

## Carpet Installation Check List

---

1. The floor and room temperature must be acclimated by maintaining the temperature at 65° F and 85° F, and the humidity between 30% and 65%, for at least 48 hours before and during installation. In addition, the carpet and adhesive should be stored under these conditions for at least 24 hours before installation. The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation.
2. When the installation is complete, the jobsite must be maintained at normal service temperature and humidity.
3. Inspect all carpet prior to cutting and contact your sales representative before installing the carpet if you discover any problems. No claims will be allowed for visible defects after the carpet has been cut and installed.
4. Carpet should only be bent when necessary for transporting purposes only and must be unrolled immediately. Carpet should be rolled out and allowed to relax for at least 24 hours prior to installation.
5. Never cut carpet over carpet as this can result in over penetration of the blade and cutting loops on the lower carpet.
6. Carpet should be protected from heavy traffic and construction dust with a non-staining building material paper. Do not use plastic sheeting as it may leave residues that can result in rapid soiling after removal.
7. If any of the above conditions are not attainable, contact Mohawk Technical Services at 888-387-9881.

## Please Note

---

1. Asbestos-containing floor tiles, any adhesive possibly containing asbestos, or other asbestos - containing floor coverings require special preparation, handling, and removal procedures. Consult the appropriate local or state authorities or the Resilient Floor Covering Institute before disturbing any suspected asbestos-containing material.
2. Installation of Mohawk broadloom carpet on a floor outside the scope of the guidelines in this document will void all applicable warranties.
3. Mohawk is not responsible for any product failure due to improper floor preparation and/or installation procedures.
4. All carpet must be installed in accordance with the most current CRI 105 residential standards

## Required Equipment

---

The following items may be purchased from a local carpet workroom supplier.

- Razor knives
- Top cutter
- Row finder
- Proper edge sealer
- Premium seaming tape (*minimum of 2 3/4 inches width*)
- Seaming iron with heat shield
- Seam tractor (*non-spike*)
- Proper seaming weight
- Knee kicker (*to position carpet only*)
- Power stretcher

## Recommended Padding or Underlay

---

The proper type of padding plays a key role in achieving satisfactory results and prolonging the life of the carpet. A proper cushion is firm and uniform in thickness.

Minimum density for wool/woven residential carpets is eight (8) pounds per cubic foot; thickness should be a minimum of 1/4 inch and maximum of 1/2 inch.

## Tackless Strip

---

Residential installations require 1 inch wide tackless strip. The gully between the wall and the tackless strip should be slightly less than the thickness of the carpet but never to exceed 3/8 of an inch. Architectural tackless strip is mandatory for installation areas exceeding 30 linear feet.



---

## Pile Direction

All broadloom carpet should be installed with a consistent pile direction. This can be determined several ways. One of them is the pencil and paper test.

---

## Recommended Cutting Methods

Carpet should be cut between the rows when possible using a top cutter. In all cut/loop and loop constructions, care must be taken to ensure that no loops are cut.

**Please Note:** All edges cut for seams must be edge sealed immediately after cutting. Acrylic latex is not to be used as edge sealer.

---

## Lengthwise Seam Cutting

Carpet should be row cut on both sides by separating the pile between the rows with a row finder along the length of the proposed cut. Start the cut by making a small incision on the edge with a carpet knife. Insert the top cutter between the backing yarns and cut along the face of the carpet. The top cutter should always be inserted so that the blade is close to the seam edge.

---

## Widthwise Seam Cutting

Carpet can be either row cut or straight edged. When row cutting trim with the blade closest to the seam edge. If the trace cut method is used, the pile of the row cut or straight edged side needs to lay toward the trace cut side.

**Note:** Avoid widthwise seams whenever possible; know the carpets in which widthwise seams may not be constructed to achieve customer satisfaction.

---

## Pattern Matching

It must be understood that carpet is a textile and cannot be made to exact specifications. All patterned carpet is subject to certain manufacturing tolerances; therefore, a perfect pattern match cannot be guaranteed. However, a match should be achievable by stretching the short side out to meet the long side. Tolerances for patterned carpet are:

**Bow:** 1-1/2 inches across the 12-foot width

**Skew (bias):** 1-1/2 inches across the 12-foot width

**Pattern elongation:** 1-1/2 inches in 12 feet along the length

**Bow in Length:** 3/4 inch in 12 feet along the length

**Please Note:** If you are having trouble matching a pattern, STOP and call Mohawk Technical Services at 888-387-9881

---

## Pattern Elongation

All rolls should be dry-laid and the pattern repeat measured to establish the correct pattern sequence. The longest pattern must be installed first, then the next longest, etc. This allows the shorter pattern to be stretched to the longer pattern, and keeps the closest pattern repeats together. After the pattern sequence is established, stretch the shorter pattern to match the longer pattern by starting the center of the seam and stretching toward the ends. Stay nails may be needed to secure the pattern match as the carpet is seamed.

