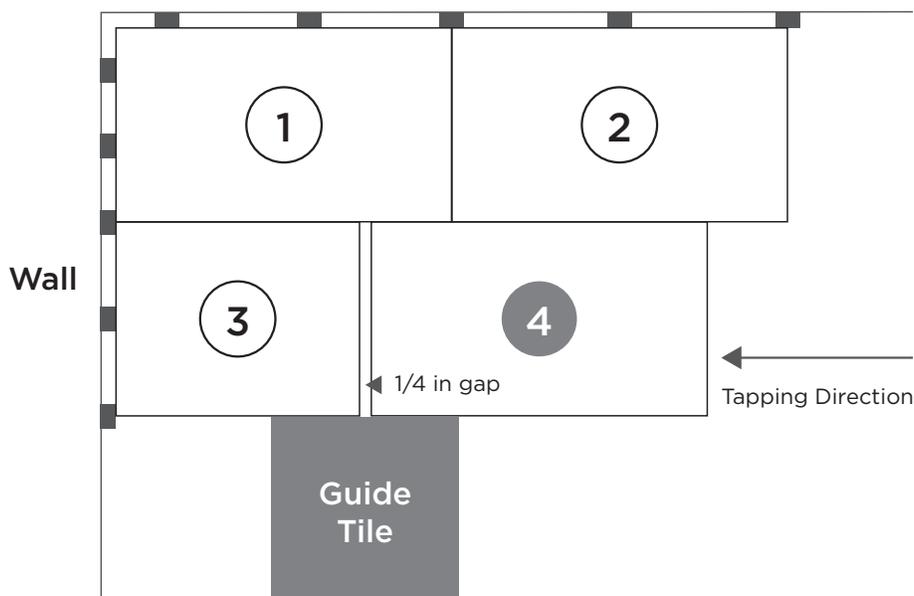


Fig. 1: Use guide tile to lock in fourth tile.
Wall



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18. Using the mallet and tapping block, tap in the short side of the fourth tile until it completely locks into the third tile. Once locked into place, remove guide piece so you can reuse throughout the installation. Make sure the tapping block lip sits on the edge of the tile and not the locking backer to prevent damage to the locking mechanism.
19. To start your third row, lock the long tongue edge of your fifth piece (this piece will be a full piece or a cut piece depending on your pattern) into your second row. Go back to the first row to lock in your sixth piece using the short tongue edge. Continue to work in a diagonal pattern for the first three rows using the guide piece throughout the process to stabilize the tiles you tap into place. Remember to keep track of the chalk line throughout the installation. **See Fig. 2.**
20. **Fourth Row Onwards:** Starting with the fourth row you can install full rows before moving onto the next row. **See Fig. 3.**
21. For installing the last row of tile close to the wall, use the angle pullbar tool by anchoring it on the outer edge of tile and tapping on the inside with the rubber mallet.

Fig. 2: Work in a diagonal pattern for the first 3 rows.

