



CEILINGS BACKSPASHES WALLS PROJECTS

## INSTALLATION GUIDE



## Ceiling Components:

A tin ceiling is comprised of two primary components and two optional components. The primary components are the tin ceiling panels and the crown molding. Optional components are flat molding/rope molding and filler. These components are generally used when the design layout requires it.

## Backsplashes and Other Applications:

Tin panels can be used for more than just beautifying your ceiling. Our customers have used our tin panels for various applications such as walls, backsplashes, fireplaces, counter tops, cupboards, doors, wainscoting, accent pieces, headboards, art décor, metal sculpture and more. The applications are limited only by your imagination.

## Layout:

There are a variety of layout possibilities with tin, including the use of molding, filler panels, and more. You can view all of the different possibilities to create unique and dramatic ceilings on our website at [www.AmericanTinCeilings.com](http://www.AmericanTinCeilings.com).

## Tools and Materials:

See your project installation instructions for the specific materials list for your project type.

- **Tin panels:** American Tin Ceilings has three types of panels depending upon the type of installation: Nail-Up is used for traditional applications on a wood substrate, and for all backsplash, wall, and wainscoting projects (use adhesive instead of nails for these applications). Snap Lock™ is used for installation over dry-wall or popcorn ceilings. Drop-In panels are used with standard 2' x 2' systems that have 15/16" grid widths.
- **Crown/Flat Molding:** Matching tin molding is available from American Tin Ceilings. Wood molding can be purchased at a local hardware store.
- **Fasteners:** Cone head nails and/or brad nails (Nail-Up panels), #6 drywall screws (Snap Lock™ panels), Loctite® Power Grab® Adhesive (Nail-Up panels for backsplash, wall and project applications)
- **Construction adhesive:** Loctite® Power Grab® (Backsplash, Wall and Project applications)
- **Caulking:** DAP Painters Caulk (for Nail-Up and Snap Lock™ application types)
- **Touch-up paint:** AmericanTinCeilings.com carries a selection of touch-up paints. If you prefer, your local hardware store or automotive paint supplier may be able to match if provided with a sample.
- **Tools (Depending upon installation type):** Ladders / Scaffolding / Drill / Tin snips / Metal shears / Guillotine cutter / Hammers / Nail gun / Chalk line / Tape measure

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**For complete installation instructions please visit:**

[www.AmericanTinCeilings.com](http://www.AmericanTinCeilings.com)

We offer free consultations to our customers. Layout and design of your tin ceiling should be planned prior to purchase. Feel free to contact one of our friendly designers to insure you order the necessary materials.

Monday through Friday 8am - 6pm EST **1-888-231-7500**



# SNAP LOCK™ CEILING INSTALLATION

## Preparing Your Ceiling for SNAP LOCK™ Installation:

1. Your starting point on the ceiling can be any corner of the room.
2. Measure the width of your tile and add a 1/2" to 3/4" to your measurement.
3. Mark the ceiling with the measurement from Step #2 in the corner of your room.
4. Repeat Steps #1 - #3 on an opposite corner but NOT a diagonal corner to your first measurement.
5. Snap a chalk line from those two measuring points. This will provide the proper alignment for your panels.

