Drop ceiling installation checklist

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Tools, materials and steps for a suspended ceiling.

01 Tools

- [ ] Laser level or water level
- [ ] Tape measure and chalk line
- [ ] Tin snips for the grid
- [ ] Utility knife and straightedge for tiles
- [ ] Drill and screws or nails for wall angle
- [ ] Ladder and safety glasses

02 Materials

- [ ] Ceiling tiles (plus about 10% extra)
- [ ] Wall angle (L-molding)
- [ ] Main tees
- [ ] Cross tees (4 ft and 2 ft for a 2×2 layout)
- [ ] Hanger wire and eye lags

03 Steps

- [ ] Mark a level line around the room
- [ ] Fix wall angle on the line
- [ ] Plan the layout so border tiles are equal on both sides
- [ ] Hang wires and main tees
- [ ] Clip in cross tees and check it is square
- [ ] Drop in full tiles, then cut the borders

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Check local code for fire-rated ceilings and lighting.