

# GREAT LAKES TIN

## FAQ'S

### How should I prepare the ceiling before I install the nail-up tiles?

The surface area should be clean, dry, flat and structurally sound. If proper preparation steps are not taken, you take the risk of a poor final product.

### What can I use to cut the ceiling tiles?

Use tin snips to cut the ceiling tiles.

### What accessories are available to finish my real tin ceiling project?

Real tin tiles have two types of [crown molding](#) that can be used to achieve that finished look, and you can also use wood crown molding for trim.

### Do you have matching grid for the lay-in tin ceiling tiles?

We have colors that are similar, but not the exact color of the tin tiles. A home center can mix matching paint for a grid system if desired.

### Can the ceiling panels be cleaned?

Yes, standard mild soap and water should be used to clean the tiles.

### Can I get samples of ceiling tiles?

Yes, samples are available by calling us at 1-800-434-3750 or on a products details page of the tile you are interested in. Find out more about ordering samples online [here](#).

### What tools will I need to install Great Lakes Tin ceiling tiles?

To install your ceiling tiles, you will need the following:

- Tape measure
- Tin snips
- Steel straight edge
- Chalk line
- Hammer
- Dome heak nails or #4 pan head screws
- Leather work gloves

## Do I need to install regular acoustic panels behind the lay-in panels?

No, that is not necessary. If sag or lift is an issue, we recommend that the panels are installed underneath a mineral board ceiling tile or some other material. You can use old mineral board tiles or purchase an economical mineral board tile for this purpose. **THIS IS NOT A REQUIREMENT.**

## Can I paint the panels?

Yes the matte white and unfinished panels are recommended if you plan on painting your tiles. Use an oil-based primer and paint. Steel will rust if a water-based product is used.

## What is the heat index for these tiles?

Painted tiles are fire retardant up to 300 degrees.

## Which tin tiles need a border tile?

The [Syracuse](#), [Saginaw](#), [Niagara](#), [Toledo](#), [Rochester](#), and [Toronto](#) designs typically use a border tile, but the use of border tiles is based on personal preference.

## What grid system can be used for lay-in tiles?

Any standard [grid system](#) can be used and grids can be painted to match the tiles. Some [GridMAX](#) is similar in color, but none is an exact match.

## How should the nail-up tiles be installed?

Plywood or furring strip installation is recommended prior to nailing up tiles. Space the nails every 6-12 inches apart. See our [installation page](#) for details.