## Installing Your SNAP LOCK™ Tiles:

1. Attach the first ceiling panel to the corner of the ceiling with the male flanges facing the wall, allowing a 1/2" space from the wall (use #6 drywall screws that are 1 1/4" in length to attach the panel to the ceiling). This insures that the panels remain straight, even in rooms that are not perfectly square. Install your first panel as squarely as possible. Start with the male flange facing the wall so that the screw plate on the female flange is always exposed as you progress. In most cases when installing a 24" pattern, filler panels will be needed because of the deep profile embossment of the panels. For example, if your room is 11' x 13', you would install your field panels in a 10' x 12' area in the center of the room and then install 12" of filler panels around the perimeter. This creates a uniform look and allows your molding to sit flush with the ceiling, as it is overlapping the filler panels.
2. After installing your first row, snap a chalk line for the second row at 24 1/8". Slip the male flange into the female flange on the second row, making sure before attachment to leave no more than a 1/16" gap between the two. You may find it helpful to have a putty knife handy to open the female flange. **Note:** If you try to force your panels too tight, the corners will eventually form a gap and you will have no way to keep your pattern aligned. Continue to work your way across the ceiling in rows until you reach the end of the room, as well as the opposing wall.
3. If you have light fixtures you will need to lay them out on the back of the ceiling panel as you reach them. Measure from the edge of your ceiling tile and mark out your ceiling fixture placement. Drill a hole in the center of the layout, then use tin snips to cut away the material. You can do this by either cutting at 90 degrees to the lay out mark, then cutting the perimeter mark out, or by cutting a spiral to your layout mark (cutting in a circle). You can now install your beauty rings for the lights.
4. When approaching the perimeter of your room you will have to cut the female flange off. You will need to shim this partial panel using a paint stick before screwing it to the ceiling. This will prevent the tile from being pulled too tight to the ceiling, creating a gap.
5. Now you are ready to install the crown molding (please refer to the molding installation instructions on pages 8-9).



## TOOL/SUPPLIES REQUIRED:

- Ladder or scaffolding
- Tape measure
- Putty knife
- Drill
- 1/2" drill bit
- Aviation shears
- Chalk box
- Fine point Sharpie
- Paint sticks (for shims)
- Straight edge
- Cordless screw gun
- #6 drywall screws
- Hammer
- Safety glasses
- Gloves

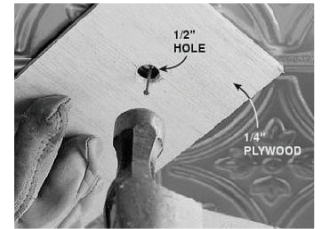
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# NAIL-UP CEILING INSTALLATION

**Required Substrate Material:** 3/8" Plywood • 7/16" OSB Board • Furring strips on 12" centers

1. Determine the center point of the ceiling by snapping a chalk line diagonally from corner to corner of the ceiling. The "X" where the chalk lines intersect is the center of your ceiling.
2. Set your first ceiling tile with the edges square to wall in the center of the "X" of your chalk line. Using an 18 gauge brad nail gun or cone head nails, nail your tile to the ceiling. **Note:** If hand-hammering the nails, you will want to use a small piece of wood with a 1/2" hole. This will prevent you from accidentally hammering your panels, which will dent if hit with your hammer.
3. Install the remainder of the field tiles by lining up the dimples on the panels. When possible, you want to have your overlapping seams facing away from your main entry point of the room. In most cases when installing a 24" pattern, filler panels will be needed because of the deep profile embossment of the panels. For example, if your room is 11' x 13', you would install your field panels in a 10' x 12' area in the center of the room and then install 12" of filler panels around the perimeter. This creates a uniform look and allows your molding to sit flush with the ceiling, as it is overlapping the filler panels.
4. In most installations, you will use filler panels and can use flat molding for a smooth transition between the field panels and the filler panels (refer to the flat molding installation guide on page 9).
5. If you have light fixtures you will need to lay them out on the back of the ceiling panel as you reach them. Measure from the edge of your ceiling tile and mark out your ceiling fixture placement. Drill a hole in the center of the layout, then use tin snips to cut away the material. You can do this by either cutting at 90 degrees to the lay out mark, then cutting the perimeter mark out, or by cutting a spiral to your layout mark (cutting in a circle). You can now install your beauty rings for the lights.
6. If the field panels go wall to wall then you are ready to install the molding (refer to the Crown Molding and/or Flat Molding instructions).
7. Finally, caulk the joints in the ceiling tiles and the molding if necessary. You can also touch up any nail heads with touch up paint.



