![Decorative Ceiling Tiles - from plain to beautiful in hours]

STYROFOAM CEILING TILES - Installation Guide

✕	Required Tools

✓ Utility knife	✓ Sponge
✓ A measuring tape	✓ An adhesive (Instant Grab #310)
✓ A caulk	✓ Caulking gun
✓ A pencil	✓ Straight edge
✓ A gloves	✓ Chalk line

Ensure you have all the necessary materials from a local hardware or home improvement store before starting the project. When cutting ceiling tiles with a utility knife, be cautious to prevent injuries. Trim tiles securely on a flat surface.

Step 1. Preparing the Surface

Styrofoam ceiling tiles can be installed on ceilings and walls covered with drywall, lime, lime-cement, dry plaster, chip-board, aerated concrete, masonry, silicates, and popcorned or textured ceiling finishes. When installing over any existing ceiling material, the surface should be dry, stable, even, hard, and free of any dust or debris.

Step 2. Discovering the Central Spot

To achieve an aesthetically pleasing layout, it is recommended to begin installing your Styrofoam decorative tiles from the center of the room. If there is already a ceiling fan or light in this location, you can start there. Otherwise, you can use the string method to determine the room's center.

Stretch two strings diagonally across the ceiling from opposite corners, securing the ends with finish nails or with the assistance of a helper. Mark the intersection point of the strings to create two perpendicular lines, dividing the ceiling into four quadrants.

Step 3. Applying Adhesive to Tiles

Apply 1 to 1 ½ inch thick mounds of mastic on the back of each tile. Adjust thickness based on surface type (porous or flat) and use initial tiles to determine the ideal amount.

Place mastic mounds, 2 to 3 inches in diameter, at tile corners, center, and additional spots as needed. Press tiles onto the ceiling, allowing mastic to distribute evenly. Avoid excess mastic near edges to prevent overflow during installation.

Step 4. Installing the First Tile

Measure and mark the center of each wall, considering any offsets or unique situations. Use a chalk line to snap a line through the marked centers, creating square lines as installation guides.

Inspect the lines for accuracy before installing any tiles. Apply adhesive to the first tile's back, align one corner with the marked center of the room, and ensure the edges follow the chalked lines.

Step 5. Ensuring Adhesion and Spacing

Apply sufficient force to evenly spread the mastic while pressing each tile into place, avoiding damage to the surface. Install tiles in parallel rows, keeping the edges closely aligned.

Consider snapping additional lines for tile width guidance, being cautious not to mark installed tiles. Exercise caution when trimming tiles at the room perimeter.

Step 6. Final Caulking Touches

After completing the tile installation, use a caulking gun to apply caulk along the tile seams, focusing on areas with gaps for a seamless look. Practice caulking on spare tiles if you're inexperienced before working on the finished ceiling.

Apply caulk similar to grouting ceramic tiles, filling the gaps along the length of each tile. Avoid applying excessive caulk, and smooth the bead with a clean finger promptly.

Use a damp sponge to remove excess caulk, rinsing it frequently and wringing it thoroughly to prevent smudging the tiles.

NOTE!

- Avoid applying Styrofoam ceiling tiles over soft or unstable popcorn ceilings.

- If the popcorn ceiling falls into these categories or is questionable, remove it before tile installation.

- To remove popcorn, soak it with water and scrub it off the surface.

- When painting tiles, use white caulk; for pre-finished tiles, choose a matching or clear caulk.

- Wipe off excess caulk promptly before it dries to avoid difficult removal.