

GUIDE TO PREVENTING TILE LIPPAGE



While the quality of tiles is undoubtedly crucial, the significance of proper installation cannot be overstated. Entrusting the task to a proficient team of tilers is important to guarantee the longevity and resilience of your tiles over time. Their expertise ensures meticulous installation, enhancing both the performance and endurance of your tiled surfaces for years to come.

In the realm of tile installation, attaining flawless results isn't always guaranteed, and tile lippage can be a common issue encountered.



Tile Lippage

Tile lippage is the term used to describe the height variation between adjacent tiles. This occurs when some tiles have edges or corners that are either higher or lower than those surrounding them, resulting in an uneven surface.

This not only affects aesthetics but also poses risks, such as increased susceptibility to cracks or breakage, particularly in high-traffic zones, and potential safety hazards. Additionally, the expense of redoing the entire tiling can be considerable. Therefore, it is crucial to grasp methods for preventing tile lippage, such as utilizing effective tile levelling systems.

Tile Levelling System

Tile levelling systems have revolutionized the tiling industry, ensuring flawless installations even with large format tiles. But why did these systems emerge when they did?

In this guide, we will cover everything you need to know about tile levelling, from the basics to the benefits, using expert insights and resources to guide you through the process.

Understanding Tile Levelling System

a. What is a tile levelling system?

A tile levelling system is a set of tools designed to ensure that tiles are installed evenly and seamlessly. These systems typically consist of clips, wedges, and pliers, which work together to eliminate lippage and create a uniform surface.



b. When was the tile levelling system introduced?

The rise of large format tiles presented challenges for traditional tiling methods. These tiles, initially introduced in the early 2000s, were prone to bowing, leading to increased lippage during installation. This issue was worsened by narrower grout lines, which accentuated any unevenness. To address these issues, tile levelling systems were introduced.



c. Why do we need a tile levelling system?

Not just any tile levelling system will suffice; a quality one is essential to prevent tile lippage, particularly when working with large format tiles. The main challenge with these tiles is their susceptibility to bowing, resulting in unevenness during installation.

By employing a tile levelling system, the tiles are interlocked, guaranteeing a smooth and level surface as the thinset dries. This interlocking mechanism not only minimizes the risk of lippage but also eradicates settling due to shrinkage. Such systems evenly distribute pressure across the tiles, ensuring a flawlessly flat surface.

d. What are the benefits of a tile levelling system?

- Prevention of unevenness and height differences.
- Stability and prevention of tiles shifting or collapsing.
- Versatility for both horizontal and vertical surfaces.
- Time-saving installation process.
- Consistent, flat, and smooth surface with flush tiles.



e. How many clips and wedges will I require per square meter of tiling?

Determining the number of clips and wedges needed per square meter of tiling depends on various factors, including the size and thickness of the tiles, the desired spacing between tiles, and the layout pattern being used. However, as a general guideline, manufacturers of tile levelling systems often provide recommendations based on typical tile sizes and installation scenarios.



For example, some manufacturers suggest using approximately 4 to 6 clips per square foot (equivalent to about 40 to 60 clips per square meter) for standard-sized tiles. Additionally, the number of wedges required typically corresponds to the number of clips used, as each clip requires a corresponding wedge to apply pressure evenly.

It's essential to consult the specific instructions and recommendations provided by the manufacturer of your chosen tile levelling system, as they may have their guidelines based on the characteristics of their products.

f. How are the clips and wedges removed?

Removing clips and wedges after the adhesive has cured is a straightforward process. Typically, the wedges are kicked or tapped with a mallet to break them off, and the clips can be easily snapped or twisted off by hand or using pliers. Refer to the instructions of the tile levelling system for a more detailed explanation.

g. Are tile levelling clips and wedges reusable?

There are reusable tile levelling systems available in the market, making them a cost-effective solution for multiple projects.

h. Will a tile levelling system save time?

Absolutely! While it may appear labor-intensive, tile levelling systems streamline tiling by minimizing manual adjustments, resulting in quicker and more efficient installations. Additionally, they prevent lippage, eliminating the need for retiling.



i. Apart from clip and wedge systems, are there any other tile levelling systems?

While clip and wedge systems are the most common, there are other tile levelling systems available, such as self-levelling spacers and reusable levelling systems. Each offers distinct advantages, catering to different project requirements, and you can easily find information online. It's crucial to select a high-quality tile levelling system for a smooth process. Some tilers opt for cheaper, lower-quality options, but they often don't meet expectations.

j. Do I need to use a tile levelling system?

We highly recommend using tile levelling, especially for large or high-visibility projects. It helps achieve professional results and ensures customer satisfaction by eliminating common issues like lippage and unevenness.

k. Can I use a tile levelling system on wall tiles?

Absolutely! You can use a tile levelling system in the same way as for floor tiles, enabling you to achieve a perfectly flat finish.



Guides & Resources

How to use the Tile Levelling System?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0tmTIYHyaM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2z5UbWawBAY>

How to Remove Tile Levelling Clips:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybG4kkadkKk>

Conclusion

Mastering tile levelling is essential for achieving professional-quality results in any tiling project. By understanding the fundamentals of tile levelling systems and their benefits, you can elevate your tiling game and ensure flawless installations every time.



81 Ubi Ave 4, #03-18/19, UB. One Singapore 408830

T +65 6297 7433 **F** +65 6297 7466 **E** info@heritageceramics.com

www.heritageceramics.com