How To Install Your Armstrong Tile Ceilings

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Ceiling tiles are prefinished for interior installation only. Store and install in areas of a temperature range of 60° to 85°F and not more than 70% relative humidity.
- Remove tiles from cartons 24 hours in area of installation to allow adjustment to interior conditions of the installation area.
- Ceiling tiles cannot be installed directly to joists.
- Do not apply loose fill or batt installation directly on the back of the tile.
- Never install tile below an existing ceiling containing embedded radiant-heat coils.
- Keep hands clean during installation to avoid fingerprints and smudges on the tile.
- Electric or air-driven staple guns are not recommended.
- Always cut tile face up with a sharp utility knife.
- Tiles should be handled carefully to protect the face and edges from damage.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Observe all WARNING statements in this document.
- Work Site Environment: Initially a potential adverse impact on indoor air quality within the general installation area may exist. During installation, maintain adequate ventilation of the work area without causing the entry of contaminants to other parts of the building. Person sensitive to odor and/or chemical should avoid the area during installation.
- Wear safety glasses to minimize the risk of eye injury.
- Use a sharp utility knife to ensure clean cuts. When not in use, store properly.

PLANNING YOUR ARMSTRONG CEILING

Determine Border Tile Size for a Balanced Appearance
1. Measure distance between opposite walls.
2. Disregarding foot measurement, add 12” to the inches left over.
3. Divide sum by two for border tile size. (illus. A - ex: Room with: 10’8” . 8” + 12”=20; 20 /2=10” Size wall border tile size = 10” ).

TOOLS NEEDED TO INSTALL YOUR CEILING

- Safety Glasses
- Measuring Rule
- Straight Edge
- Tin Snips
- String
- Pencil
- 2” or 3” Carpenter’s Level
- Hammer
- Utility Knife
- Wire Cutting Pliers

TILE INSTALLATION USING THE ARMSTRONG EASY UP® INSTALLATION KIT

• STEP 1 INSTALL TRACK
NOTE: Your finished ceiling will only be as level as the tracks. Use a long straightedge, carpenter’s level, or string line to check that the tracks are even and level.
1. Nail or screw first row of “edge” track 1” from the starting wall. (illus. A) Use two nails or screws per 4’ track. They must go into a joist.
2. Continue installing first row of track end-to-end across the room.
NOTE: Use longer nails or screws to secure tracks deeply into old or thick ceilings. Tracks do not need to be connected and can be spaced up to 1/4” apart. When you need less than a 4” piece or track to finish the row: (1) cut to fit using aviation snips or (2) nail or screw last track next to the preceding track, spaced about 1/8” to 1/2” apart (illus. B).
3. Stagger track joints on adjacent rows.
4. From the side wall, measure border tile width minus 2”. Install second row of track parallel to the first at that point.
5. Install remaining rows 12” on center.
6. Nail or screw the last track row 1” from the end wall (illus. C).

**STEP 2 INSTALL TILE**

1. Stretch a guide string 3/4” below the level of tracks.
2. Position string perpendicular to the tracks, at the border tile width measurement from the end wall.
3. Position first tile in corner with both flanges pointing out (illus. D).

**CUT CORNER TILE**

1. Trim tile to the side wall border dimension.
2. Measure at two points from wall to string along other wall and trim to fit. (illus E) Do not cut off flange side of tile.

**NOTE:** Cut tile face up with sharp utility knife. The corner tile must the tile tightly into the corner with the tile face (not flanged) edge aligned exactly with the guide string. Refer to illus. I for proper order of installing tiles.

**INSERT FIRST BORDER TILE (TILE 1)**

1. Snap a clip onto end of each of the first two tracks, teeth facing out.
2. Push clips flush against wall.
3. Push first tile firmly into corner: clip teeth should dig into cut edge of tile (illus. F).
4. To secure flange side of tile, snap two new clips onto tracks and slide teeth over flange (illus. G).
5. Tap clips with hammer to seat tile tightly to end wall.

**Insert Second Border Tile (Tile 2)**

1. Follow the same procedure as corner tile, measuring and trimming along one edge only (not flange edge).
2. Slide tongue edge into Tile 1.
3. Push firmly onto clip teeth against wall.
4. Snap clip onto track and lock over flange edge of tile.
5. Tap clip with hammer to seat tile tightly against wall.
Begin Installing Row Two (Tile 3)

1. Temporarily slide Tile 3 onto tracks to line up with Tile 2.
2. Measure in 12” from the side wall at 2 places; draw a connecting line on Tile 3 (illus. H).
3. Remove Tile 3 and trim at line.
4. Push Tile 3 edge into corner tile grooves; secure with two clips.

