

This guide is designed to complement the current British Standard BS5385 and should only be used in conjunction with current building regulations and official codes of practice.

Please note: Responsibility for the installation lies with the installer, who should be trained and knowledgeable in the safe and correct installation of porcelain tiles.

Subfloor conditions

The subfloor must be clean, sound with no friable areas and flat to a tolerance of +/- 3mm over a 2m span across all points of the subfloor. Laitance must be mechanically removed from screeds by abrading or grinding.

The subfloor must be dry. This is tested using a hygrometer. A moisture reading of between 45-75% Relative Humidity (RH) must be achieved.

For moisture content exceeding 75% and below 98% a Damp Proof Membrane (DPM) can be used (subject to application). We recommend [Tilemaster Fast One Coat DPM](#). A DPM is also advised for use in areas below the waterline, i.e. basements. DPM's should not be used over underfloor heating systems where the screed has not fully cured.

DO NOT use DPM's over Calcium Sulphate (Anhydrite) screeds. These screeds must be fully cured before installing over.

Screeds typically dry at 1mm per day up to 40mm thick when exposed to an average air temperature of 20C and relative humidity of 65%. The drying time can be reduced. Please speak with our office for advise on this.

New screeds or dusty, brittle screeds should be primed first. We recommend [Tilemaster Primer Plus](#) or [Tilemaster Prime+ Grip](#) if being used with [Tilemaster Fast One Coat DPM](#). Please speak with office for advise on the type to use.

Setting out

Laying floor tiles will raise the level of the finished floor, so if possible remove all fixtures before tiling. Mark a chalk line on the floor down the centre of the room parallel to the most suitable wall.

Calculate the size of external cuts to ensure, where possible, they are of equal width, and adjust your chalk line to suit.

Installation

Installation should only begin once all of the above criteria have been met. Prime the subfloor with a suitable primer.

An allowance of 10% should be added to the required quantity of tiles to allow for wastage.

There are several methods and tools used for cutting tiles. Please contact our office for information on the best method for cutting the tiles you have purchased.

Lay the tiles down your chalk line and then work towards the wall you think is best, leaving a joint between the tiles of at least 3mm. Tile spacers should be used to achieve a uniform size joint.

We recommend using [Tilemaster Tile Adhesive](#) to fix your tiles. This should be applied using a notched trowel (notch size dependant on tile being installed). Adhesive should also be applied to the back of tiles larger than 300 x 600mm, know as back buttering.

For large areas, problematic surfaces or areas where the substrates differ, a de-coupling membrane is required. We recommend [Schuter-DITRA 25](#) matting. This is fixed to the subfloor using a tile adhesive, [Tilemaster Rapid Setaflex](#) or similar.