



## Installation Guidelines for Carpet Products 8.2022

**Read entire installation guidelines prior to beginning installation. Improper installation of the flooring or deficiencies related to site conditions may result in failure of the installation and will void your warranty. Owner/installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection and acceptance of product prior to installation. Always reference manufacturer's current installation recommendations. Installation guidelines are available in additional languages upon request.**

### Job-site Evaluation:

Proper site conditions are essential for a successful installation and any deviation often results in an installation failure and may void your warranty.

Determine the direction the carpet will be installed. It is recommended that the carpet be installed parallel to the longest outside wall or parallel to the main light source for optimal appearance, keeping seams to a minimum. Layout of the carpeting must reflect the desire of the consumer, be consistent with industry standards, and should include input from the carpet dealer and installer.

**Room temperature and relative humidity must be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week prior to installation. Conditions should be maintained at the same temperature and humidity level expected for normal use between 65-95 degrees F (18-35 degrees C), with a maximum relative humidity of 65%, before, during and after installation. Substrate surface temperature should not be less than 65 degrees F (18 degrees C) at time of installation and indoor temperature should not fall below 50 degrees F (10 degrees C) at any time.**

**Carpet is not suitable for exterior use or in areas where normal, year-round climate-controlled conditions are not maintained.**

Ensure that subfloors are dry prior to onset of installation and that a moisture barrier is installed between the ground and subfloor. Concrete should be cured and tested for moisture.

Substrate must be clean and free of dirt, debris, or any contaminants; structurally sound.

Carefully examine carpeting for visible defects prior to installation. Ensure there is sufficient natural or artificial lighting for thorough inspection of the carpet. Do not install carpet that may be considered questionable in appearance or quality. Installer assumes all responsibility for acceptance of carpet installed with visible or manufacturing defects.

**When installing two or more pieces of the same carpet, check to ensure that the item number and roll number are the same. Check to ensure that pile direction is uniform when installing multiple pieces of the same carpet, unless otherwise specified. Uniform pile direction is not required with dissimilar carpet.**

### Tools needed:

Tape measure, straight edge, chalk line, carpet knife, hammer, knee kicker, power stretcher, seam-roller, hot melt seaming iron, utility knife

### Subfloor Requirements and Preparation:

All subfloors should be inspected prior to installation, and must be smooth, clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of dust, dirt, oil, or any other contaminant. Use a good quality Portland cement-based patching compound to fill or smooth any irregularities in the subfloor.

Concrete subfloors must be at least 90 days old and fully cured. Concrete must be free of moisture or high alkalinity, with a minimum of 6-mil poly film moisture barrier between the ground and the concrete. Concrete must be pH neutral prior to installation. Moisture levels in concrete should be tested according to ASTM F2170-2 (standard test method for determining relative humidity in concrete floor slabs using in situ probes) with a moisture content not exceeding 5 pounds per 1000 sf; or ASTM F1869-98 (standard test method for measuring moisture vapor emission rate of concrete subfloor using anhydrous calcium chloride – CM method) with a maximum permissible moisture content of 2.0%. See also BS 8203:2017 Annex B Hygrometer test for dampness of concrete, cementitious and calcium sulphate bases.

**Manufacturer does not warrant or guarantee unsatisfactory installations due to the presence of excessive alkali, moisture, or hydrostatic pressure in subfloors.**

Wood subfloors shall have at least 18" (46 cm) of well-ventilated space below. The ground under crawl spaces must be covered with 6-mil (1.25 mm) poly film to reduce moisture vapor transmission. Wood subfloors must be double construction or equivalent, with a minimum thickness of 1" (2.54 cm), such as APA rated underlayment grade plywood with a fully sanded face that is free of voids. Use a quality embossing leveler to smooth any irregularities in the subfloor.

**Warning: Existing resilient floor coverings and black asphalt adhesive may contain asbestos, asbestos fiber, or crystalline silica. Do not sand, scrape or abrade these materials. If removal of existing resilient floor covering is necessary, be certain that all precautions are taken, and proper procedures are followed. For information regarding proper removal procedures, please refer to "Recommended Work Practices for the Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" published by The Resilient Floor Covering Institute.**

Existing resilient floor covering must be smooth and consist of a single layer of non-cushioned flooring which is well adhered to the subfloor. Use embossing leveler to smooth the surface.

Do not install over existing carpet, perimeter glued resilient flooring, ceramic tile, or laminate flooring.

Sweep or vacuum subfloor to remove any loose dust or dirt particles prior to onset of installation.

### Starting the Installation:

Carpet must be installed via stretch-in installation, which involves installing carpet under tension over a separate cushion, using tack strips fastened at all walls and vertical abutments around the perimeter of the installation.

### Tack -strip:

Tack-strip must be a minimum of 1" (25 mm) wide and ¼" (6 mm) thick. Architectural strips 1-3/4" wide (50 mm) with three rows of pins, or two conventional strips with two rows of pins each, are required for stretching areas exceeding thirty feet in any direction to provide secure attachment of the carpet. Alternative installation methods may be necessary in large areas to obtain sufficient stretch and to avoid wrinkles.

To prevent possible injury to occupants, it is required that the pins on tack-strips not protrude through the carpet being installed.

Securely fasten tack-strips to maintain the tension provided by power stretching. Nailed or stapled tack-strips are required to have a minimum of two (2) fasteners per piece. Place tack-strip with pins angled toward the wall or vertical abutment.

The gully, or distance between the tack-strip and the vertical abutment should be slightly less than the thickness of the carpet, but no more than 3/8" (9 mm). Avoid installing tack-strip across door openings. Cut tack-strip to follow door casings and other irregularly shaped abutments. Install tack-strip with pins angled toward the wall or vertical abutment.

