

PopLock Installation Instructions

PopLock Interlocking rubber tiles feature a unique, new interlocking edge system. This patent pending design works in a way that is reminiscent the interlocking edges which are used in some common resealable plastic bags.

On each edge of the PopLock tiles, there is an oval-shaped, downward facing male ridge or a similarly shaped, upward facing female groove. When these components are pressed together, a strong, shift resistant edge connection is created. These rubber tiles can be joined together or separated in seconds, over and over again.

PopLock rubber tiles can be installed over any firm flat subsurface, such as concrete, tile, asphalt, wood or even a well compacted sand/gravel base. Make sure that the subsurface is flat, level, (or slightly sloped for drainage if required), and free of any loose debris.



Proper positioning of the first row and column is critical to achieving a professional installation. If the area being covered will require some trimming, and having uniform-sized tiles on the left and right edges is desired, position the first tile in the top row, equal distant from the right and left edges. If having uniform sized partial tiles on the right and left edges is not important, installers can select a starting point at the top left corner and make any required trims on the right and bottom edges.



Note: If the site dimension right to left is some multiple of 24 inches, the first tile should be placed at the top left edge of the space. In this situation installers should be able to fill the entire row without doing any trimming.

There are two common installation options, **aligned** and **staggered**. The aligned method is used to produce a "grid" pattern in which both the horizontal and vertical tile edges line up. This procedure creates a ceramic tile appearance with faux grout lines. Because these tiles can vary in size by up to 3/16", the seams may not be perfectly aligned.

To use the Aligned method, place your first tile as described above, with the male interlocking edges exposed on the right and bottom of the tile. Attach tiles to the right of this first tile until you reach the point where you cannot fit a full tile in the remaining space.

Gently lift the left edge of your first tile and attach the next tile going to the left. Repeat until you have completed the first row. You will come back later to install a trimmed tile in the open spaces on the right and left edges.

Next, go to the tile on the left edge of the first row and install the first tile of the next row directly below the tile that is already in place. Repeat until you have filled this column, leaving any partial tile space empty at the bottom. Check to make sure that the top and left edges are square with one another. Next fill in the rows, moving from left to right. Stop when you get to the point where you cannot fit another full size tile along the right edge. Check to make sure that this edge is square with the top edge.



Note: Due to the normal tile size variations, you may need to compress or stretch some tiles to maintain seam alignment. In some cases, you may need to try several tiles until you find the one that fits best.

Once all the full-size tiles have been set in place, carefully measure and cut tiles as needed to fill in the uncovered spaces. Make sure that the interlocking edges are properly positioned to interlock with the adjacent tiles. PopLock tiles may be cut with a band saw, saber saw or utility knife.

Whenever possible, it is best to make any trimming cuts on edges that will be adjacent to a wall. Trimmed edges will not have the same appearance as the molded edges and will likely be black in color.

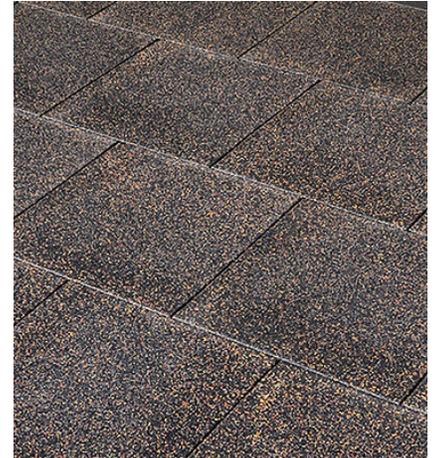
The exposed 1" wide male edge may be trimmed from the right and bottom rows of the installed tiles. These pieces can be inserted under the top and left edges of the installation to fill in the cavity located under the unconnected female edges.

Should you require access to the subsurface under any of the tiles or need to replace tiles that have become damaged, simply lift the tiles to disconnect the interlocking edges. Reverse this procedure to reinstall.

The Staggered installation method is very similar to the Aligned method with one significant variation. For this method, install the first row as described above. The first tile of the second row should be placed so the left edge is aligned with the center of the tile on the left edge of the first row. After this tile has been set in place the rest of the tiles in the second row can be set in place, moving from left to right.

For the third row, move to the left edge of the installation area and place the first tile in this row so it aligns with the left edge of the first row. Fill in the remainder of the third row.

A chalk or string line is useful to ensure proper spacing of the columns. Repeat this procedure until all the full-size tiles have been installed. When this has been completed, carefully measure and cut tiles to fill in the partial tile spaces. As before, the exposed male edges can be trimmed and used to fill the gaps under the female perimeter edges.



The Aligned and Staggered installation methods work equally well. The Staggered method can hide small alignment issues and may provide a slightly stronger interlock at the corners since there are only three interlocking points rather than four as is the case with the Aligned method.

For large installations, (500 sq. ft. or more), additional procedures may be required to maintain seam alignment. For best results draw chalk lines at a 90 degree angle to the tiles in the first row, spaced three tiles apart. These chalk lines will be used to assure proper seam alignment.

After setting the first row of tiles in place, install the first column using the chalk line to keep the installation square. Install additional columns along all the remaining chalk lines. After all these columns have been set in place, fill in the open areas. It may be necessary to compress or stretch some tiles slightly to maintain proper alignment. In some cases, it may be necessary to try several tiles in a particular location, in order to obtain the best fit.



Transition ramps, with an ADA compliant slope are available for PopLock 1" thick tiles. These ramps come in two versions, with either male or female interlocking edges. Mitered corner kits are also available. Make sure that the correct ramp version, (male or female), is ordered. Do not trim the visible male interlocking tile edges in locations where transition ramps will be installed.

Ramps and corners are installed in the same manner as the tiles. Just press the pieces in place along the perimeter edges of the installation. These transition ramps may be trimmed as needed. To install transition ramps along the edges of tiles that have been trimmed, removing the interlocking edge, trim the interlocking edge off of the ramp as well and glue the piece in place.