



Risk assessment and method statement

Tiling and flooring RAMS

Tiling and floor laying. Pre-filled with typical hazards, controls and sequence:
edit it for this site.

PROJECT

SITE ADDRESS			
ACTIVITY Tiling and floor laying		RAMS REFERENCE	
CONTRACTOR CARRYING OUT THE WORK		PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	
PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	REVISION	DATE

Revision record

Reissue and rebrief when the sequence, the programme, the team or the conditions change. If you would have written it differently had you known, it needs a new revision.

REV	DATE	WHAT CHANGED	BY

THE WORK

The activity, the place and the people

Pre-filled for this kind of work. Make every line specific to this site: this sequence, this access, these people, this weather.

Scope of the activity

What is being done, and what is not included.

MHSWR REGULATION 3(1)

Strip out of [existing floor], preparation of the subfloor, and supply and fixing of [wall tiles / floor tiles / stone / vinyl / carpet / timber / resin] to [areas] as specified. Includes [screed / self-levelling compound], grouting, trims and thresholds. Products to the specification [ref]. Not included: [list any exclusions].

Location and access

Where on site, how people and materials get there, and the restrictions.

Access via [entrance]. Work areas: [rooms or areas]. Cutting area at [location], ventilated and away from others. Mixing point at [location]. Materials stored at [location]. Occupied areas: [details], with a safe route kept open. Working hours [08:00 to 17:00].

Programme and interfaces

When the work runs, and who else is working nearby.

CDM REGULATION 15(2)

START DATE

DURATION

WORKING HOURS

INTERFACES WITH OTHER TRADES

Client or site manager: [name], for access, times for noisy and dusty work, and when each floor can reopen. Other trades: [trades], kept off new floors until released. Underfloor heating and services: routes confirmed with [contractor] before fixing.

Documents this RAMS relies on

Specification and floor finishes schedule [ref]. Safety data sheets and COSHH assessments for each product. Asbestos survey [ref]. Subfloor moisture readings. Extraction examination records. Construction phase plan or client rules.

The team, and their competence

CDM REGULATION 8

ROLE	NAME	CARD, TICKET OR TRAINING NEEDED	CONTACT
Tilers and floor layers		CSCS card for the trade, with apprentices supervised.	
Supervisor		Experienced tiler or floor layer with site supervision training.	
Cutting tool users		Trained on the wet saws, grinders and floor preparation machines they use.	
Strip out		Asbestos awareness for anyone who lifts old floors; non-licensed asbestos task training before anyone removes asbestos tiles.	
Resin and epoxy users		Trained on the product and its data sheet before first use.	
RPE wearers		Face fit tested for tight-fitting masks, and clean shaven where the mask seals.	

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Tiling and flooring RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 2 of 9
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METHOD STATEMENT

The sequence of work

The order the team will work in on the day, with the controls built into each stage. If the sequence changes on site, revise the RAMS and brief it again.

STAGE	WHAT IS DONE, AND HOW	CONTROLS AT THIS STAGE	BY
Before the day	Survey the floors and walls, check the asbestos survey for any old floor, read the safety data sheets and choose the products. Agree times, routes and drying periods with the client.	COSHH assessments for each product; asbestos status known; RAMS approved before work.	Contracts manager
Arrival and briefing	Sign in, attend the induction, then brief the team on this RAMS, the products, the cutting area and any occupied areas.	Briefing signed against this revision; CSCS cards checked; RPE face fit checked.	Supervisor
Protect and set up	Barrier and sign the work area, protect finished surfaces, set up the cutting area and the mixing point, and run the leads.	Safe route kept open; cutting area ventilated and away from others; wet saw on RCD or 110V.	Tilers
Strip out the old floor	Lift old coverings, gripper and fixings once the asbestos status is confirmed, and remove the waste as you go.	Suspect material left in place and reported; gloves for gripper and nails; waste bagged.	Floor layers
Prepare the subfloor	Grind, fill, prime and level the base, laying screed or self-levelling compound where specified, and check moisture before laying.	Grinders with H or M class extraction; APF 20 RPE; waterproof knee pads or boards for screeding.	Floor layers
Set out and cut	Set out the floor or wall, then cut tiles, stone, boards or sheet to suit, using manual cutters where they do the job.	Power cutting wet or extracted; RPE with an APF of 20; cut edges handled with gloves.	Tilers
Fix and lay	Mix adhesive and fix tiles, or lay sheet, carpet, boards or resin, working out of the room towards the exit.	Gloves for alkalis or from the data sheet; knee pads; two-person lifts for rolls and large tiles.	Tilers
Grout, weld and finish	Grout and seal tiles, weld vinyl seams, fit thresholds, trims and skirting details.	Epoxy kept off the skin; welding gun on its stand; edges and changes of level fixed or ramped.	Floor layers
Clean down	Clean tools at the mixing point, vacuum the dust, clear offcuts and packaging, and remove waste.	Vacuum, never dry sweeping; no slurry or adhesive washed into drains.	Tilers
Protect and hand back	Keep the floor closed until it can take traffic, lay protection, then hand back with the products used and the care instructions.	Signs kept up until the drying time on the data sheet has passed; area checked with the client.	Supervisor