---

## Seaming Procedures

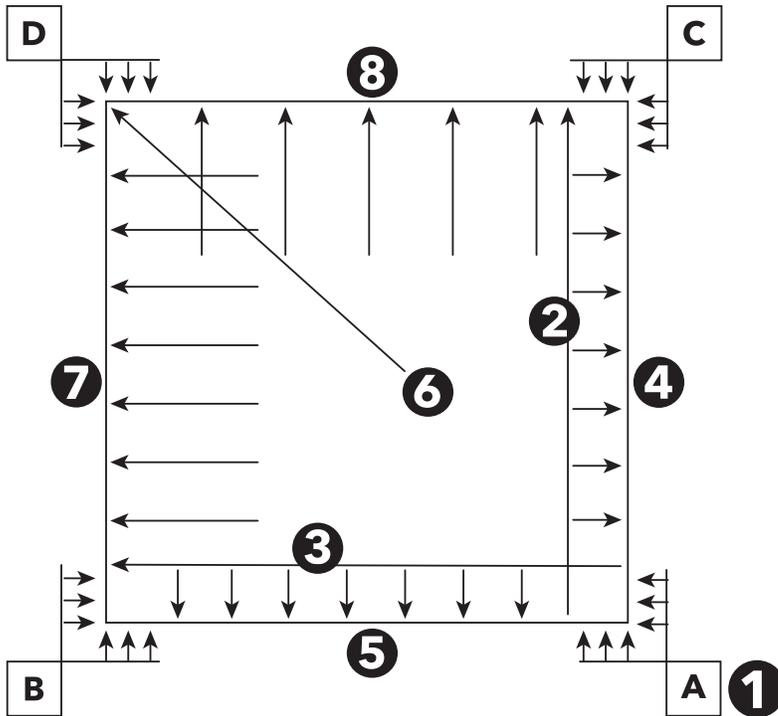
Cut and prepare seams on a hard surface, such as 1/4 inch plywood or luan.

Seam seal both edges and allow seam sealer to completely dry.

Select a premium hot-melt tape (such as *Stixx S120*, *Orcon XU90*, *Seam Master OT90*, *Seam Master Kool Glide*, or *Capitol MegaLoc*). The iron must have a heat shield or Kool Top and the face of the iron should be clean to allow the thermostat to work properly. The iron setting should be set at no more than 3. Before making the seam, pre-stretch the carpet in the seam area. This should eliminate puckers and allow the carpet to remain flat at the seam edges. After positioning the hot-melt tape, push the iron very slowly to melt the adhesive. Carefully push the two edges together as the carpet drops off the iron. Do not use tool trays or weighted metal to press the carpet into the tape as they will trap heat and cause the seam to cup, peak, or distort. Use an approved seaming weight that will allow heat to escape from the seam. Seam tractors should be used sparingly, do not use excessive pressure. Use either a flat or paddle wheel style roller. Do not use a star tractor or roller on any hot melt seam.

Allow the seam to set and cool before installing.

## Recommended Stretching Method



1. Hook at corner A.
2. Power-stretch from A to C and hook at corner C.
3. Power-stretch from A to B and hook at corner B.
4. Stretch and hook along wall, A to C.
5. Stretch and hook along wall, A to B.
6. Power-stretch and hook at corner D.
7. Power-stretch and hook along wall, B to D.
8. Power stretch and hook along wall, C to D.

**Please Note:** More stretch will be gained in the length of Woven carpet than in the width. However, the carpet must be stretched in the width regardless of the amount obtained.

The use of a power stretcher is mandatory and must be used as indicated. Failure to apply the proper stretch is likely to result in a call back.

## Restretching

It is common industry knowledge that carpet occasionally must be restretched. This is especially true in environments with significant changes in humidity. Should buckling, wrinkling, or a similar condition occur that affects the lay of the carpet, the problem can be remedied if handled in the proper way.

It is Mohawk's recommendation that all moveable furniture, fixtures, etc. be removed from the problem area, that the carpet be released from the tackless strip, and that the carpet be reinstalled according to the guidelines set forth in these installation procedures, incorporating the correct tackless strip, pad and the use of a power stretcher, as detailed.

Mohawk will not be responsible for any costs incurred due to buckling or wrinkling as these conditions do not constitute manufacturing defects.

*This information, offered as a customer service, is based on Mohawk's engineering tests and field experience. It is intended for installers with professional experience to be used at their discretion and risk. Mohawk does not guarantee results and assumes no liability in connect with these installation instructions.*