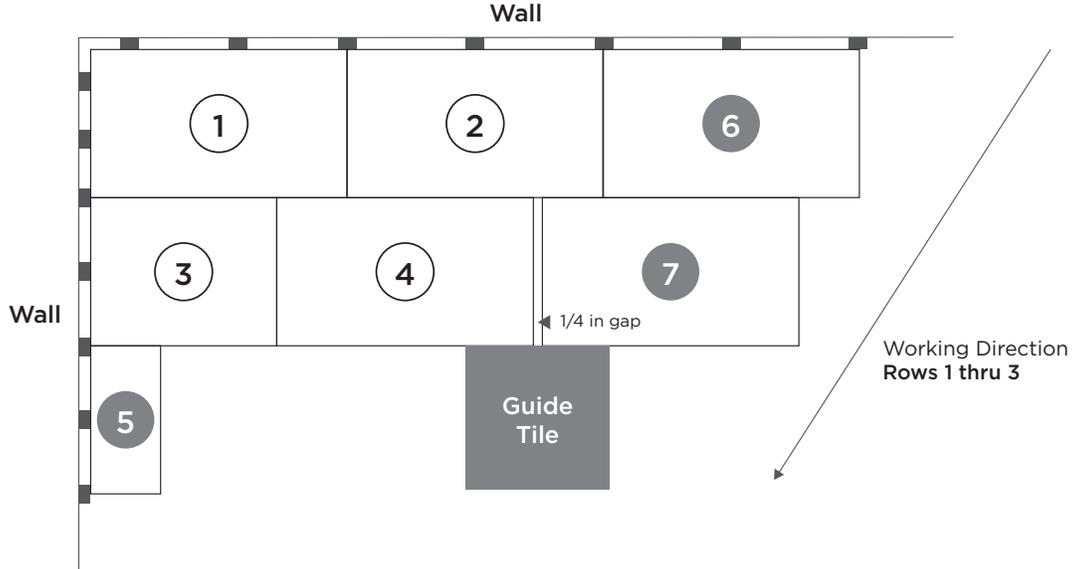
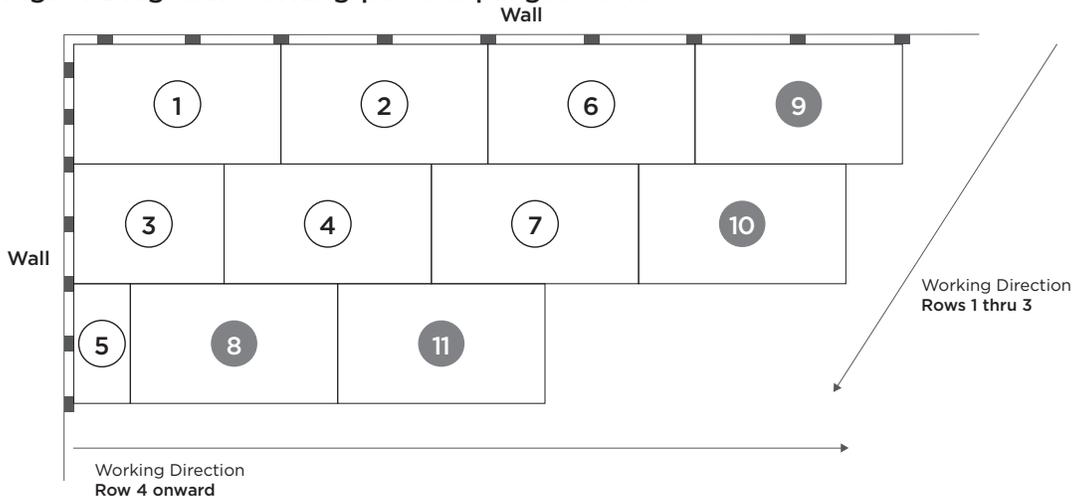


Fig. 3: Diagonal working pattern progression.



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CONNEXION™ GROUT

22. Use the required Connexion™ Grout or epoxy grout only; do not use regular cementitious grout.
23. Walk over the tile and make sure all pieces are clicked together well. Check for gaps and uniformity of gap joints. Thoroughly mix grout with margin trowel and follow grout instructions before use. **Do not add water.**
24. Lightly dampen the tile surface to be grouted. Scoop sufficient amount of grout with a margin trowel and place on tile. Holding the grout float at 45-degree angle, spread the grout and press into the joints firmly to fill them completely. Work in a small area at a time, no more than 3 ft x 3 ft section.
25. Sweep the float diagonally across to remove excess grout.
26. Wipe across with a wet sponge. Make sure the grout is hardening, taking care not to dig out grout from the joints. Ensure water is changed out frequently throughout the project.
27. Clean any grout haze across the tile by wiping with a wet cloth, followed by a dry cloth.

PRO TIP: For areas prone to water exposure, caulk along perimeter, baseboards and/or walls as needed. Let the grout cure for the recommended amount of time.

Step 22-27

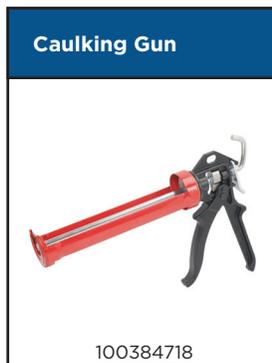


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REQUIRED ACCESSORIES



TOOLS NEEDED FOR INSTALLATION



*for corners and curves