

Installation & Advisory Notes

Fastfix Recycled 470 x470 x 14mm Tiles

Fastfix Recycled PVC Tiles and Edges are suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

All tiles can be laid generally over any hard, clean and level surface.

To get the best results for your new floor and to ensure a trouble free and long working life from the tiles we offer the following guidelines and advice.

Many of the issues we mention are common to all PVC based tiles or floor paints but we have tried to minimize them in our designs.

Witness Marks and Surface finish

As with all PVC Tiles the method of manufacture may result in a witness mark being visible in the tile at the central injection moulding point and also along the flow lines from the centre and around the external edges of the tile, this mark is unavoidable.

Please check the tiles before you commence laying, if the marking is unacceptable to you should not continue with installation as we will not accept responsibility to replace or refund the cost of any goods after 5m² or more have been installed if the markings are subsequently deemed unacceptable to you.

Colour match, traceability and batch control

Each order is supplied fully from a single batch and we cannot guarantee perfect colour consistency, to a level of 100%, between batches.

Should you wish to purchase additional tiles at a later date we cannot guarantee subsequent orders will be supplied from the same batch.

Basic Installation & Advisory Notes

Sweep and / or vacuum through the floor so you can inspect it

Fill any substantial holes or cracks in the floor and remove any protruding lumps and bumps If the floor is a tapered effect we would advise you to screed the floor to get the best level finish.

Eg. With a rapid cure self-levelling compound.

The flatter and smoother the floor the better the end finish will be.

All PVC based tiles expand and contract as temperatures change.

At very low temperatures the tiles become harder, less flexible and subject to contraction while, at high temperatures, the tiles become softer, more flexible and subject to expansion.

With this in mind we offer the following advice.

The minimum recommended temperature for installing the tiles is 15°C

You must always leave the tiles to acclimatise before laying them .

Open up all the boxes, spread the tiles evenly still in the boxes over the area you will be laying and leave for a minimum of 24 hours before commencing fitting.

This process also enables you to check tile quality & quantities before you begin fitting.

When fitting allow a minimum 5mm expansion gap between the floor and fixed points like walls, piers or around very heavy objects (e.g. racking, work benches etc.) to allow for any slight expansion or contraction due to temperature changes.

Do not try to install directly after you have received your delivery - be patient!

Tiles can be laid without using adhesives for most applications although there are some circumstances, noted below, where gluing certain tile areas to the floor is advised.

For example

You may need to glue down tiles that are exposed to prolonged direct sunlight, which may cause the tiles to become displaced as they soften and expand more quickly than the rest of the floor area, such as shop fronts, south facing, glass doors etc.

If the tiles will continue through a doorway into an adjacent area we recommend that these tiles be glued down.

If you need to use full or nearly full steering lock when driving into the garage then tiles may be twisted out of their interlock and have to be refitted.

We recommend that you glue down tiles that could experience strong turning forces.

Tools required

All you will need to lay the tiles in most cases are: A white non-marking rubber mallet, which we can supply plus a hand saw, Stanley knife or a power jigsaw for cutting.

NOTE: This guide assumes you are fitting tile ramps in the garage entrance. It is strongly recommended that you do fit tile ramps to protect the edges of the garage flooring, to stop movement of the tile 'mat' and to prevent a trip hazard.

From test installations we have found that the method suggested below usually has the quickest floor laying time combined with the most satisfying finish, especially where patterned garage flooring is being laid. One alternative we have used is to fit the tile ramps first and then install the tiles later.

Tools you will need:

Tape measure, Stanley knife, board to cut tiles on. A non-marking rubber mallet and a steel or similar straight edge may be useful.

Stage 1 - Start at the door and draw a threshold line:

From inside the garage, with the door(s) closed, establish the line **which the front of the tile ramps must not cross** so that the door can be closed properly once the ramps are installed.

We will call this line the threshold line.

