

Cloud 9 Medi Spa
Photo: Debbie Strong Photography
Products: Madison and Stratford

How to Install Drop / Lay-in Ceiling Tiles

Both Feather-Light and Signature series ceiling tiles and panels can be installed in approved ceiling suspension systems using standard 15/16 in. T-bar grid. Many Signature styles can also be used with slimline 9/16 in. grid.

Check building codes as required.

Prepare Room and Ceiling Grid

Ceiling tiles may come out of the box with a slight static charge, which can attract dust and debris from construction and remodeling projects. We strongly advise that you finish all sawing, drilling, sanding, and sweeping, and thoroughly clean your room before installing your tiles.

Clean your T-bar grid too! Remove contaminants (dust, oil, old paint, etc.), then wipe down with a damp rag to dissipate static electricity. Even brand-new grid should be thoroughly cleaned.

Don't worry, our tiles don't create dust of their own, and once installed any static charge will dissipate.

Install Grid Covers (Optional)

EZ-On Drop Ceiling Grid Covers are designed to cover the T-bar in standard 15/16 in. drop ceiling installations. They can be installed before or after tiles are in place (but we think the former is easier!).

Grid Covers Video

Temperature Warning

As a guideline, ceiling tiles and panels are not affected by ceiling temperatures up to 120°F. In some installations involving halogen lights, metal heat registers, or other heat sources (stoves, ovens, etc.), localized ceiling temperatures can be much higher than anticipated. Please contact us for guidance if your installation involves any of these special conditions.

Install Main (Full-Size) Tiles

Both Feather-Light and Signature ceiling tiles and panels can be installed on their own. Most Signature styles can also be used to reface an old ceiling by sliding them under existing mineral fiber backing panels.

Drop-in Video

If you are installing ceiling tiles or panels on their own... Simply pop each tile into place in your ceiling grid. It's that easy!

Refacing Video

If you are installing refacing ceiling tiles with mineral fiber backing panels... Slide each refacing tile (with features projecting down into the room) under a mineral fiber tile, and then settle each pair into the grid.

Install Border Tiles



In all likelihood, your ceiling will have some less-than-full-size grid squares (usually around the perimeter of the room). These areas require one of our border tile styles, which have shallow patterns that lend themselves to trimming and installing in these smaller areas.

To install, measure your partial grid squares, cut border tiles to size with scissors or snips, and then place the trimmed pieces into the grid.

Lighting

Recessed / Can Lights

Choose a ceiling tile design that has sufficient flat area in the middle to fit the light opening and trim ring, and be sure to install can lights using a "new-construction" style lighting support bracket, which supports the weight of the light on the grid rather than on the tile. To install:

1. Measure your lighting fixture and create a simple cutting template.
2. Use the template to mark the location of the opening on the tile, then cut the hole with a utility knife, scissors, or snips.
3. Pop your tile into place in the ceiling grid and position the can light above it.
4. Finally, attach the trim ring and screw in a light bulb.

Lighting Video

Coffered ceiling tiles like Madison and Westminster may require additional steps. Please contact us for more information.

Low-profile LED (Puck) Lights

While we recommend traditional “new construction” style grid-mounted can light housings with LED bulbs, low-profile “canless” LED lights can be used as well. They must be installed using “new construction” style mounting brackets, and may require additional attention. Please contact us for more information if you’d like to use “canless” puck lights with your new tiles.

Lighting Above Transluminous® Panels

Translucent, Frosted, and Clear panels can be used directly beneath light fixtures or throughout the entirety of an installation for a fully-illuminated ceiling effect. Translucent and Frosted panels obscure the area above the ceiling grid. Clear panels provide full visibility. For best results, use LED bulbs and install panels at least 6 in. below light fixtures.

Insulation

Soniguard™ Drop Ceiling Insulation

Soniguard™ is a fiberglass-free insulation, pre-cut for easy installation into drop ceiling systems. To install, place ceiling tiles and insulation pieces into the grid in pairs: one piece of Soniguard (two for 2 ft. x 4 ft. ceiling panels) resting on top of one ceiling tile.

Soniguard may not be used in conjunction with pass-through fire sprinklers. In the event a sprinkler penetrates through a ceiling tile, simply remove Soniguard from that specific grid square.

