



**STOP**  
Please carefully  
read all  
instructions!

**18" x 18"; 6" x 24"; & 12" x 24" Tile Size**

## The SnapStone System

### Easy as Prep, Snap, Grout

The SnapStone tile installation system can be summarized in three categories: prep, snap and grout. However, within these categories are regulations and steps to take to ensure the best floor performance and ease of installation. PLEASE read all instructions thoroughly prior to beginning the install process. YOUR SNAPSTONE WARRANTY IS VOID IF ANY OF THESE IMPORTANT GUIDELINES ARE NOT FOLLOWED.

## Helpful Tools

- Bucket
- Safety Goggles
- Straight Edge
- Ear Protection
- Speed Square
- White Rubber Mallet
- Wall Spacers
- Tapping Block
- Undercut Saw
- Rubber-coated Pull Bar
- Wet Saw (w/Diamond Blade)
- Rubber Gloves
- Angle-Grinder (w/ Diamond Blade)
- Tape Measure
- Tile-Snapper
- Utility Knife
- Sponge

The tools indicated on this page are helpful for a SnapSys Interloc system installation, but, not every tool listed is necessary. Always follow the tool manufacturer's safety requirements and keep appropriate safety guards in place.

## Applications

### Suitable Applications

- Over vinyl, wood, concrete, ceramic.
- On or below grade.
- Approved radiant heating systems. Please note, the SnapSys Interloc System should not be installed above heating systems that may expose the grid to temperatures above 110° F (43°C).

### Unsuitable Applications (including but not limited to):

- Carpet or cushioned vinyl.
- Showers, saunas, and steam rooms.
- Unstable sub-floor. • Outdoor environments.
- Floor Drains.
- Walls, stairs, countertops and backsplashes.
- Other floating flooring systems, such as laminate wood floors.
- Installations that expose the floor to temperatures exceeding 110° F (43°C) (wood-burning stoves, fireplace hearths, etc).

### ATTENTION!

The **SnapStone system** is available in three tile Collections: **Classic, Planks, and Luxury.**

Each Collection has its own unique Tile Thickness and Grout Line Width.

When combining different tiles in your floor, you **MUST** select tiles from the same Collection. **DO NOT** mix tiles from different Collections.

## Installation Instructions

### PREP

- **SUBFLOOR:** Minimum of 5/8" subfloor must be CLEAN, SMOOTH, DRY, HARD, FLAT, and STRUCTURALLY SOUND. Subfloor must also meet JOINT SPECIFICATIONS, TOLERANCE (FLATNESS) SPECIFICATIONS, and DEFLECTION SPECIFICATIONS according to the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) guidelines.
- **JOIST SPECIFICATIONS:** 16" on center
- **TOLERANCE SPECIFICATIONS:** Subfloor for tiles with at least one edge 15" or greater in length, maximum allowable variation is 1/8" in 10' from the required plane, with no more than 1/16" variation in 24" when measured from the high points in the surface as defined by the TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation. Identify high and low spots that are out of tolerance by laying a 6'-8' straight edge across your subfloor. High spots should be removed by planing, sanding or grinding. Low spots should be filled. When leveling the subfloor, use only portland-based fillers; never use gypsum-based fillers as they support mold growth.

- **DEFLECTION SPECIFICATIONS:** The subfloor must not have deflection greater than 1/360 of the span when measured under a 300lb concentrated load (see ASTM C 627). Inspect floor for movement. If movement is caused by loose boards, support them. If movement is caused by deflection or structural movement, consult a carpenter for structural repair.
- **MEASURE THE AREA:** Measure the area to be tiled and estimate the square footage needed, plus 10% for cut-waste and possible future repairs. To find the square footage of the room, take the length times the width.
- **REMOVE MOULDINGS:** Remove any existing carpeting, padding, base and/or quarter round mouldings. **DO NOT** remove existing resilient floor coverings as it may contain asbestos. Please refer to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for removal of resilient floor coverings.
- **CHECK ALL CLEARANCES:** Check all door and appliance clearances, as well as transition heights. Cut or plane the bottom of doors to accommodate the change in floor height.
- **UNDERCUT DOOR CASINGS AND JAMS:** Undercut door casings and jams. This will allow tiles to move freely while also covering the cut edges. A scrap piece of tile can be used to guide the saw blade. This will help achieve the correct height for undercutting.