CDM REGULATION 15(2): PLAN, MANAGE AND MONITOR THE WORK

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Tiling and flooring RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 3 of 9
---------	--------------------------------------	----------	------	----------------

RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazards, controls and the risk that remains

Each significant hazard rated before and after its controls, as likelihood times severity. The ratings are typical: check them for this site.

	LIKELIHOOD		SEVERITY		
	1	2	3	4	5
5	5	10	15	20	25
4	4	8	12	16	20
3	3	6	9	12	15
2	2	4	6	8	10
1	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5

1 to 4 low
 5 to 12 medium
 15 to 25 high

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Silica dust from cutting tile and stone	Tilers cutting porcelain, ceramic, stone and screed, and anyone nearby, from silicosis and lung cancer.	4 x 5 = 20 High	- Score and snap or manual cutters where they do the job; cuts planned to keep power cutting down. - Power cutting wet for the whole cut, or with on-tool extraction to an H or M class unit. - RPE with an APF of 20, face fit tested; cutting area away from others, cleaned by vacuum, never swept dry.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	Supervisor
Dust from mixing adhesive, grout and screed	Tilers and floor layers emptying bags and mixing powders.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Bags opened and poured low into the bucket; paddle started slowly and kept below the surface. - Mixing done in a ventilated area away from others; FFP3 RPE where the data sheet or dust calls for it.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Cement burns and dermatitis	Tilers and screeders whose skin, knees or eyes touch wet cement-based products.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Waterproof gloves suitable for alkalis; long sleeves; waterproof knee pads or kneeling boards when screeding. - Cement washed off the skin at once; hands washed at breaks; skin care cream provided. - Eyewash on hand; skin checks by a responsible person where dermatitis is reasonably likely.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Epoxy grouts and resin floors	Floor layers and tilers mixing and applying epoxy, from skin sensitisation.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	- Cement-based or other products used where they do the job. - Gloves chosen from the safety data sheet and changed when contaminated; no skin cleaned with solvents. - Resin mixed and applied with tools, not hands; skin checks for anyone using epoxy regularly.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Solvent adhesives and primers	Floor layers and occupants, from vapour and from fire where vapour meets an ignition source.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	- Solvent-free adhesives and primers used wherever they do the job. - Rooms ventilated; no smoking, flames or sparking tools near; minimum quantities in the room. - Lids on; rags in a sealed metal container; vapour filter RPE where the COSHH assessment calls for it.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Kneeling and knee injury	Tilers, carpet fitters and floor layers working on their knees for most of the day.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Knee pads or kneeling boards worn for all floor work; tasks rotated with standing work. - Power stretchers used in place of knee kickers on larger rooms; long-handled tools for scraping and spreading. - Knee pain or swelling reported early.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Heavy rolls, boards, bags and large tiles	Floor layers carrying carpet and vinyl rolls, boards, adhesive bags and large format tiles up stairs.	4 x 3 = 12 Med	- Deliveries placed close to the work; roll trolleys, sack barrows and lifts used where available. - Two-person lifts for rolls and large format tiles, with carrying frames or suction lifters for big slabs. - Team briefed on weights and the route before carrying.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	
Floor preparation: grinders and scabblers	Operators preparing concrete and screed, from dust, noise and hand-arm vibration.	4 x 5 = 20 High	- Grinders with on-tool extraction to an H or M class unit; RPE with an APF of 20. - Hearing protection zone where levels may reach 85 dB(A); hearing protection worn. - Trigger time planned from the manufacturer's data to keep exposure below the 2.5 m/s² A(8) action value where practicable.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	