Do not staple carpet to tack-strip.

When installing tack-strip over radiant heated floors, follow manufacturer's instructions to adhere tack-strip to substrate. Do not nail or screw tack-strip over radiant heated floors.

### Carpet Cushion:

Installation must include new carpet cushion which meets FHA/HUD requirements. Choose an appropriate cushion for residential use, with a minimum density of 6 lbs. Cushion should be a minimum of 3/8" (9.5 mm) thick, to a maximum of 7/16" (11 mm) thick. Failure to follow these recommendations for cushion may result in wrinkling or buckling and may void the warranty.

Install cushion in the longest continuous lengths possible, with cushion seams placed at right angles to carpet seams or staggered at least 6" (150 mm) from carpet seams. When small pieces are used, cushion may slip or lift at the edges, creating resistance during positioning and stretching of the carpet.

Trim cushion flush with the inside contour of the tack-strip. Ensure all wrinkles are eliminated prior to securing cushion to substrate.

Cushion may be secured with a quality non-flammable cushion adhesive over concrete, or by using staples over a wood substrate. Secure cushion around the perimeter and at all seams in each room. Finally, secure seams with appropriate 2" cushion tape according to cushion manufacturer's recommendations.

### Layout and Cutting:

Carefully review seaming diagram for layout prior to cutting. Cut carpet into sufficient lengths to cover the area following seaming diagram. Cross seams should be kept to a minimum. Make new edge cuts on all primary and fill pieces.

Row cut from the face on seam edges with a cushion back cutter. Trim edges far enough into the material to maintain the structural integrity of the carpet and to seam without gaps or overlaps, allowing at least three inches along each wall for trimming.

### Seaming:

Carpet must have a protective edge material applied to the edges between the primary and secondary backing. This material may be a liquid or thermoplastic seam sealer. Use care to avoid contaminating face yarn on both edges of the seam. Edge raveling may occur if the seams are not properly sealed. Allow seam sealer to dry prior to proceeding with installation.

### Hot-melt seaming:

Use a premium grade four-inch low-profile, low melt seam tape, pre-coated with a thermoplastic adhesive. Seam tape should be folded over the tack-strip, so the tape is held in place. Use tape center line as a guide to ensure both carpet edges rest equally on the adhesive. Heat tape with a seaming iron, with iron setting between 2-3. Proper iron temperature is essential to avoid secondary backing distortion. Make certain iron has a heat shield. Always seam in the direction of the pile.

To begin, let the iron melt the thermoplastic adhesive to bond the seam tape to the carpet. Do not slide more than ½ the length of the iron as moving too quickly may prevent adhesive melt, resulting in improper bond. Press carpet firmly into adhesive at the rear of the iron with a roller as adhesive cools (rollers with star or spike design are not recommended for use on hot melt seams). Always seam over a hard, flat surface to ensure good adhesive transfer as the iron is moved down the seam. Slide a flat, heavy object to weight the seam behind the seam iron along the face of the seam.

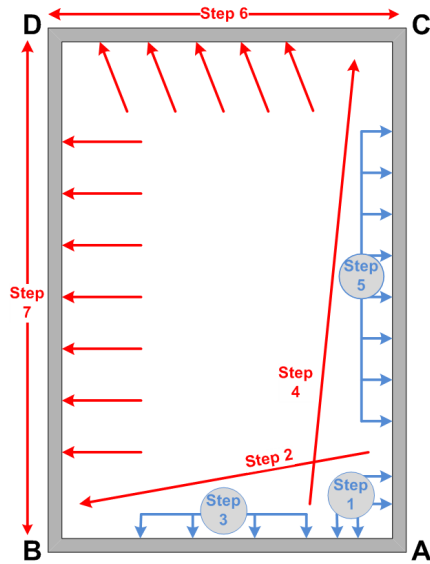
Allow adhesive to cool before starting the stretching process to avoid seam failure.

Provide adequate ventilation to dissipate any fumes from the seaming process.

### Power Stretching:

The use of a power stretcher is mandatory. Failure to power stretch carpet may result in damage to include wrinkling, bucking, or delamination, and may void your warranty. Carpet should be stretched a minimum of 1% in length and in width.

Power stretch carpet following the CRI 7-step procedure for broadloom carpet. (See 7-step diagram CRI 105 Standard for Installation of Residential Carpet below).



#### Finishing at wall:

Finish installation along the wall, leaving a smooth, neat, and secure transition. Trim carpet without damaging baseboards or moldings, leaving sufficient material for backing to be securely tucked into the gully without protruding face or backing yarns.

Where carpet transitions to other types of hard surface floor coverings, the carpet edges are required to be protected or covered with appropriate transition moldings. The edge of the hard surface flooring should not exceed a maximum of 1/16" higher than the total carpet thickness where no transitional molding is used. When not using transitional molding, apply a minimum of 1/8" bead of seam sealer to the edge of the carpet along the entire length of the transition.

#### Preventive Care:

The easiest way to maintain the optimal look and performance of your carpet is to reduce the amount of dirt, grit, and moisture with an effective walk-off mat. This should be cleaned regularly.

Never slide heavy furniture or fittings over an unprotected floor as damage or tears may occur as a result. Carpeting should be protected from wheels, casters, or feet of furniture, which may damage the floor. Use hard plastic discs or furniture coasters under heavy furniture to prevent puncture from point loads. Furniture with wheels must have coasters or pads under the wheels to keep from damaging the carpet.

#### Regular Maintenance

Vacuum regularly to remove dust and loose debris.

Treat stains as soon as they are discovered, according to CRI recommendations. Use only CRI approved cleaners.

Professionally clean every 12-18 months following CRI recommendations for hot water extraction by a certified technician.

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