

# direct mount / glue-up

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Glue-Up / Staple-Up / Direct Mount Installation

Signature Series ceiling tiles can be installed directly to flat ceiling surfaces using adhesive or staples.

- For glue-up installations, use an appropriate fiberglass reinforced panel adhesive (FRP); **Liquid Nails® FRP-310** and equivalent products are commonly available.
- For staple-up installations, use **T-50 staples** of the appropriate length for the surface.



### Glue-Up or Staple-Up, Which Is Better?

The answer to this question depends upon the tools you have available, the condition of your existing ceiling surface, and your personal preference.

Most customers prefer to use glue rather than staples to install their ceiling tiles. Adhesives like FRP are easy to use and allow you ample time to position ceiling tiles before drying completely. All you need for a glue-up installation is a clean and structurally sound ceiling surface, bulk adhesive, and a v-notch trowel.

Staple-up installations will require T-50 staples of an appropriate length to provide a firm hold and a stapler - either hand or air powered. Staples may not be suitable for hard sub-surfaces like plaster and old wood.

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### **Pre-Test Is Best**

Before you begin installing your new ceiling tiles, it is very important to pre-test your materials and installation method of choice in order to identify which combination will produce the best results for your particular situation.

### **Surface Types and Methods of Installation**

- **Sheetrock, Plaster, and Cement**

Install your ceiling tiles directly to sheetrock, plaster, and cement using FRP adhesive.

- **Paneling and Plywood**

Install your ceiling tiles directly to paneling and plywood using FRP adhesive or T-50 staples.

- **Wood Furring Strips**

Install your ceiling tiles directly to wood furring strips (positioned 23.75" on center in a graph or cross pattern) using FRP adhesive or T-50 staples.

- **Popcorn**

Ceiling tiles cannot be installed directly to popcorn ceiling surfaces. You must remove the existing texture, add a new layer of drywall over it, or install wood furring strips.

- **Fiberboard and Mineral Fiber Ceiling Tiles**

We recommend that you remove fiberboard or mineral fiber ceiling tiles before installing your new ceiling, as these surfaces may not provide enough of an attachment sub-surface for your new Ceilume ceiling tiles.

If the existing fiberboard or mineral fiber ceiling tiles cannot be removed, fasten wood furring strips (positioned 23.75" on center in a graph or cross pattern) through the existing surface and into the structurally sound framing above.

### **Preparation of the Installation Surface**

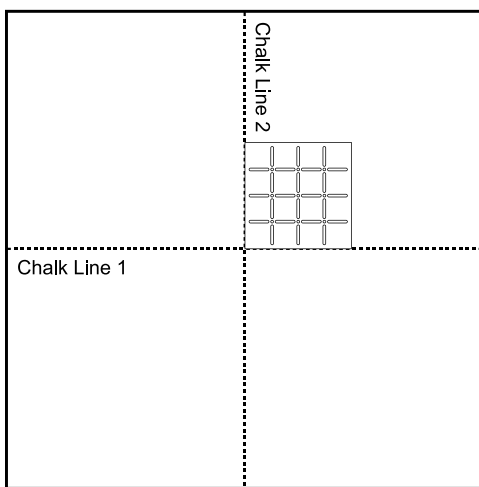
The installation surface should be smooth, clean, and dry. Taping and bedding, patching, or sanding may be necessary if your ceiling has excessive damage or gaps.

## Tools Required

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Chalk line
- Scissors or utility knife
- For staple-up installations, T-50 staples of an appropriate length and a staple gun
- For glue-up installations, bulk FRP adhesive, notch trowel (size trowel as directed by the adhesive label), water, and paper towels

## Laying Out Your New Ceiling

Map your ceiling on graph paper before beginning installation. Locate and draw any lighting fixtures, heating vents, hallways, closets, and doorways. Occasionally these features will influence starting points, tile placement, and finished ceiling design.



Taking into account the variables listed above, place chalk lines along the ceiling's midpoints. These lines should be parallel with the walls and create a cross close to the middle of the ceiling. These markings will help you align the edges of your first ceiling tiles.