MHSWR REGULATION 3(6): WITH FIVE OR MORE EMPLOYEES, RECORD THE SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Tiling and flooring RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 4 of 9
---------	--------------------------------------	----------	------	----------------

RISK ASSESSMENT, CONTINUED

More hazards, and those specific to this site

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Wet saws, grinders and power tools	Tilers cutting with wet saws and angle grinders, from blade contact, kickback and shock.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	• Users trained on the tool; guards fitted; disc or blade suited to the material and the tool speed. • Wet saws on an RCD-protected or 110V supply, with leads kept out of the water. • Workpiece held on the bed or clamped; tool allowed to stop before it is put down.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Knives, gripper and sharp edges	Carpet and vinyl fitters using knives, and anyone handling gripper strip or cut tile edges.	4 x 2 = 8 Med	• Knives with retractable or guarded blades; blades changed often and disposed of in a sharps box. • Cut-resistant gloves for handling tile edges and gripper; gripper fixed with care and offcuts cleared.	2 x 2 = 4 Low	
Asbestos in old floors	Floor layers lifting old vinyl and thermoplastic tiles, sheet flooring and bitumen adhesive.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Asbestos survey checked before any old floor is lifted in buildings built or refurbished before 2000. • Suspect tiles, backing paper or adhesive left in place and reported; no grinding or sanding. • Overlay where possible; removal only by trained workers to HSE Asbestos Essentials sheet A23, notified where tiles are paper-backed.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Floors others walk on	Occupants, the public and other trades crossing wet adhesive, fresh grout, uncured screed or loose edges.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	• Work areas barriered and signed, with a safe route kept open or a diversion agreed. • Floors kept closed until the product can take foot traffic, from the data sheet; protection laid before reopening. • Edges, thresholds and changes of level fixed or ramped before handing back.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Slips and trips in the work area	Tilers and floor layers, on slurry, offcuts, packaging and trailing leads.	3 x 2 = 6 Med	• Spills and slurry cleaned up straight away; offcuts and packaging cleared as work goes on. • Leads run along walls; materials stacked out of walkways.	2 x 2 = 4 Low	
Wall tiling from steps and hop-ups	Tilers fixing high wall tiles, splashbacks and cladding.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	• Podium steps or a low platform with guard-rails for longer work; stepladders only for light, short tasks. • Steps on a clean, level floor, not on wet adhesive or loose boards; no overreaching. • Pre-use check each day; faulty equipment taken out of use.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Hot air welding of vinyl seams	Floor layers welding seams and coving, from burns and from fire.	2 x 3 = 6 Med	• Welding gun stood on its stand when not in use and left to cool away from flammable materials. • Hot work permit where the site requires one; area checked before leaving.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	
Hidden pipes and cables in floors	Floor layers fixing boards, gripper and thresholds, or lifting old floors.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	• Detector used before nailing or screwing into floors; drawings checked for underfloor heating and service routes. • Any service hit is reported and made safe by a competent person before work goes on.	1 x 4 = 4 Low	
Wood dust from sanding and cutting floors	Floor layers sanding timber floors and cutting boards and MDF.	3 x 4 = 12 Med	• Sanders and saws with extraction at the tool; FFP3 RPE, face fit tested. • Clean up with an M class vacuum, never by dry sweeping.	2 x 4 = 8 Med	
Occupied homes and buildings	Residents, staff and visitors, from dust, noise, moved furniture and unfinished floors.	3 x 3 = 9 Med	• Times for noisy and dusty work agreed with the occupier or building manager. • Dust kept in the work area by extraction and sheeting; furniture moved by two people with trolleys. • Children and vulnerable people kept out of the work area.	1 x 3 = 3 Low	

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Tiling and flooring RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 5 of 9
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EQUIPMENT

Plant, equipment and PPE

Plant and equipment

Each item, the checks and certificates it needs, and who may operate it.

PUWER 1998, LOLER 1998

ITEM	CHECKS AND CERTIFICATES	OPERATOR COMPETENCE
Wet tile saw	Guard and water supply checked; RCD-protected or 110V supply.	Trained user
Angle grinder	Guard fitted; disc suited to the material and rated for the speed.	Trained user
Floor grinder and extraction	H or M class unit; hoses and filters checked; examined every 14 months.	Trained operator
Mixing paddle and drill	Paddle secure; lead and casing checked before use.	Trained user
Carpet power stretcher	Head, poles and teeth checked before use.	Trained user
Podium steps and stepladders	Pre-use check each day; detailed inspection on a set schedule.	Trained user

Personal protective equipment

PPE is the last line of defence, after the controls above. Specify the type, not just the item.

