



TILEX

Quality Tiling Accessories

TILE SPACERS – HOW TO INSTALL AND WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

How to use tile spacers: starting work

1. Locate the centre of the room (both length-wise and width-wise) and use a **chalk line** or **laser level** to create a gridline. This will ensure your first tile and spacers are aligned in a straight line and in the centre.
2. Lay your first tile in-line with your reference point (either the chalk line or laser level).
3. After your first tile is laid, put a spacer on each corner of the tile (ensuring they are flush).
Note: When using floor tiles it is also recommended to use two "square" spacers per side (in addition to the **plus spacers** on each corner). This provides additional accuracy along the length of the tile. You can turn a "plus" shaped spacer on its side to create a "square" spacer.
4. Place the next tile against the spacers of your first tile. Then place additional spacers against the remaining corners of the new tile.
5. Repeat this process, expanding the wall/floor outwards using the spacers at the edges of each tile to keep a consistent distance between tiles.
6. When you come to an area where you do not need a four sided "plus sign" spacer use a **T-shaped spacer**. Place the "T-shaped spacer" with the flat end against the wall or other surface. Alternatively, you can break one "leg" off a normal "plus" spacer to make a "T" spacer.
7. Remove the spacers (using either your fingers or **needle/snipe nosed pliers**) after sufficient time has been left as per adhesive manufacturers specs.
8. You can now begin the grouting process, which closes the space between the tiles, bonding them together tightly and providing a waterproof seal.



Tile spacing hints & tips

- For a smaller room use **smaller spacers**, this will allow you to utilise more tiles in the area, giving the impression of a larger space (again this is down to preference and should be discussed with the customer beforehand).
- Not all rooms are completely square and even then, not all walls are always equidistant at any two points (these can differ between mm to inches in some cases) - if the discrepancy could be considered an issue, it may be better to use larger spacing to attempt to minimise its impact on the overall job.
- Planning is important - don't just go for the first option, sample a few different placements and see which works best for the room. Some size rooms may look better with wider spacing where as others may suit narrow spacing (there really is no right or wrong answer and as always discuss this with your customer beforehand).
- Spacing your tiles an extra mm apart can often save the majority of small cuts (across the total length of a wall/floor this can make a big difference!).
- It is not recommended to go below 2mm for wall tiles and 3mm for floor tiles due to the requirement of stress relief. All walls and floors are subject to movement (due to climate condition changes etc) and without an element of stress relief tiles will either crack or buckle.
- Using a **chalk line or laser level** when laying tiles and spacers can help maintain a straight line across a floor for even greater precision.