Mark this line clearly for later use and re-open the door(s).

Centre Point

Mark a line for fitting ramps allowing for the garage door to be fully closed

Then mark a centre point on that line for aligning the first row of tiles

Stage 2 - Draw a tile ramp line and mark the centre:

Align the front edge of a length of ramp carefully with the threshold line and determine a new line where the tiles and ramp will butt together in the finished installation.

We will call this the tile ramp line.

When you determine this line allow for the fact the tile ramp has a lip that fits under the floor tiles. Run a tape measure along the tile ramp line and mark the centre point.

Centre Point

The dotted line is the threshold line. The solid line is the tile ramp line.

Tile laying begins at the centre point of the ramp line.

Stage 3 - Start laying tiles:

Lay your first tile so that the front edge of the tile sits where you propose to have the back of the ramp. Align your first tile's centre to the tile ramp line's centre point.

Then work out from this tile to the side (eg. the right) laying across one tile at a time until you reach the point where you have a gap smaller than a whole tile before meeting the garage wall. Leave this gap and all subsequent ones.

Making all tile cuts at the very end speeds up and simplifies laying the flooring.

The centre point of the first tile is aligned with the centre point of the tile ramp line.

Then lay tiles out to the right until the point is reached for a tile cut.

Then lay out to the left.

Making all tile cuts at the end speeds up the installation process.

Now lay tiles out to the opposite wall of the garage, repeating the process above.

Once the first row is complete then commence laying the next row back in the same manner. Repeat this until all uncut tiles are laid and you have a small gap from the back row of tiles to the wall.

Stage 4 - Straighten the tile mat and align to ramp:

You now have the opportunity to straighten the whole mat you have assembled and realign if required.

Now fix ramp to the required position at the front of the garage (a good quality construction adhesive is recommended for final fixing of ramps) - if required pull the tile mat forwards so that the front row of tiles sits onto the ramp.

Stage 5 - Perimeter tile cuts.

You may now commence laying the cut tiles around the walls' perimeter. We used a stanley knife for all our cuts in a test installation.

Start at the front of the garage again.

Measure and cut the first row tile on the right.

Allow for a 5mm expansion gap between tiles and wall.

The repeat this process on the left hand side tile on the first row.

Repeat the process above for the next row back and continue until you get to the final row against the back wall of the garage.

Experience has taught us to lay the tiles in the left and right back corners last (ie. the tiles farthest from the first tile laid).

Measure, cut and fit all the other tiles on the back row then carefully measure, cut and fit the last two corner tiles.

Cleaning and Maintenance and General use

Regular light cleaning once a week is better than a heavy clean once a month.

Brush or vacuum the floor first then sponge mop using a normal household, non-abrasive, floor cleaning detergent (neutral ph.) at a weak concentration.

Use a damp mop rather than soaking the floor with a lot of water.

Catalytic converters and exhaust systems can get extremely hot so we recommend that you don't leave your vehicle parked and running on your Fastfix floor as tiles could overheat and become displaced or damaged.

Vehicles with a low ground clearance should to be allowed to cool off before driving onto the tile floor to avoid deformation or damage to tiles.

Tyre marks and stamps

Tyres may, sooner or later, mark or stain the tile due to a chemical reaction between additives in the tyre compound and the plasticizer used in the production of the tile.

This staining reaction can occur with most floor coverings including tiles, vinyl and paints. We cannot predict if or when a tyre compound reaction may occur and do not consider tyre staining to be a defect in the product so we are unable to replace tyre stained tiles free of charge. We have tested acetone for removing tyre stains and found it to be very effective.

After Care Advice

Pressure Points - Car Jacks and Bike Stands

PVC based tiles will compress under heavy loads concentrated on a small area, such as car jacks, motorbike stands, fork lift trucks etc. but will always return to their original shape.

We recommend that you use a suitable board beneath jacks and stands to spread the weight evenly over a wider area.