If there are no obstructing elements, simply place a chalk line in the center of the ceiling from one wall to its opposite, parallel wall. Find the wall perpendicular to the first and place a chalk line in the center of that wall to its opposite, parallel wall.

Your first ceiling tile will be placed in the corner created by the intersection of your two chalk lines. You will then install the tiles adjacent to the first, working from the center to the outer edges of your ceiling.

Keep in mind that ceilings are rarely square and chalk lines may need to be adjusted.

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### Ceiling Tile Application

If gluing, make sure that your hands and work surfaces are clean and dry. Dust and oils can affect ceiling tile adherence.

Use your v-notch trowel to apply a flat film of adhesive to the backside of the ceiling tile around the perimeter. Avoid placing daubs of FRP anywhere else, as these may be visible through the tile after installation. Remove any excess adhesive immediately with warm water.

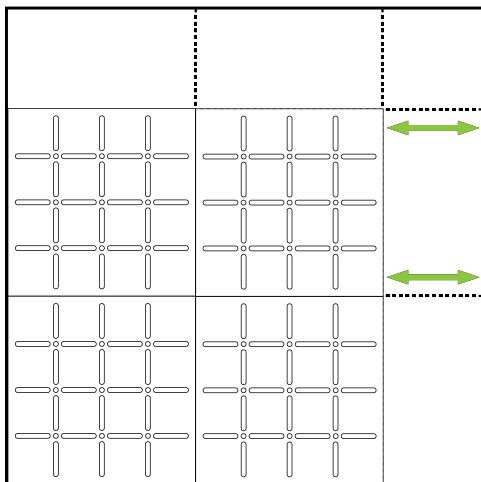
Position the ceiling tile and firmly hold it in place, making sure that the FRP makes good contact with the ceiling surface for proper adhesion.

If stapling, apply three staples along each side of your ceiling tile within 0.25" of the tile's outer edge, which will ensure that the staples will be covered by your decorative strips in the final phase of installation.

Once your first ceiling tile is installed, begin placing adjacent tiles. The second ceiling tile you install should be placed directly against the first. The seams between tiles may vary slightly, so do not butt the tiles together with force, simply slide them into place. All joints will be covered with decorative strips in the final phase of installation, so do not worry about small gaps between tiles.

Continue installing the remaining ceiling tiles until all of your central (full-size) tiles have been installed, then proceed to the next section.

### Border Ceiling Tiles



Border tiles are necessary around the edge of the ceiling when it is too small to accommodate full-size tiles. These edge trim tiles have been designed with a minimum relief pattern that lends itself to cutting and trimming.

To begin, choose a non-corner border tile location and measure the distance from the edge of a center, installed ceiling tile to the wall. Using that measurement, cut the edge trim tile to size.

If gluing, use your v-notch trowel to apply a flat film of

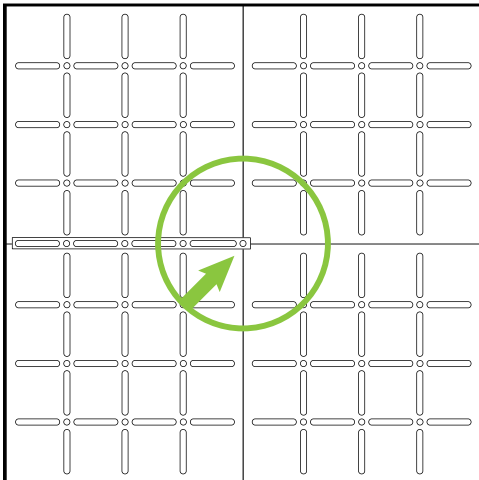
adhesive to the backside of the ceiling tile around its perimeter. Position the ceiling tile with the cut edge toward the wall and firmly press it into place, making sure that the FRP makes good contact with your ceiling surface for proper adhesion.

If stapling, apply three staples within 0.25" of the tile's outer edge along each side of your ceiling tile except for the side that meets the wall.