Rolled/Batt Insulation

Rolled or batt insulation must be attached to the surface above the suspended ceiling grid. Do not install insulation directly on the grid or across ceiling tiles, as the weight may cause the tiles to deform.

Pass-through Fire-suppression Sprinklers

Before using ceiling tiles and panels in buildings with overhead fire-suppression sprinkler systems, the first and most important step is to consult your local building and fire officials to make sure that your intended use complies with local building codes.

Sprinkler Video

Fire ratings, approvals, certifications, and compliance documents can be found on the Fire Safety page of our website.

If you have pass-through fire suppression sprinklers, we offer three (and only three) safety-tested, listed, and approved methods of installation. You must install your tiles in one of the following ways:

- Method 1: Ceiling Tiles with Oversized Holes
- Method 2: Refacing Ceiling Tiles with Mineral Fiber Backing Panels
- Method 3: Stack of Three Signature Series Ceiling Tiles

Method 1: Ceiling Tiles with Oversized Holes

The first method of installation involves cutting an oversized hole in your ceiling tile.

Per **IAPMO UES Evaluation Report No. 310 - Section 3.3.3**, the hole must be one quarter of an inch larger than your sprinkler trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate. If your sprinkler does not have a trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate, the hole must be one quarter of an inch larger than the sprinkler head itself.

Never use a sprinkler trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate at a sprinkler penetration without an appropriately-sized hole.

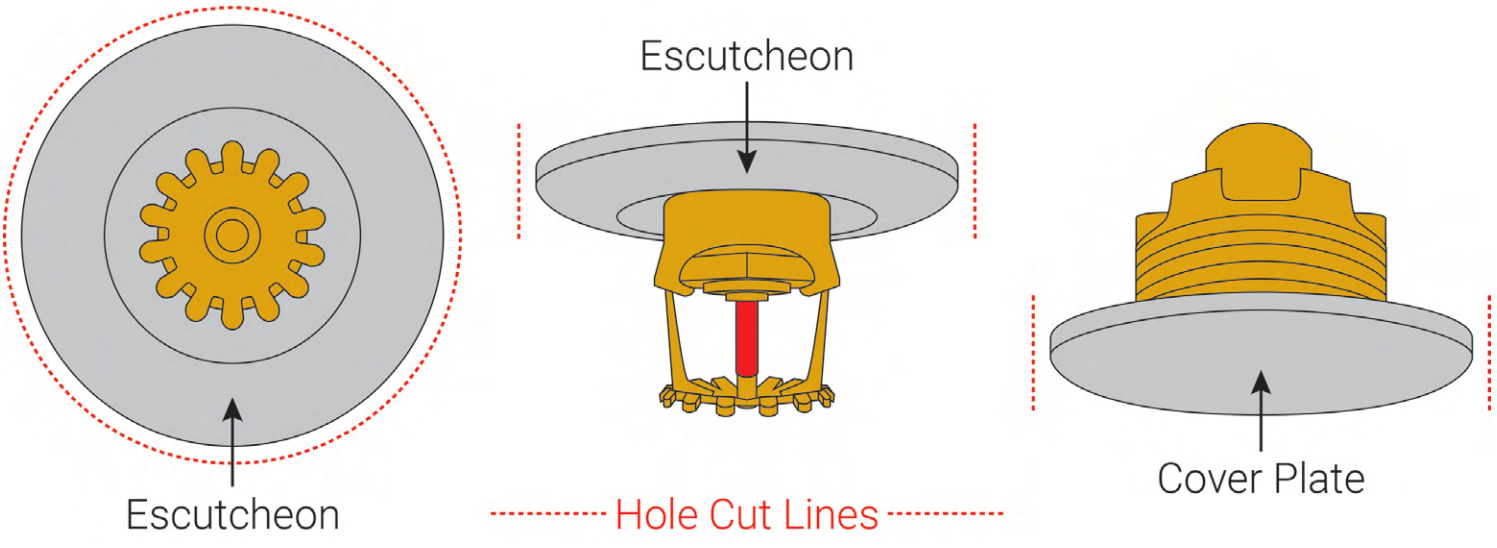






To install using the Oversized Hole method:

