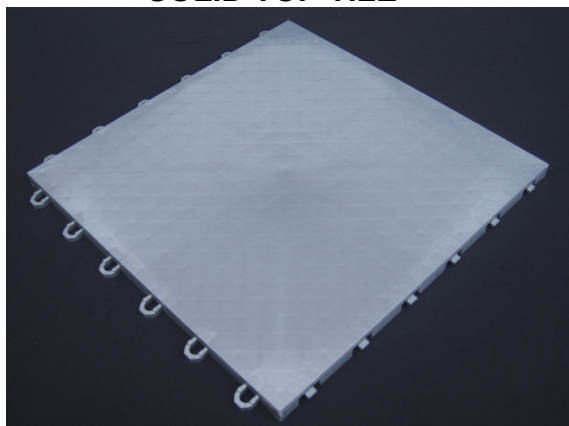


Solid Top or Open Design Tile?

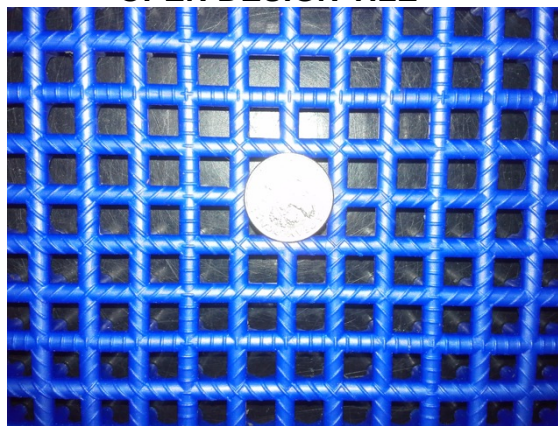
Although there are several manufacturers of interlocking polypropylene floor tile, there are only two basic type. Open design tile - commonly used outdoors, and smooth solid top tile, typically used indoors. It would be inaccurate to call them indoor or outdoor tile though, because the open design tile can be used indoors and offers several advantages.

Although solid top tile has occasionally been used outdoors, we don't recommend it. The surface quickly becomes slippery with any accumulation of dust or pollen, water doesn't drain off, and there have been concerns about expansion tolerances and the degree of uv stabilization in the plastic.

SOLID TOP TILE



OPEN DESIGN TILE



Advantages

- Smooth, with less friction when you fall, dive, or glide (basketball, volleyball, futsal, inline hockey, indoor lacrosse, & other indoor facility uses).

Disadvantages

- Needs regular sweeping & mopping to maintain traction.
- Usually placed over a rubber underlayment to add cushion, absorb sound, and serve as an anti-skid mat.

Moisture

Spills generally sit on top, so for a lunchroom application, solid top might be a better choice.

But as a garage floor surface, water dripping off a wet car would sit on top and make the floor slippery.

Advantages

- Textured to provide better traction (tennis, basketball, multisport gamecourts, some skating & deck hockey).
- Dirt, sand, pollen, & dust fall through the holes and don't impact traction. Less cleaning & maintenance required.

Disadvantages

- Abrasive if you fall or intentionally go to the floor.

Moisture

Spills flow through to the base beneath and evaporate. And because the openings allow ventilation, the tile dries more quickly. Children spilling milk might be an issue if the floor can't be hosed down.