## TOOL/SUPPLIES REQUIRED:

- Tape measure
- Straight edge (framing square or 4" level)
- Chalk line
- Fine point Sharpie
- Cone head nails or 18 gauge brad nail gun with brad nails
- Tin snips
- Ladder or scaffolding
- Hammer
- 1/2" drill bit
- Drill

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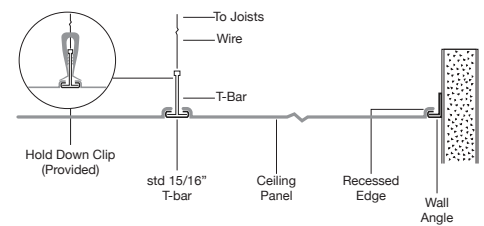
## DROP-IN CEILING INSTALLATION

**Required Substrate:** 2' x 4' or 2' x 2' Ceiling Grid

**Note:** If an existing grid has 2' x 4' openings, convert it to a 2' x 2' ceiling grid using our 2' Cross Tee. To install the Cross Tee simply secure in the center of the 2' x 4' opening. American Tin Ceilings' tiles are 23 7/16" sq with a 1/16" step so the ceiling tile will sit flush from side to side.

**After determining the grid sizing of your ceiling, follow the steps below to install your tin tiles:**

1. Start in one corner of the room at a full 2' x 2' opening. In most situations, there will be openings around the perimeter of the grid that are less than a full 2' x 2'. These smaller spaces will require cut tiles. Leave these spaces around the perimeter for the last step of your install.



2. Turn the ceiling panel at a slight angle, sliding it through the opening. At this point you can lay the ceiling tile into the grid opening, attaching hold down clips that keep your tile tight to the grid so that there's no gapping between the grid and the panel.

3. Repeat step #2 going to the right or left.

4. Place two hold down clips on the side where the two ceiling panels are installed on the same t-rail.



5. Finish installing the rest of the ceiling tiles with the hold down clips as you proceed. If you have opted to use our Acoustical Drop-In tiles, which can reduce noise by up to 85%, install the acoustical pads behind the panels as you progress.

6. If using a ceiling panel that has a deep embossment, such as Patterns #22 or #23, consider using a filler panel around the perimeter. This will prevent gapping along the edges. If you do not want to use a filler panel, cut the panel just shy of the grid, allowing the panel to completely drop down and not sit on the grid. Then attach crown molding using corner blocking/cribbing. This will hide your cut.

### TOOL/SUPPLIES REQUIRED:

- Tape measure
- Straight edge (framing square or 4" level)
- Aviation shears
- Fine point Sharpie
- Hold down clips
- Safety glasses
- Safety gloves
- 1/2" drill bit
- Drill
- Acoustical pads (optional)

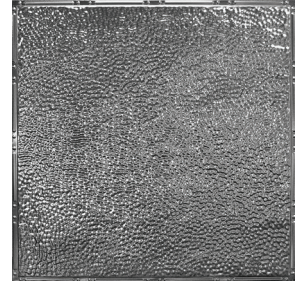
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## FILLER INSTALLATION FOR CEILINGS

The most common tin ceiling layout uses no filler and merely trims the panel flush wall to wall. However, filler is required for certain applications.

### Filler is generally used with:

- Patterns with a deep profile depth that do not accommodate cropping
- For design layouts specifying filler



Cut the filler to fit into the coverage area. When finishing a perimeter, cut the filler panels so that the edges will butt flush against the wall.

Install the filler by coating the backside with Loctite® Power Grab® or a similar adhesive and position it in place.

Once positioned, nail the filler panel into the substrate, placing one nail every 6 inches around the perimeter of the filler panel. Overlap adjacent filler panels by 1/4" utilizing the nail rail.

Flat molding is often used to transition between filler and panels, and will hide any unsightly seams.

**Filler for Snap Lock™, Nail-Up and Backsplash applications will require the use of the F1-N or F2-N filler panels. These will have a nail rail on the perimeter of the panel. For Drop-In applications, the F1-D and F2-D are required and do not have a nail rail.**



## MOLDING INSTALLATION FOR CEILINGS

If you are installing Flat Molding with your ceiling, please refer to the Flat Molding installation instructions before completing the Crown Molding installation.

