



## SelecTile™ Installation Guide

*Installation of SelecTile is fast, easy and cost-effective. For best results, follow these guidelines.*

### General

SelecTile is a 23.75" x 23.75" interlocking floor tile available with a 24" x 2" interlocking transition strip and 2" x 2" corners. Due to the large size of the tiles, when estimating a job, a general waste or contingency factor of 5%-10% is normal. Actual waste factors will vary based on job size, layout, installation experience and other factors. A plastic tipped mallet or deadhead hammer should be used for joining these products. The use of a cutting tool will be required for cutting around obstacles. SelecTile is designed to be a free-lay system and does not generally require use of adhesives.

### Receiving and Storing SelecTile

SelecTile is shipped in boxes containing ten tiles. Stack the boxes of tiles (or loose tiles) on a flat surface with the edges of the boxes flush to one another. Overhanging edges will cause difficulty when installing. Never store the tiles upright. Allow the tiles to acclimate to the installation environment for 48 hours.

### Preparing the Subfloor

SelecTile may be installed over concrete, wood, asbestos tile, rubber, vinyl composite tiles and other standard floors. SelecTile is not recommended to be installed over carpets or any floor that is designed to compress or move, i.e. cushioned sheet vinyl.

- Remove all debris, sweep and vacuum the floor if necessary.
- Repair any major surface imperfections (cracks over 3/8") in the subfloor.
- It is recommended that Selectile be installed over existing floors. Appropriate caution and procedures must be used in the event a preexisting resilient floor covering is to be removed. Vinyl asbestos tile, asphalt tile, some asphaltic "cutback" adhesives and backings of many sheet vinyl floorings contain asbestos that is not readily identifiable. Unless positively certain that a product is asbestos free, you must presume it contains asbestos. Removal of these materials must comply with various federal, state and local regulations pertaining to the removal of in-place asbestos. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw beadblast or pulverize any such existing product(s) unless you are certain they do not contain asbestos..
- Following proper removal of a pre-existing resilient floor, if there is a pre-existing adhesive it should be scraped and/or sealed with a barrier coat, such as Nu-Flor #500 from W.F. Taylor or another similar sealant, prior to installation.

### For Gym Floors

You may install a rubber or thermoplastic resilient mat under the SelecTile for added resiliency. Matting is generally available in 4' X 6' sheets, 3/8" and 1/2" in thickness. Rubber mats can be installed easily over most subsurfaces including concrete, asphalt, wood, or tile. For best installation, subsurface should be flat 1/8" tolerance in 10' of plain, also free of holes more than 1/4". When laying down the rubber mat always stagger seams at half bond. If you wish to paint lines on the SelecTile, use a 1-part acrylic epoxy clear coat (such as Behr, No. 910 Clear), which can be tinted to any color. Wash area that is to be painted with a mild detergent and water, mask area and follow the manufactures instructions on the label.

### Tools

- A dead-blow hammer (21 to 42 oz) (*Required*) NOTE: Rubber mallets are ineffective
- A utility knife in conjunction with a straight edge. (*Required*)
- A carpenter's square (*Required*)
- A jig saw, orbital or similar cutting tool for irregular cuts. (*Recommended*)
- A table saw with a fine-tooth blade (for making multiple cuts). (*Recommended*)
- A 24" VCT tile cutter (*Optional*) A cutter can be purchased from Gundlach Company, Model # H-24.
- For appropriate cutting methods, see "Cutting SelecTile" on reverse side.

### Planning and Installing

1. To ensure a square installation, locate the center of the room by snapping chalk lines between midpoints of both walls. Make certain that the lines are square with one another. This will create a cross that intersects at the center of the room.
2. Establish a starting point for the installation usually in the center of the room.  
See *Figure 1* below.
  - It is best to start at one side of the installation and work rows.
  - Do not work off the wall, however. Instead, establish a straight line, square with the lines used to establish the center point of the room, spaced enough off the wall to allow for easy cuts.
  - Loosely place tiles along each axis to make sure that narrow cuts will not be required along either edge of the space. Re-adjust the starting point if necessary to allow for the most equally spaced cut sizes along all walls.