## Layouts/Patterns

- Installs in straight, diagonal, staggered, or mixed size patterns **WITHIN A COLLECTION.**
- Installation can begin in the center of the room or at perimeter. As with a traditional tile installation, the layout should be planned so the cut pieces along the perimeter appear in an aesthetically pleasing manner.
- Install around, not under, cabinetry, center islands, bathtubs and shower floors.
- A 1/4 in. expansion space should be left around the perimeter of the room, and around permanently installed cabinetry, center islands, bathtubs, etc. Tabs can be removed using a wet saw, tin snip, or rubber mallet.
- It may be advantageous to begin an installation at a doorway or underneath an undercut.
- Due to the variations associated with glazed porcelain tile, including shade, finish, color and texture, tiles should be mixed from cartons if installing different lot numbers. We recommend all jobs be installed from the same lot number.
- When purchasing tile, please note that each pattern will require a different amount of tile. It is recommended to purchase a minimum of 10% more than needed to account for cut waste and, if necessary, future repairs.
- A tile cannot be installed between two other tiles.

## SNAP

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### Installation

- Gently twist and inspect each tile for color match, damage or defect before installing.
- Temperature during installation should be maintained above 60° F (16° C) and below 110° F (43° C). However, when applying grout, surface and air temperature needs to be at least 60°F (16°C).
- A 24-hour acclimation period is necessary if temperature variance from storage to jobsite is greater than 20° F (7° C).
- All claims for defective product must be filed before the tile is installed. A careful twisting and visual inspection should be performed prior to installation.
- Small cut pieces installed along the perimeter should be adhered using a premium construction adhesive (PL 400 or PL Premium).

### Assembly

- Tiles can be interlocked using a white rubber mallet and tapping block. Using a tapping block is optional.
- Tiles may be installed one at a time, or in rows.
- System is non-directional, and can be installed to the right or to the left.
- Ensure interlocking tabs are fully engaged.
- Grout joint intersections should form a perfect cross. This should be checked throughout the installation, and after the field tile has been installed. Adjustments can be made by using a white-headed rubber mallet and tapping the misaligned row in the appropriate direction.
- Tile rows can be shifted for perfect alignment using a rubber mallet and pull bar, or tapping block.
- Tiles can be disengaged in 2 ways:
  1. Lifting one tile upward until tiles disconnect.
  2. Placing the rubber-coated pull bar in the grout joint and twisting until tiles separate.

## Marking/Cutting

- Always follow tool manufacturer safety requirements and use appropriate eye and ear protection.
- Tiles may be cut using a wet saw, tile cutter, or angle grinder, all with a diamond blade designed for porcelain.
- A ¼" gap is required along the perimeter of room and permanently installed items such as cabinets, bathtubs, etc. to allow for expansion and contraction. Remove the tabs from this space.
- When using a wet saw, be sure to change the water often. Shavings from the plastic tray float, and will clog the water pump.
- After cutting the tile with a wet saw, set it with the cut edge facing down to allow the water to drain properly.
- When cutting tile using a tile cutter:  
**Step 1:** Score tile with tile cutter.  
**Step 2:** Snap porcelain tile.  
**Step 3:** Separate the two pieces of porcelain tile, then run a utility knife through the plastic tray and snap. For further instructions see our installation videos at [SnapStone.com](http://SnapStone.com).
- L cuts can be made using a wet saw or angle grinder.
- Curved, circular, or U cuts can be made using an angle grinder.
- Holes can be drilled using a high quality carbide-designed hole cutter or diamond bit.
- Once cut, a tile can be installed along the perimeter using a rubber-coated pull bar.

## GROUT

### Grouting

- Use only with Certified Urethane Flexible Grout. Other grouts are not sufficiently flexible to handle the movement associated with a floating floor and will fail. See FULL Grouting Instructions included with Grout Pail.

### Trims and Transitions

- Base and/or quarter round mouldings should be installed to cover the perimeter spaces.
- A T-moulding is used when transitioning from your tile to a floor of similar height.
- A wood or metal reducer is used to transition to a vinyl or concrete floor.
- A transition moulding is not needed at a carpet edge. Tuck carpet between tack strip and your tile.
- A flush wood, overlapping vinyl or overlapping metal stair nose molding is needed at stair edge.

### Care and Maintenance

- Regular sweeping or vacuuming and damp mopping is recommended to keep your floor looking its best.
- For deep cleaning, or to address messy or sticky spills, use a non-detergent cleaner designed for porcelain.
- DO NOT USE commercial enzyme-based cleaners, vinegar or steam mops.

## Repair and Replacement

- 1: Remove grout from perimeter of broken tile
- 2: Cut the tabs at 3 of the 4 surrounding sides of the broken tile
- 3: Remove broken tile
- 4: Cut the upward tabs of the new tile on 3 of 4 sides
- 5: Apply a layer of premium construction adhesive to the back of the new tile
- 6: Place the new tile into position, interlocking the side with remaining tabs
- 7: Apply pressure to ensure full adhesion
- 8: Allow adhesive to dry for 24 hours
- 9: Once adhesive cures, apply flexible grout

## Questions?

Call toll-free: **1-877-263-5861**

[www.snapsysinterloc.com](http://www.snapsysinterloc.com)