### Inside Corner and Straight Runs:

1. Starting in the back right corner of the ceiling, install an uncut piece of crown molding. Your final piece of coped molding will overlap this uncut piece. The crown molding will overlap your panels regardless of whether you are using filler panels or not. (This starting place is only necessary if you are using the factory directional cut copes and miters from American Tin Ceilings. Otherwise, you can start at any place in the room.)
2. Using cone head nails, nail the top of the molding to the ceiling every 6" along the perimeter, forming a 45 degree angle with the molding. Nail the bottom of the crown molding to the wall every 6".
3. Run your coped piece into the straight piece on the left side, and forming a 45 degree angle, attach it as in Step #2. The coped piece will be the piece of molding that has a factory cut at one end.
4. Continue to run your straight pieces to the opposing corner and then repeat Step #3.
5. After your crown molding is installed you can caulk the seams and corners with color matched or clear caulk. Colored caulk is available at most paint stores. This will not be required for all ceilings, but is an option to minimize any gapping between pieces of molding.



### Outside Corner and Straight Runs:

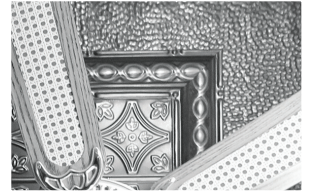
1. The outside corner is called an M-Cut or Miter Cut, which means the piece of molding is cut on each end.
2. When installing this outside corner you will first cut the molding in half, turning the pieces end for end (on the angled cut sides) where the two angle pieces meet. This will form the outside corner.
3. Place the left half to the ceiling, and on the right, bring the angle cut to meet the left angle cut. When you have a good fit, nail up the molding as in Step #2.
4. Continue around the perimeter, trimming and cutting corners as needed until all molding is installed. After molding installation is completed you can caulk the corner and the seams with latex color match caulking if necessary.





**Installation of Flat Molding:** Flat molding is sometimes used between your field panels and your filler panels.

1. Make a 45 degree cut on the end of the flat molding.
2. Starting with the short side of the 45 degree angle, nail it to the point of the field tile on only one side. This will allow you to insert your filler panel under the flat molding and create a finished look as the edge of the flat molding has a decorative nail rail. After the filler is inserted under the edge, nail the other side of the molding, securing it to the ceiling.
3. Continue around the field tile, cutting 45 degree angles on the remaining corners and only nailing the field tile side of the molding, leaving the other side loose as mentioned in Step #2.
4. Once the flat molding and filler are in place, your crown molding can be installed.



#### TOOL/SUPPLIES REQUIRED:

- Tape measure
- Framing square
- Cone head nails or 18 guage brad nail gun with brad nails
- Hammer
- Fine point Sharpie
- Aviation tin snips
- Caulking gun
- Silicone caulking (color match)

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C2 cornice molding showing an inside corner cope.



C2 cornice molding showing an outside corner miter.



## BACKSPLASH, WALL AND PROJECT INSTALLATION

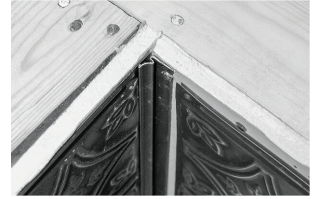
Each kitchen has a unique layout and the possible starting point of your project can vary. In the majority of installations, we suggest beginning from the left side and working to the right. We are available to answer any questions on your specific layout.

1. Starting from the left side, measure 24 1/2" from the farthest left point of your space. This will mark the location of your first panel.
2. From your countertop, take a vertical measurement of the wall you are installing your tile on to. If you reach a cabinet, note the measurement from the countertop to underneath your cabinet and proceed to Step #3.
3. Mark your tile according to the measurements in Step #2 and cut accordingly so the tile fits under the cabinet. For varying cabinet heights, repeat Steps #2 and #3 as necessary.
4. Measure and cut your J-Channel Edge Trim for the outer left edge of your starting panel. J-Channel Edge Trim gives the exposed edge of the backsplash a finished appearance. Use a hacksaw to cut it to the proper height.
5. Apply the J-Channel Edge Trim to the exposed edge of the tile.
6. Lay your tile upside down. Apply a construction adhesive (we recommend a quick setting adhesive such as Loctite® Power Grab®) to the back of the panel while keeping the adhesive at least 1/4" to 3/8" away from the edges. This will prevent the adhesive from bleeding past the edge of the panel. With a back and forth motion, apply the adhesive to the rest of the panel 3" apart. Keep a wet rag handy in case any of the adhesive seeps out from the back of the panel. If any adhesive seeps out, wipe this off immediately.
7. Place the panel with the attached J-Channel Edge Trim on the wall. Press firmly until the adhesive takes hold – approximately 20-30 seconds.
8. Continue measuring and cutting your tiles in accordance with the cabinet heights of your space as in Steps #2 and #3. Proceed with installing the next tile following Step #6.