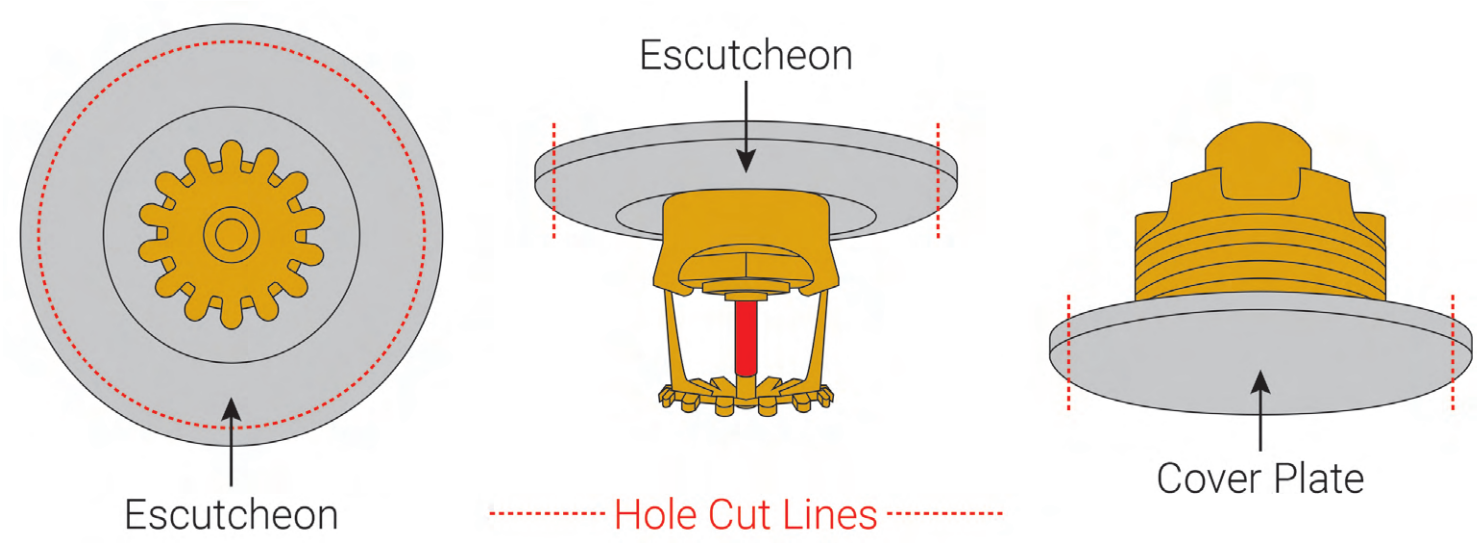
1. Measure your sprinkler trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate and add 1/4th of an inch to that measurement.
2. Using a simple template, mark the location of the opening on the tile, and then cut the hole with a pair of snips, utility knife, or hole saw. A hole saw results in the cleanest cut and best final appearance. Run the blade in reverse in order to keep tile material from binding.
3. Install the tile by sliding it around the sprinkler and settling it into the ceiling grid.
4. When done correctly, there will be a small, 1/8th of an inch gap around the trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate.



Method 2: Refacing Ceiling Tiles with Mineral Fiber Backing Panels

The second method of installation involves pairing one of our many Signature series refacing ceiling tiles with a mineral fiber backing panel.

Per **IAPMO UES Evaluation Report No. 310 - Sections 3.3.4 and 3.3.5**, with this method the sprinkler-penetration hole must be one quarter of an inch smaller than the sprinkler's trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate. This method results in a finished looking appearance, as the cut opening around the sprinkler is covered after the installation is complete.



To install using the Refacing method:

1. Measure your sprinkler trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate and subtract 1/4th of an inch from that measurement.
2. Using a simple template, mark the location of the opening on the ceiling tile, and then cut the hole with a pair of snips, utility knife, or hole saw. A hole saw results in the cleanest cut and best final appearance. Run the blade in reverse in order to keep tile material from binding.
3. Use the same technique when marking the location and cutting the opening in the mineral fiber backing panel.
4. To install, slide the refacing tile under the mineral fiber panel, and then settle the pair into the grid.
5. Finish by installing the sprinkler trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate.





