

Ever get confused with all the numbers listed on the back of a flooring sample and think what exactly do all of the mean? What is an economy match versus a design repeat? What in the world is a drop match?

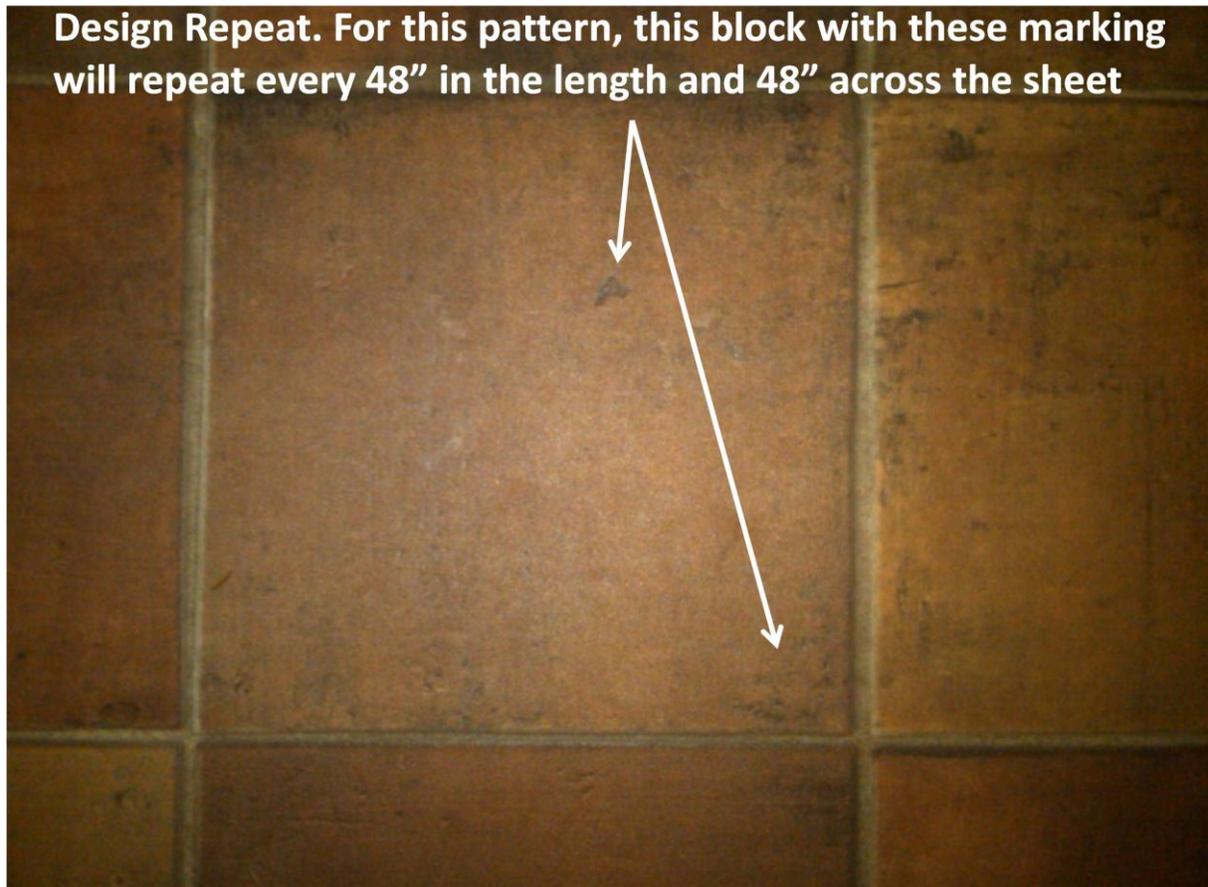
It has gotten very confusing as flooring companies are now listing flooring repeats in both the length and width of the flooring products. With the print technology today, design repeats/pattern matches have become longer and longer in length. When I first started in flooring, 54" pattern repeats were very seldom created. If a customer with a floor with multiple drops of flooring wants the true pattern/design repeat, they will have to add the repeat of extra material to every drop after drop #1. For example, if a room is 15'9" in length and the material has an 18" pattern match, the first drop would be cut 16', the other drops would be cut to 16'6" to have the pattern line up across the multiple drops of flooring.

Now add the drop match into play and it changes even more.