Repeat the installation process with the remaining border ceiling tiles, proceeding from one adjacent tile to the next until your border (and ceiling!) is complete, then proceed to the next section.

## Decorative Strips

Decorative strips are 2' long, self-adhesive, and designed to cover the joints between ceiling tiles. Each strip has a decorative pattern that begins with a dot and ends with a dash.

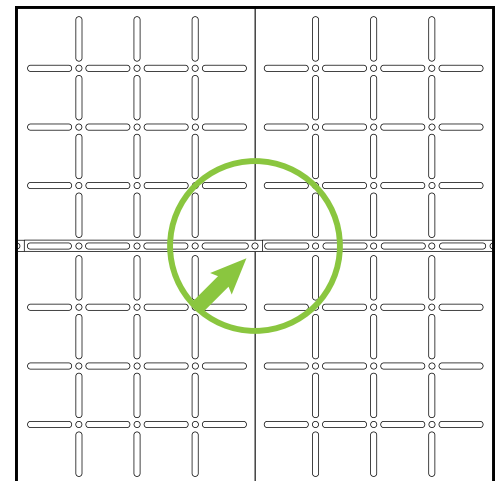


Do not remove the backing on decorative strips until they are ready to be installed, and make sure your ceiling tiles are clean and dry. If the adhesive on the back of the decorative strip comes into contact with dust, oil, or grease of any kind it will not adhere properly.

Dry fit all strips prior to installation. To dry fit, place the dot end of the strip directly over the intersection of four ceiling tiles and the length of the strip over the joint of two adjacent tiles. Trim to length if necessary.

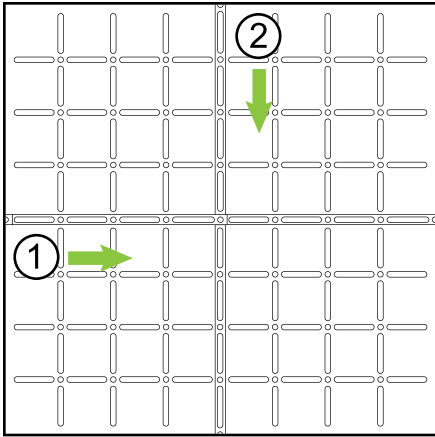
Remove the backing on the strip, exposing the adhesive, and press the strip firmly into place. Make sure to place the dot end of the strip over the intersection of four ceiling tiles and its length over the joint of two neighboring tiles.

Butt the next decorative strip directly against the first, creating a repeating pattern - the first dot on the second strip placed over the next four-way ceiling tile intersection. Each time dry fit and trim as necessary.



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If decorative strips do not adhere for any reason, apply a small amount of FRP adhesive to the back of the strip and re-install.

Install all of the decorative strips running in one direction first and then finish by installing the strips perpendicular to the first set. Trim the dot off of the end of each strip in the second set to keep the dot dash pattern consistent across the entirety of the ceiling and to create visual symmetry.

## Painting, Storage, and Maintenance

### Painting

All Ceilume products can be painted before or after installation.

Be sure ceiling tiles, decorative strips, and decorative tape are clean and dry before painting, experiment on a sample with your paint of choice before painting your entire ceiling, and do not use solvent type thinner or cleaners.

**Painting voids all fire ratings.**

### Storing

Do not store ceiling tiles in contact with direct sunlight or in contact with any heat that may reach temperatures of over 110°F. When temperatures reach these levels the vinyl may distort.

### Cleaning

Ceilume Ceiling Tiles, decorative strips, and decorative tape require no special cleaning agents - just wipe them down with a soft damp rag.

There is no risk of water damage during cleaning, and there is no need for scheduled professional maintenance and resurfacing to prevent environmental and aesthetic problems.

**1-800-557-0654**

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Installation Instructions Revised: 10/11/2011

Small, stubborn spots can be handled with cleaners such as Fantastik® and Windex®.

Cleaners containing organic solvents or other aggressive ingredients should not be used as they may affect the surface appearance of your ceiling tiles. Examples of such cleaners include chlorine bleach, liquid grease remover, nail polish remover, and furniture polish.