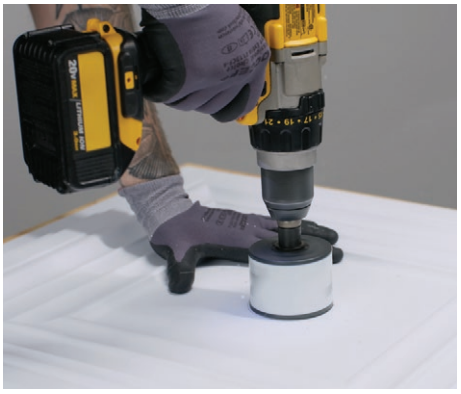


Method 3: Stack of Three Signature Series Ceiling Tiles

The third method of installation involves using three of our Signature series ceiling tiles at every sprinkler location.

Per **IAPMO UES Evaluation Report No. 310 - Section 3.3.6**, with this method three tiles are nested together and the sprinkler-penetration hole is one quarter of an inch smaller than the sprinkler's trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate. This method results in a finished looking appearance, as the cut opening around the sprinkler is covered after the installation is complete.

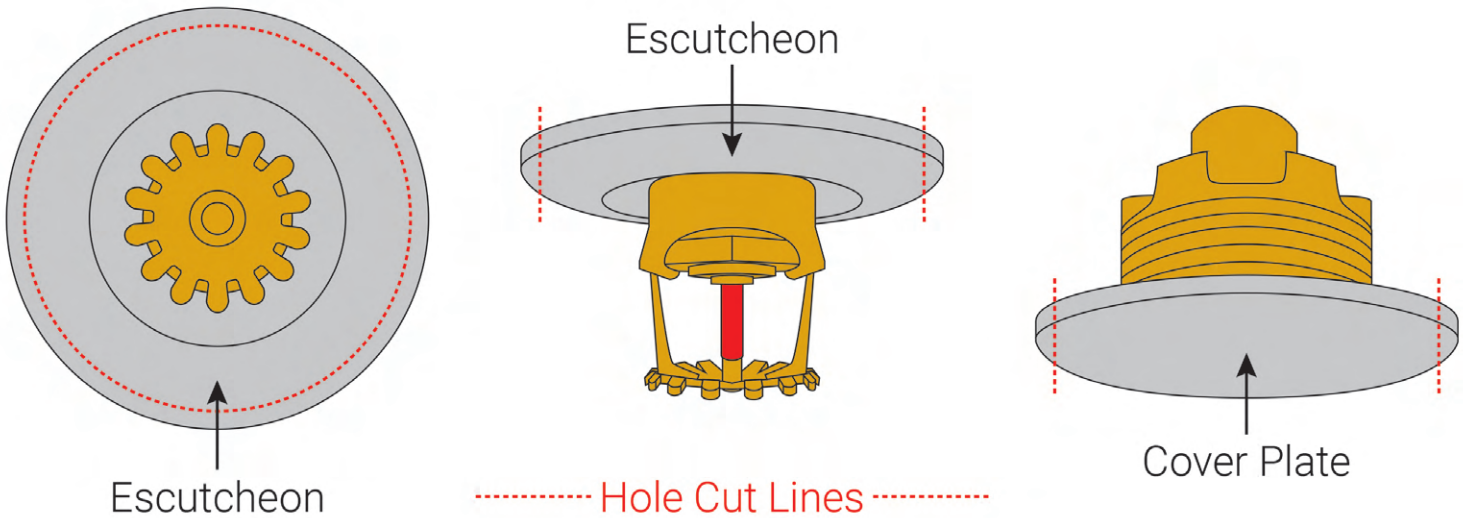






To install using the Stack of Three method:

1. Measure your sprinkler trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate and subtract 1/4th of an inch from that measurement.
2. Using a simple template, mark the location of the opening on the first tile, and then cut the hole with a pair of snips, utility knife, or hole saw. A hole saw results in the cleanest cut and best final appearance. Run the blade in reverse in order to keep tile material from binding.
3. Use the same technique when marking the location and cutting the openings in the second and third ceiling tiles.
4. To install, nest the three Signature ceiling tiles together and then place them into the grid.
5. Finish by installing the sprinkler trim ring, escutcheon, or cover plate.