PPE AT WORK REGULATIONS 1992

ITEM	NEEDED	TYPE AND SPECIFICATION
Safety helmet	☐	
Safety footwear	☒	To site standard, grip sole
High-visibility clothing	☒	Where site rules require
Gloves	☒	Waterproof, for alkalis; per data sheet
Eye protection	☒	Cutting, grinding, mixing
Hearing protection	☒	Grinders, saws, loud tools
Respiratory protection Type, and face-fit tested	☒	APF 20, e.g. FFP3, face fit tested
Harness or restraint Anchor points identified	☐	

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Tiling and flooring RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 6 of 9
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CONTROLS

Substances, permits, emergencies and the environment

Hazardous substances		Each substance and its COSHH assessment.
COSHH 2002, REGULATION 6		
SUBSTANCE	COSHH ASSESSMENT REFERENCE	CONTROLS
Cement-based adhesives, grouts and screeds	[ref]	Waterproof gloves for alkalis; knee pads; wash off at once; eyewash.
Silica dust from cutting tile, stone and screed	[ref]	Wet cutting or H or M class extraction; APF 20 RPE; vacuum, no dry sweeping.
Epoxy grouts and resins	[ref]	Gloves from the data sheet; no skin contact; no solvents on skin.
Solvent adhesives and primers	[ref]	Solvent-free where possible; ventilation; no ignition sources; lids on.

Permits and plans

PERMIT OR PLAN	NEEDED	REFERENCE
Hot work permit	☒	
Permit to work	☒	
Permit to dig or break ground	☐	
Confined space entry	☐	
Lift plan	☐	
Temporary works design	☐	

Emergency and rescue	First aider and first aid kit on site, with eyewash for cement and adhesive splashes. Cement on the skin or in the eyes is washed off at once with plenty of clean water, and medical advice sought for burns. Fire procedure and extinguisher known before solvents are used. Nearest accident and emergency department named on the briefing.
First aid, fire, and how someone is rescued. The rescue plan belongs in the RAMS, not after it.	

Environment and neighbours	No slurry, adhesive, grout or wash water into drains or watercourses: tools cleaned in buckets and settled waste bagged. Offcuts, old flooring and packaging removed from site, with asbestos waste only by the asbestos route. Dust kept in the work area.
Dust, noise, vibration, waste, spills and hours of work.	

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Tiling and flooring RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 7 of 9
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PRODUCTS REGISTER

Products register

List every product used on the job, from its safety data sheet. Add rows for anything new before it is used, and brief the team on the controls.

PRODUCT	HAZARDS FROM THE DATA SHEET	HOW USED	CONTROLS	RPE AND GLOVES
Cement-based tile adhesive [name]	Often irritant to skin and eyes; may cause sensitisation. Confirm on the data sheet	Mixed from powder	Pour low; mix in a ventilated area; wash skin at once	Gloves for alkalis; FFP3 for mixing if assessed
Cement-based grout [name]	[From section 2 of the data sheet]	Grouting	Gloves; wash skin at once; eyewash on hand	Gloves for alkalis
Self-levelling compound or screed [name]	[From section 2 of the data sheet]	Pumped or poured	Waterproof knee pads or boards; area closed until it can take traffic	Gloves for alkalis; FFP3 for mixing if assessed
Epoxy grout or resin [name]	Check for skin sensitisers on the data sheet	Mixed and spread	Tools, not hands; no skin contact; no solvents on skin	Gloves from the data sheet
Primer or flooring adhesive [name]	Check whether solvent-based and flammable	Roller or trowel	Ventilation; no ignition sources; lids on	Nitrile gloves; vapour filter if assessed

COSHH REGULATIONS 2002, REGULATIONS 6, 7 AND 11; HSE CONSTRUCTION GUIDANCE ON CEMENT; HSE CIS36 CONSTRUCTION DUST.

PROJECT	DOCUMENT Tiling and flooring RAMS	REVISION	DATE	PAGE 8 of 9
---------	--------------------------------------	----------	------	----------------

Briefed before the work starts

BRIEFED BY	REVISION BRIEFED	DATE AND TIME

A SIGNATURE AGAINST A REVISION, ON A DATE, BEFORE THE WORK STARTED, IS HOW A BRIEFING IS EVIDENCED

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