#### Odd-Shaped Rooms:

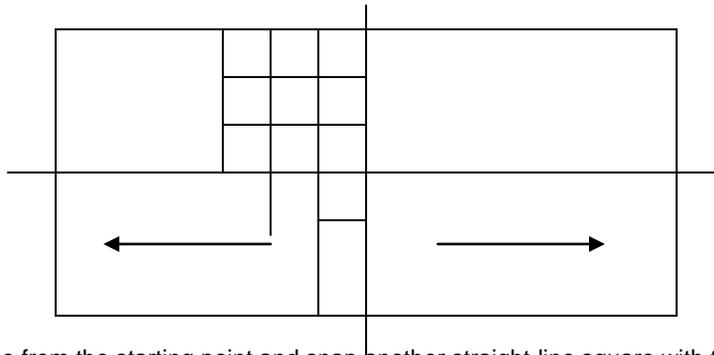
More planning may be required to minimize cuts and facilitate installation.

### Large Rooms:

It is best to start along the centerline of the shortest dimension and first work toward one wall, then the other wall.

If it is desired to have an interlocking transition strip at a particular point in the installation i.e. a door or entryway, adjust starting point to accommodate transition pieces. Account for the transition and its' position **prior** to installing tile.

Figure 1



3. Establish a straight line from the starting point and snap another straight-line square with the existing chalk lines to follow. Make certain that the first row of tiles installed follows this line exactly.
4. DO NOT SIT OR STAND ON TILES AS THEY ARE BEING HIT INTO PLACE. It is important that the tile is free to move as it is being hit into place so that it does not stress the interlocks.
5. DUE TO ANY RESIDUAL EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION THAT MAY OCCUR DURING INSTALLATION, CUT AND INSTALL ALL PERIMETER TILES AT THE END OF THE JOB. MAKE SURE TO LEAVE A 3/8" GAP FROM THE EDGE OF THE TILES TO THE WALL, COLOMNS OR ANY VERTICAL OBSTRUCTION. Cover expansion spaces with specified cove base. When expansion cut is exposed, if desired, fill area with a matching colored silicon caulk to allow movement and prevent dirt accumulation.
6. When working with multiple installers, have the first installer start the first row. After he has installed three or more tiles, the second installer can start on the second row. After the second installer has installed three or more tiles on the second row, a third installer can start on the third row. Do not work on more than three rows at a time. This staggered installation procedure is intended to allow the tiles to naturally fit square to one another and to prevent any unnecessary tension in the tabs.
7. When installing the diamond top profile, take care to lay the tile down with the elongated part of the diamond facing in the same direction.
8. SelecTile is durable—but not indestructible. Care should be given not to scratch the tiles during installation, or after installation with furniture or equipment, etc.

### Cutting SelecTile

When cutting SelecTile, the installer must exercise appropriate safety precautions. Protective eyewear and gloves must be worn. The following cutting tools are all appropriate tools for cutting SelecTile:

- Utility knives or carpet knives with extra blades
- A jigsaw or orbital saw can be used for shaped cuts.
- A straight edge and/or carpenter's square can be used to ensure straight and square cuts.
- 24" VCT tile cutter by Gundlach Company, Model # H-24.

If cutting with a knife score the tile until it is cut all the way through. Always follow the tool manufacturer's safety guidelines.

### Transition Strips and Corners

Interlocking transition strips and corners are available through SelecTech. Non-interlocking transition and edging units are available from other manufacturers such as Johnsonite and Mercer. WHERE HIGH TORQUE WHEEL TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED, IE, IN A GARAGE OR AUTOMOBILE SERVICE BAY ENTRANCES AND EXITS USE OF A PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TRANSITION STRIP MAY BE REQUIRED TO DEFLECT THE LATERAL FORCES OF THE VEHICLE WHICH CAN CAUSE THE FLOOR TO MOVE. CONSULT WITH SELECTECH IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

### Gluing SelecTile

- SelecTile is designed to be a free-floating system, requiring no adhesives. SelecTile will stay in place even under forklift traffic or other heavy-duty traffic. However, in areas where the floor is subject to high torque (e.g., carts with small wheels and heavy loads in narrow areas), it may be appropriate to mechanically fasten or fasten with adhesives. Call SelecTech if you are considering the use of mechanical or adhesive fastening systems.

For permanent installations or areas apply quality vinyl tile adhesive with a 1/16<sup>th</sup> V-Notch trowel—placing the tile into the adhesive while it is still tacky without having skinned over. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's safety and installation guidelines. Allow the adhesive to set according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

**For unusual conditions or unusual installations, contact your local representative or  
SelecTech (877-738-4537) for guidance. [www.selectechinc.com](http://www.selectechinc.com)**