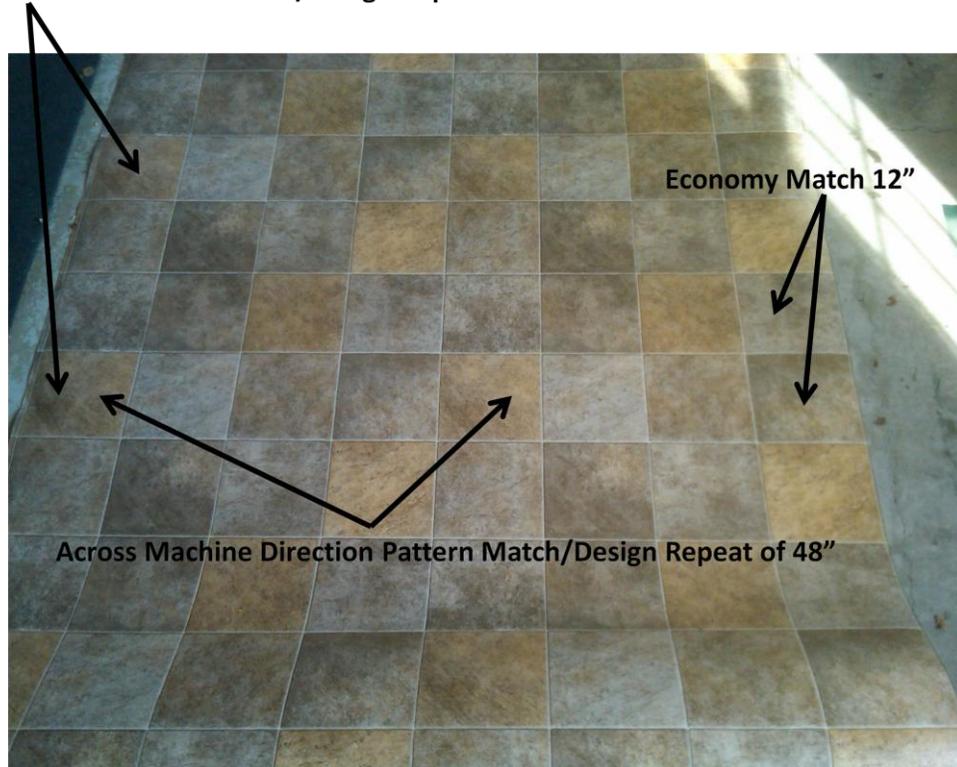
So what does all this terminology mean? What does it mean when you see a Pattern Match that says, 54"x 36" with an 18" Drop. The 54" is the true Pattern Match/Design Repeat in the length of the material. The 36" is the match across the sheet and the Drop is the match diagonally on the sheet.

Let's take a look into what exactly all this means;

- **Pattern Match/Design Repeat** – This means the repeat of the actual design and how often it repeats. It could be a certain marking or color in the floor and how often it repeats down and across the flooring (see photos below).

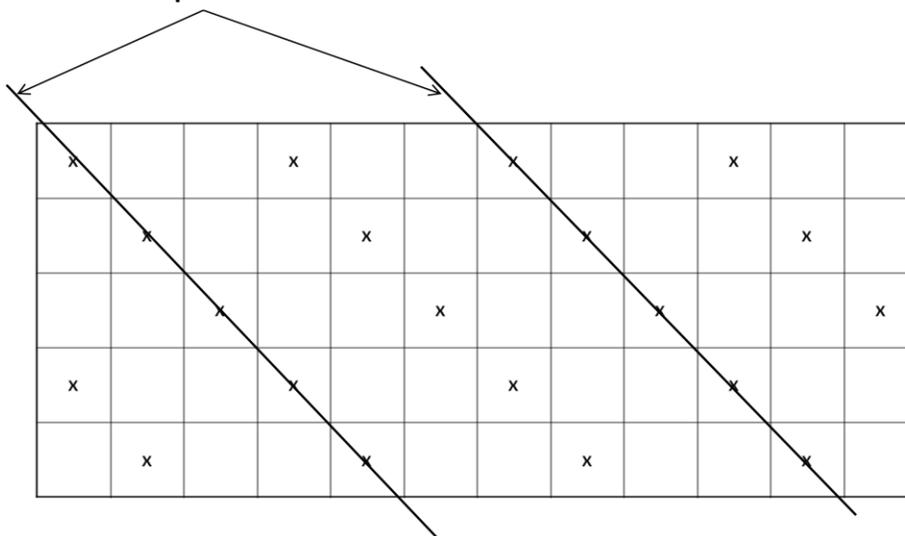


Machine Direction Pattern Match/Design Repeat of 48"