Drop-Out Ceiling Tiles Beneath Fire-suppression Sprinklers

Before using ceiling tiles and panels in buildings with overhead fire-suppression sprinkler systems, the first and most important step is to consult your local building and fire officials to make sure that your intended use complies with local building codes.

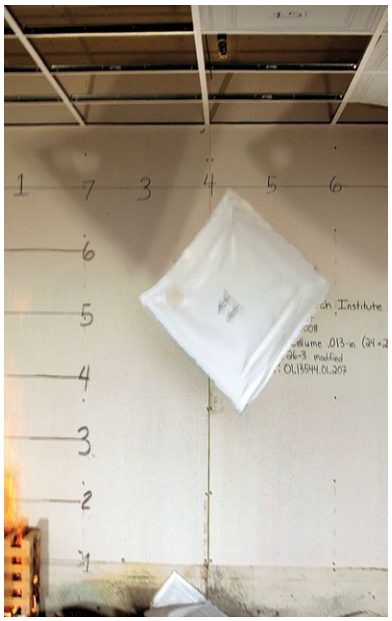
Per **IAPMO UES Listing Report UEL-5021** and **Evaluation Report No. 310 - Section 3.3.7**, all of Ceilume's 0.013 in. thick Feather-Light series ceiling tiles and panels are suitable for use beneath Quick Response (QR) and Standard Response (SR) sprinkler systems rated with an activation temperature of 135°F or above, in Light Hazard and Ordinary Hazard Group I occupancies and where allowed by local safety authorities.

When exposed to the heat from a developing fire, drop-out tiles distort and fall from the ceiling grid. Heat from the growing fire activates the sprinklers, which, unimpeded by the tiles, perform their intended function. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like more information about drop-out ceilings.

Drop-out ceiling tiles and panels:



- Are limited to use as a nonstructural component in non-fire-resistance-rated floor-ceiling or roof-ceiling assemblies
- May be used beneath wet or dry-pipe sprinkler systems
- Shall not be installed below extended coverage sprinklers
- Must be no less than 1 in. and no more than 5 ft. below sprinklers
- Must not be restrained or secured in such a way that would impede or affect their downward movement
- Shall remain unpainted and uncoated



Standard 15/16 in. grid systems:

- Must support the tiles or panels on all sides
- Must provide no less than 0.25 in. of horizontal edge support
- Shall comply with ASTM C635, Heavy-Duty Classification (16 PLF)

AcoustoTherm® Backpanels, EZ-On Drop Ceiling Grid Covers, and uplift prevention clips are also listed for use with Ceilume ceiling tiles and panels in drop-out installations.

Data Centers

Ceilume's 0.013 in. thick Feather-Light series ceiling tiles and panels are suitable for use as drop-out panels for aisle containment systems in data centers per NFPA 13 and NFPA 75. Installation parameters differ slightly from above; please contact us for more information about this specific usage.

Maintenance

Painting

All of Ceilume's non-laminated tiles, panels, strips, and grid covers can be painted before or after installation. For best results:

- Make sure that everything is clean and dry.
- Do not use solvent-type thinners or cleaners.
- Experiment on a sample before working on your ceiling in its entirety.

Painting Video

Precautions:

- Ceilume cannot guarantee that the published fire safety ratings and product specifications, certifications, listings, and approvals will remain the same after painting. Therefore, painting will void the warranty.
- Ceiling tiles and panels being used in a drop-out installation MUST NOT BE PAINTED. Painted tiles and panels are prohibited from use beneath ceiling fire suppression sprinklers.

Cleaning

Tiles and strips require no special cleaning agents - just wipe them down with a soft, damp rag. Small, stubborn spots can be handled with mild soap, and tiles are 100% waterproof so there is no risk of water damage during cleaning!

Do not use cleaners containing organic solvents or other aggressive ingredients as they may affect the surface appearance of your tiles and accessories. Examples of these types of cleaners include chlorine bleach, liquid grease remover, strong detergents, and nail polish remover.

Ceilume®

Decorative Tiles
for Ceilings and Walls

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Product Information
For the most up-to-date product and technical information, visit ceilume.com.

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