



# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

Read and understand these instructions prior to beginning any work. These instructions must be followed in order to maintain the Manufacturer's Limited Warranty.

## PREPARATION

The following tools and materials are needed for proper installation:

ISB® strips	3/8" x 1/4" notched trowel	Field tile
ISB® end caps	Wet saw	Putty knife
ISB® connectors and/or ISB® alignment clips	Miter saw	Latex-fortified Portland cement mortar

Refer to ANSI Specifications for industry standards and guidelines for floor and wall tolerances (AN-3.2.1 & AN-3.2.5). Ensure that the floor/wall transition is clean and free of any potential bond inhibitors, and remove any obstructions in the floor/wall transition. Refer to TCA EJ171 for movement joint recommendations.

## INSTALLATION OF ISB® STRIPS, CONNECTORS AND END CAPS

1. Using a miter saw, pre-cut your ISB® strips to fit around the perimeter of the room. Make sure that there is no more than a 1/8" gap between strips. [TIP: For easier installation, cut the ISB® strips into 4' lengths.]
2. Fit your ISB® strips with inside corner connectors, outside corner connectors and straight connectors for perfect strip alignment. Install ISB® end caps for use by door trim.
3. Using a 3/8" x 1/4" notched trowel, apply mortar at least 2" wide on the floor and 2" wide on the wall at the floor/wall joint. [NOTE: Using organic adhesive is not recommended for the installation of ISB®.]
4. Using the flat side of a trowel, apply mortar in the adhesive channels on the back side of the ISB® strip. The adhesive channels should be completely filled with mortar.
5. With the mortared side of the ISB® profile facing the floor/wall transition, firmly press the strip into the mortar bed.
6. Use the flat side of your trowel to smooth out any excess mortar that squeezed out from the top and bottom of the ISB® strip.
7. Repeat steps 3 through 6 until all ISB® strips are installed throughout the room.

## CUTTING OF TILE STRIPS

1. Set up a jig on the wet saw to cut field tile down into 1" or 1-1/2" pieces depending on the version of ISB® you're using (1.0 or 1.5). Cut enough pieces to span the entire room. While cutting the 1" or 1-1/2" pieces of field tile, continuously check the size of the cuts by placing them into the ISB® profile. [NOTE: For more consistency in the cut tile strips, it is recommended that the factory edge of the tile is not used.]

## MITERING OF INSIDE AND OUTSIDE CORNERS

1. For proper mitering of the 1" or 1-1/2" tile strips, create an "ISB® miter tool" using a piece of your ISB® strip: Cut a 6-8" piece of ISB® and carefully slice off the flexible leg attachments using a utility knife.
2. Use your 45 degree angle and hold your ISB® miter tool against the gauge. The gauge and/or ISB® miter tool must be flipped or moved to get the correct miter cut for your inside or outside corners. Place your 1" or 1-1/2" cut tile into your ISB® miter tool.
3. While firmly holding the tile piece against the ISB® miter tool, slowly cut the tile with a wet saw. [NOTE: Always follow the safety recommendations of the wet saw manufacturer.]

## INSTALLATION OF TILE INTO THE ISB® STRIPS

1. Using a putty knife, pre-fill the 1" or 1-1/2" dove-tailed tile channel on the front of the ISB® strip with mortar or adequately apply enough mortar to the back of the tile to fill the dove tails when applying strips. Make sure that the mortar is spread flat in the tile channel. Keep grout joint channels free of mortar. If mortar does get in, drag the joint with the edge of a trowel (do not use a sharp knife).
2. Install your 1" or 1-1/2" cut tile strips by evenly back-buttering each piece with mortar. Firmly push the tile strip, mortar side down, into the tile channel of the ISB® strip.
3. Install wall and floor tile to normal specifications. Rake grout joints free of mortar.

1850 121st Street East, Suite 103  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
P: 952-224-9141 F: 952-224-1918  
[www.innovativetile.com](http://www.innovativetile.com)



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TILE SYSTEMS

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