

# **DIY - Laying Tiles over Timber Flooring**

## **For the Home Handyman**

**Below are the important steps to take when tiling directly over a timber floor**

### **Before you Start**

- The floor must be sound, flat and clean. All varnishes and other coatings must be removed to provide a key for the adhesive. If there is any bounce or movement in the floor, fix tile underlay over the floor to eliminate the movement.
- Prime all timber floors.
- Ensure that the room is square (corners should be 90 degrees) and that the walls are straight.
- Bond the tiles to the timber flooring using a 2 part adhesive directly onto the timber. This adhesive combines a rubber based powder with a flexible acrylic based liquid to provide high bond strength and flexibility (if using tile underlay a premixed adhesive can be used).
- Mix the powder slowly into the liquid at the suggested ratios on the instructions. Mixing should be carried out using a low speed electric drill with an adhesive mixing attachment. Running the drill at high speed will drag air into the mix and cause it to dry rapidly.
- You must apply the adhesive with a 10mm or 12 mm notched trowel to ensure that your final adhesive thickness is 4mm - 5mm after curing.
- Wait 24 hours prior to grouting to allow the adhesive to dry. Mix the grout powder with water to achieve a lump free, toothpaste consistency.
- Apply the grout with a grouting tool and clean up the residue every 1 - 2m<sup>2</sup> with a clean sponge washed out in clean water. Do not work the sponge too heavily in to the grout. This will avoid dragging grout out of the joins. Be careful not to spread too much grout before cleaning the tiles as it becomes harder to remove the grout as it dries.
- Allow another 24 hours before cleaning the grout smear off with a clean white cloth.
- Seal the grout to repel any dirt that will discolour the grout.

The floor area is now ready to use.

Guidelines courtesy of Davco Constructions