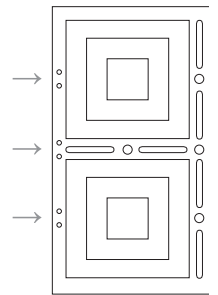
**Note:** If your tile overlaps an outlet, you will need to manually cut out the outline of the outlet from your tile. To do this, measure from the nail rail (the row of dimples) of the previously installed tile to the nearest side of the outlet. Using this measurement, make a vertical mark on the tile that will overlap the outlet. Take another measurement from the nail rail of the previously installed tile to the far side of the outlet and make another vertical mark on the tile to be installed. Finally, measure from the top and bottom of the outlet and make horizontal marks on the tile to be installed. When you have finished, the four sides of the outlet will be marked to be cut out.

Using a drill and a 1/2" drill bit, drill a hole in the center of your marks. Then, using a pair of aviation tin snips, cut out the hole for the outlet. Apply adhesive to the tile and install, making sure that the panels are lined up on the dimples of the nail rail.

**Note:** Some installations cover multiple walls at right angles. To achieve a finished look on these corners, you will use our Inside Corner Trim. Before applying a panel to a corner, measure the height of the inside corner. Then, cut the Inside Corner Trim in accordance with that measurement and attach it to the panel.



9. After all the panels are set, attach the switch or outlet plates.
10. Caulk the bottom seam along the countertop with clear silicone or colored caulk. This will eliminate water from getting behind the panels.
11. If the seams need to be tighter, we would recommend that you use cone head nails on the overlapping seams. The nail points would be between the "dimples" of the nail rail.



#### TOOL/SUPPLIES REQUIRED:

- Tape measure
- Straight edge (framing square or 4" level)
- Fine point Sharpie
- Construction adhesive (Loctite® Power Grab®)
- Silicone caulking (color match)
- Caulking gun
- Cone head nails
- Aviation tin snips
- Hacksaw (for J Channel Edge Trim and Inside Corner Trim)
- Hammer
- 1/2" drill bit
- Drill

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## PAINTING

**Painting:** No water-based products can be used directly on the metal tiles or molding; however, you can use an oil-based primer. Once the tiles have been primed, you are able to use a paint of your choice. Sherwin Williams and Benjamin Moore also offer DTM (direct-to-metal) paints. The DTM paints can be painted directly on the metal and will eliminate the need to use a primer.



**Clear Coat:** No water-based paint can be used directly on the metal. The best choices are an oil-based polyurethane or a lacquer.

**For more info, please visit:**

[www.AmericanTinCeilings.com/resources/painting.html](http://www.AmericanTinCeilings.com/resources/painting.html)

## CUTTING TIN

**Metal shears / Tin snips:** These tools can be purchased at Home Depot, Lowe's, or a local hardware store.



**Guillotine paper cutters:** Heavy-duty tabletop paper cutters similar to those used in schools and office environments. Every job requires cutting of varying lengths. We carry the Martin Yale 'Premiere' Cutter at manufacture cost.



**RotoZip tool:** Great for can lights and applications that require circular cuts.

## FIXTURES & VENTS

**Light fixtures, chandeliers, recessed lighting, vents, etc., can easily be accommodated by tin ceiling panels.**

1. Remove the fixture
2. Trace the fixture perimeter onto the tin panel
3. Cut out traced area with tin snips
4. Install cut tin on ceiling
5. Re-install fixture over installed tin