• Install First Full Tile (Tile 4)

1. Align tile squarely with the adjacent three tiles.
   NOTE: If not square, remove first three tiles, (recut or trim) and reassemble.
   After first four tiles fit correctly, complete first row (border) keeping tile face edge (not flange edge) flush with guide string.
2. Slide tongue edge into Tile 2 and 3.
   NOTE: Cut border tile 1/4” short on opposite side wall to allow for expansion as room conditions change. The 1/4” gap will be hidden by wall molding (illus. D).

• Install Remaining Tile (Tile 4)

1. Continue installing tile using diagonal sequence shown in (illus I).
2. Before inserting the last row, slide a clip onto the track and push flush with end wall.
3. Cut the last tile in each row 1/2” short of the end wall.
4. Push tongues of each tile into grooves in ceiling tiles to seat tile (illus J).
5. Use a screwdriver (next to the wall) to slide the clip into the cut edge of the tile (illus. K).

• STEP 3 FINISH YOUR CEILING

Install Wall Molding

1. Paint or stain standard decorative wood molding before installing.
2. Install molding at the joint between the ceiling and walls.
3. Nail molding into the wall studs at least every 24” (illus. L).

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INSTALL USING WOOD FURRING STRIPS OR ADHESIVE

• STEP 1 INSTALL FURRING STRIPS

NOTE: Your finished ceiling will only be as level as the furring strips.
Use a straightedge, carpenter's level, or string lines to ensure the strips are level. Correct high spots with shims between strips and joists.
(If you prefer to use adhesive, follow directions for application on the adhesive packaging. But before you start, make sure your existing ceiling is clean and level or flat if inclined).
1. Install first strip perpendicular to ceiling joists, flush against side wall.
2. Nail furring strip at every joist using two eight-penny nails (illus. A).
3. Place center of second furring strip at the border distance plus 1/2” from the side wall and fasten. Complete row.
4. Continue to nail furring strips across the ceiling parallel to the second strip, 12” on center. (Insert wood shims between the furring strips and joists to make them level).
5. Butt furring strip ends under a joist and double nail each end.
6. Stagger butt joints to avoid falling on the same joists.

**STEP 2 INSTALL TILE**

**Square The Room**

1. Starting at the side wall (wall perpendicular to ceiling joists), snap a chalk line on second furring strip at the border tile dimension plus 1/2” (illus. B).

   **NOTE:** To square the room, you will need to create a perfect 90 degree angle along the other border tile dimension.

2. Measure border tile dimension from end wall plus 1/2” and mark as point “A” on chalk line (illus. B).
3. Measure 3’ from point “A” and draw an arc where the border tile line will be (illus. C).
4. Measure exactly 4’ from point “A” and draw an arc where the border tile line will be (illus. C).
5. From Point “B” measure exactly 5’ and draw an arc intersecting the arc drawn from point “A”.
6. Mark the intersection of both arcs as point “C”.
7. Snap a chalk line from wll to wall, lining up with points “A” and “C”. (The two chalk lines will be a perfect 90° degree angle and will ensure a square ceiling).

**Install the Border Tiles**

1. Start in the corner of the room where the chalk lines intersect (illus. D).
2. Measure and cut the first tile, lining up edges of both flanges with chalk lines.

   **NOTE:** Because walls are often uneven, measure each border tile and cut 1/4” less than actual measurement. Wall molding will cover the small gap.
3. Fasten each tile into place with four 1/2” or 9/16” staples as shown (illus. E).

   Refer to illus. D for proper order of installing tiles.

**Install Remaining Tiles**

1. Install full tiles on diagonal.
2. Fit tiles together snugly, but do not push too tightly together.
3. Measure and cut last row of tiles individually.
4. Staple last row of tiles to furring strips.

   **NOTE:** If the flange on last row isn’t large enough for stapling, face-nail the tile in place near the wall where the molding will cover the nail head.

**STEP 3 FINISH YOUR CEILING**

**Install Wall Molding**

1. Paint or stain standard decorative wood molding before installing.
2. Install molding at the joint between the ceiling and walls.
3. Nail molding into the wall stands at least every 24” (illus. F).