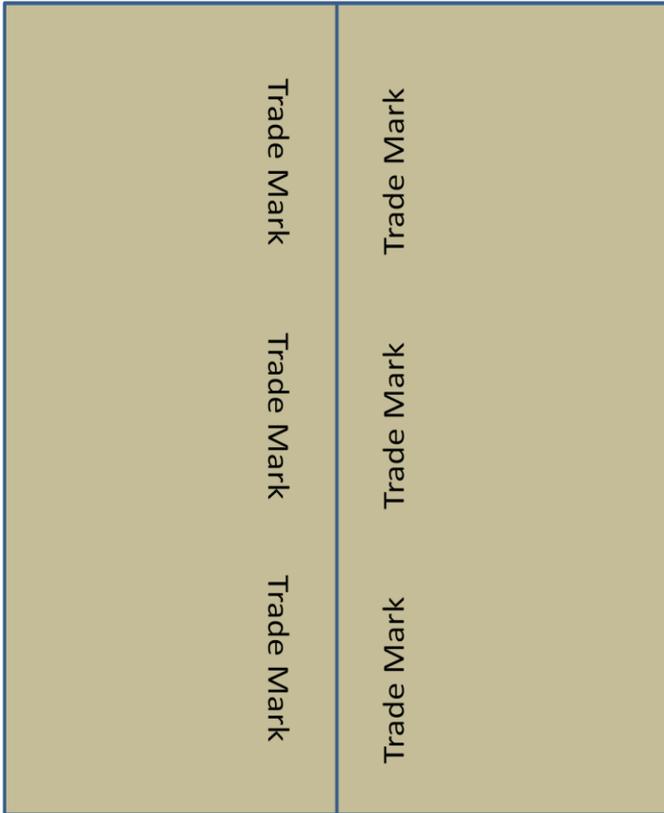
- **Economy Match** – This means I am just lining a block to a block (see photo above). I am not worried how the flooring design will look going across multiple drops in an installation. Please note; if a floor with a lot of different colored blocks or a big design is picked with the economy match, it may look odd as the drops of flooring are laid out. While the economy match is not a true match, it can be used where 6' or 12' material is installed with a small fill.
- **Drop Match** - The Drop Match is a pattern in vinyl flooring that repeats diagonally across the sheet. Each corresponding pattern drops down a certain distance. Some manufactures will list their Drop Match as a 1/2 drop or 1/4 drop. This means the drop match is 1/2 or 1/4 of the pattern match. Example; a pattern has an 18" pattern match with a 1/2 drop. This means the drop match is 1/2 of the 18" pattern match which equals 9". If the true Design Match is used, the Drop Match will line up. Only use the Drop Match when splitting material and doing cross seams.

Drop Match

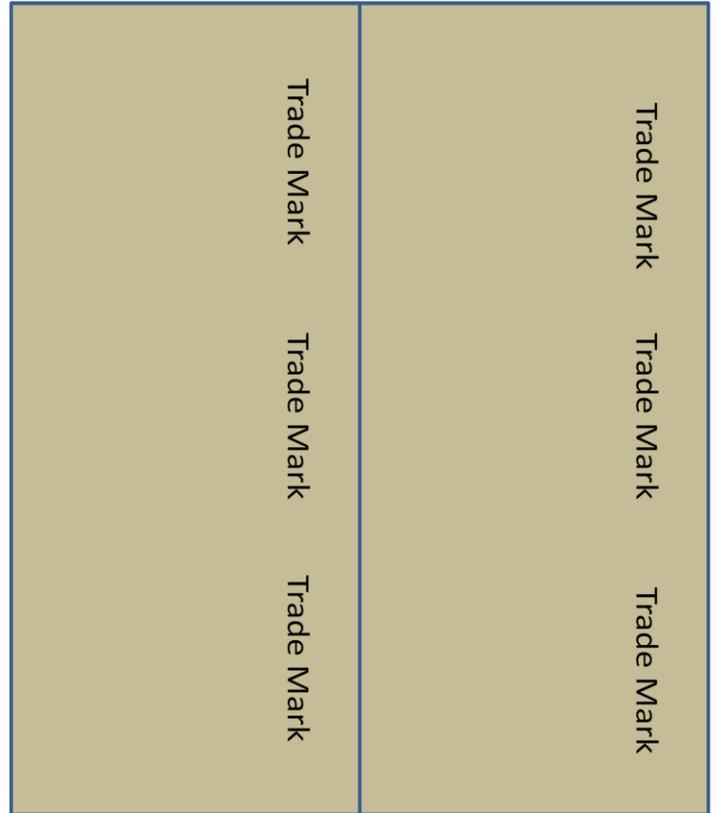


For Residential and Commercial Flooring, you may also see the terminology Reverse Edges or Do Not Reverse.

- **Reverse Edges** –The flooring is cut and the pieces turned around so like edges of the flooring are put together. Usually found with chip visuals and no direction of the chips.
- **Do Not Reverse** – The flooring pieces are installed the same direction as they come off the roll. Can be found with commercial flooring which has a direction or the visual is elongated. Also found with Wood Grain patterns residentially and commercially.



Reverse Edges



Do Not Reverse