SUITEBLOUSFLOORS
Carefree Tile can be installed directly over a variety of subfloor surfaces including wood underlayment, concrete surfons on all grade levels, existing single layer vinyl sheet flooring or tile and other smooth hard surface floors. All subfloor surfaces must be clean, dry and free of movement. Strip wood floors should be covered with wood underlayment. In remodel applications remove residue or cover all adhesive residue or other substances that can prevent the floor from floating. All protruding surface imperfections should be leveled. Set nails and fasteners 1/2" below the surface. Fill cracks and depressions wider than 1/8" with a portland cement-based latex patching compound.

Do not install Carefree over other floating floors like laminate or existing tile flooring installed below grade level in basements. Sweep and clean existing finished flooring before covering with Carefree Tile.

LAYOUT
The following layout instructions have been modified from the carefree* instructions. Proper layout will ensure that the tiles are installed squarely in the room with evenly balanced larger border tiles.

Fig 1 Measure the width (A) and the length (B) of the room (Figure 1).

Divide the measurement by 18" (whole tile). Add 18" to the remainder and divide it by 2 to determine the size of the border tile.

Example: Measurement A = 140" + 18" = 7 with a remainder of 14". 14" + 18" = 2 = 16". The tile in the first row will be 16" wide.

Measurement B = 117" + 18" = 6 with a remainder of 18". 18" + 18" = 2 = 13". The tile at the start of the row will be 13" long.

In this example you will need to snap a chalk line 16" + 18" = 4 for expansion (16 1/8" away) from the wall. Then place a mark on the line 13 1/8" = 13 1/8" away from the left corner and snap a perpendicular chalk line at a right angle using a square or the 3, 4, 5 method (Figure 2). In this example your starting tile is 16" x 13 1/8".

Fig 2 The perpendicular line must be at a right angle to the starting line.

Intricate Layouts and Changing Directions

When installing the first row of tile always start the first tile in the left corner of the room, along the chalk lines with the adhesive strips facing away from the wall (Figure 3).

Trim the tile to size by measuring from the chalk line to the wall. Remember to subtract 1/8" to allow for expansion. (See Cutting Tiles to Fit Below) Always install the cut edge against the wall.

Fig 3 Lay the first tile in place with adhesive strips facing away from the wall.

Remove the paper liner from the adhesive strip on the end of the first tile and align the next tile tightly along the edge of the first after cutting it to fit. Hold the tile in a low angle to the floor as you position it to achieve a tight joint.

Tip: You can use a small piece of cut tile with a straight edge to help align the tile (Figure 4). Once aligned, press firmly into place to secure the tile in the adhesive strip. Adjustments can be made easily by lifting the tile and re-positioning it if necessary.

Fig 4 Use a small piece of cut tile 3" x 3" or smaller placed along the edge of the tile at the joint to help ensure good alignment.

Caution: The paper liner is slippery and loose tiles are slippery. Place the liner into the trash immediately after it is removed from the adhesive strip to avoid a slip hazard.

Fig 5 Apply an adhesive strip along the edge of the tile to change directions.

Some installations with multiple rows, closets, intricate layouts or alcoves may require changing the direction of the tiles. This is easily done by removing the adhesive strips from another tile and placing it along the edge of the previous tile and the wall and the direction will change. Carefully position the adhesive strip centered along the edge without overlapping the strips prior to installing it (Figure 5). When done correctly, the tiles will have an adhesive strip on both sides and one end on this row only. When changing the direction it will be necessary to turn the tile 180 degrees and to start each row on the right side instead of the left. Continue to install tiles in the opposite direction as required.

INTRICATE ROOM LAYOUTS AND CHANGING DIRECTIONS

In some installations with multiple rooms, closets, intricate layouts or alcoves may require changing the direction of the tiles. This is easily done by removing the adhesive strips from another tile and placing it along the edge of the previous tile and the wall.

Caution: The paper liner is slippery and loose tiles are slippery. Place the liner into the trash immediately after it is removed from the adhesive strip to avoid a slip hazard.

Continue setting each tile in the row (with the adhesive strip facing out from the wall) from the previous laid tile and carefully fitting it with tight joints. Use the alignment piece to help keep joints aligned.