

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES: WOOL FLOORING

NOTE: It is expected that all installers handling our materials, be familiar with the **CRI 104** or **CRI 105**, minimum guidelines for installing commercial carpeting. Many of those guidelines for direct glue down and double stick installation will prove helpful. We also recommend 'Certified' installers with experience in flat-weave carpeting which requires more time and attention-to-detail for a successful installation. The end user should be made aware of applicable, natural characteristics of the construction being installed prior to installation.

APPROVED INSTALLATION METHODS:

Direct Glue-Down

Double Glue-Down

Stretch-In

IMPORTANT BEFORE CUTTING: Prior to Installation, all material needs to be carefully inspected. All these products are made from 'natural' fibers, containing various inherent irregularities synthetic fiber does not. The carpet should be checked against the shipping papers, labels, and store sample to ensure it is the correct pattern, color, and size. Any noted defect of discrepancy should be immediately reported to the our Customer Service Department. We will not cover the cost of labor on visible claims, so it is important to inspect prior to investing your time. Return Authorizations will only be considered on approved claims.

SITE CONDITIONS FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS

- **TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY:** Carpet should be allowed to acclimate to room conditions at least 24 hours before installation. Ideally, the temperature should be between 65 - 95 degrees F (18 - 35 C) with a maximum relative humidity of 65%. If ambient temperatures are outside these parameters, the installation must not begin until the HVAC system is operational and those conditions are maintained at least 48 hours before, during and 72 hours after completion. Inside temperature should never fall below 50 degrees. Extreme variances in temperature can cause difficulties during installation.
- **FLOOR PREPARATION:** Carpet must be installed over properly prepared substrates that are suitable for the specific product and installation method selected. It is the owner or general contractor's responsibility to check concrete subfloors for excessive levels of alkaline and for moisture. According to CRI guidelines the recommended pH is between 5 and 9. Readings greater than 9 will result in adhesive failure. Moisture levels can be checked by a calcium chloride testing kit. Readings between 3 - 5 pounds are in the acceptable range.
- **CONCRETE FLOORS:** Even with adequate curing time, concrete can present an unacceptable moisture condition by allowing excessive amounts of moisture vapor to pass through to the surface. This can be a problem even on suspended concrete floors. Test all concrete floors for moisture emission rates using

an anhydrous calcium chloride moisture test kit. As a general guideline, an emission rate of 3.0 lbs. or less is acceptable. Alkalinity (a pH reading above 9) requires corrective measures and is not suitable for installation.

- **CUSHION:** Recommended pad or cushion is 40 oz. synthetic felt pad or a flat rubber pad with minimum density of 18 pounds. The cushion should be attached to the floor, making sure that all cushion seams fall perpendicular to carpet seams.
- We recommend architectural tackless or double rows of 1" tackless (either C or D). Strips should be placed ¼" from the walls.

TRIMMING & SEAMING

- All products with repetitive patterns require that installations involving multiple rolls be sequenced, installing rolls with the longest pattern repeat first and moving towards installing rolls with shorter repeats last. This will allow shorter pattern repeats to be stretched to fit longer ones.
- Flat-weaves should be seamed in the length, place seams where main traffic runs along rather than across the seam. Cross seams will be more visible and should be avoided. Better results are obtained if direct light does not strike across the seam (seams should run perpendicular to major outside light sources).
- Ensure that patterns are squared and aligned during the initial layout and maintain alignment throughout the seaming and power stretching procedures.
- Seams should be row cut from the face. After determination is made on where the seams are to be trimmed, use an awl or flat screwdriver to open a row. Use a cushion back cutter to trim seam edges. All seams should be sealed.
- Carpet edges at seams must be trimmed far enough into the material to maintain the structural integrity of the carpet and to join edges without gaps or overlaps. Never cut carpet directly on top of carpet without use of a board. 'Top Cuts' can easily occur on flat weaves and loop pile carpeting.
- All cut edges (seams, transitions, openings) should be sealed with a premium latex seam sealer to avoid unraveling and fraying. Seam sealer is required on both stretch-in and glue-down installations. Once the edges are trimmed, both trimmed edges of the carpet sections to be joined must be sealed with an appropriate seam adhesive. Latex seam sealer or thermoplastic adhesives are acceptable. Seam adhesive must be applied in a manner that encapsulates both primary and secondary backings without contaminating face yarns. PLEASE NOTE: Improper sealed edges often lead to seam delamination for loss of face yarn. This will not be considered an installation related claim.
- We recommend premium 6" seaming tape to attain a good bond at seam areas and to avoid seam peaking.
- Using a double head power stretcher or dead man, pre-stretch the seam area if needed to get a proper pattern match. Use stay nails to hold the pattern match and begin the seaming.

- Face to Face seams should be cut from the back of the carpet following the pattern. Wilton seams should be cut from the face taking care to avoid cutting loops whenever possible. All cut edges should be sealed immediately.
- Seaming iron setting should be set initially on a low setting, then gradually increased as needed and should be set no higher than 2.5 to avoid burned or distorted seams. A non-heat conductive weight should be used to smooth the seam. Star tractors are not recommended.
- Once the seam has cooled, the carpet can be stretched in and installed.
- Some seams may require spot tacking or sewing in extreme cases of pattern stretch.
- Direct gluedown and double glue installations require premium adhesives. Follow the adhesive supplier's recommendation on trowel size and pad requirements for double glued installs. In both procedures, the adhesive must be given proper open time and allowed set up. It should be stringy or tacky before laying in the carpet. The carpet should never be laid in wet.
- Seams on patterned carpet should be matched in the center of the seam first and then stretched to match from the center outward to both sides. Trimming of pile may be necessary to balance seams. This is not a defect, as this is a handmade product. No seams are invisible; consumer expectation should be realistic.
- Whether tackless or gluedown, the installation should conform to all **CRI 104 or CRI 105 guidelines**.
- Please do not use excessive amount of pressure when stretching the carpet into place. Use knee kicker for positioning the carpet only, being careful with the amount of pressure since it is a handmade product. Stretch evenly across the length and width with a power stretcher or power head, again using caution.
- At the transition between carpet and other floor coverings, carpet edges must be protected and covered with appropriate molding. In transition areas, the edge of the hard surface must be a minimum of 1/16" higher than the carpeted flooring. Seam sealer must be applied to the edge of the carpet at the transition area.