# Tufted and Woven Goods Direct Glue-Down

**INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

UNIBOND® PLUS | UNIBOND® PLUS COMFORTGUARD | WELDLOK® | WELDLOK® COMFORTGUARD | WOVEN

## CARPET INSTALLATION CHECK LIST

1. Newly poured concrete floors generally take 30 days per inch to cure. Moisture should not exceed 80% relative humidity, per current ASTM standards. If the results are higher than 80% RH, do not proceed with the installation unless moisture mitigation is complete or NuBroadlok VRT Adhesive is used. Gypcrete or substrates with excessive dust must be cleaned and primed with an approved primer, such as a latex milk additive.
2. The alkalinity or pH in a concrete slab should be between 5 and 9 for a glue-down installation.
3. The floor and room must be acclimated with HVAC in operation by maintaining the temperature with 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.
4. When the installation is complete, the jobsite must be maintained at normal service temperature and humidity.
5. Existing adhesive must be properly prepared prior to any installation of Mohawk Group's broadloom carpet. See note #1 about asbestos below.
6. Mechanically remove all wax, dirt, grease or paint. **DO NOT** use chemical solvents to clean the floor or remove existing adhesives. **DO NOT** use oil-based sweeping compounds. Fill cracks more than 1/16" wide with a cement-based patching and/or self-leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3000 psi. The floor must be flat to within 3/16" in 10' and 1/32" in 12", according to the ASTM F710. Use leveling compound when required. Patched areas may need to be primed with an approved primer (consult patch manufacturer for requirements). **DO NOT** install over resin or silicate-based curing compounds whether topically applied to the concrete after the pour or added to the concrete during the pour as an admixture.
7. 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.
8. Carpet should only be bent when absolutely necessary for transporting purposes and must be unrolled immediately. Carpet should be rolled out and allowed to relax for at least 24 hours prior to installation.
9. Never cut carpet over carpet as this can cause over-penetration of the blade and cutting the face pile on the lower carpet.
10. Carpet should be protected from heavy traffic and construction dust with a non-staining building material paper. Never use plastic sheeting as it will trap moisture and prevent proper curing of the adhesive. Plastic may also leave residues that can result in rapid soiling after removal.
11. Furniture placement and heavy traffic should be avoided for at least 24 hours after a direct glue installation. Furniture and heavy equipment, concentrated pressure, and movement over unprotected carpet can cause adhesive breakdown. This can result in buckling and/or wrinkling. It is strongly recommended that plywood or masonite boards be placed over the carpet during the move-in phase to spread the concentrated weight of furniture and heavy equipment.
12. If any of the above conditions are not attainable, contact Mohawk Group Technical Services at 800-833-6954.


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**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 Group's broadloom carpet on a floor outside the scope of the guidelines in this document will void all applicable warranties.
3. Mohawk Group is not responsible for any product failure due to improper floor preparation and/or installation procedures. The required adhesives are Mohawk Group's family of adhesives.

## TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- NuBroadlok Premium Multi-Purpose Adhesive or NuBroadlok VRT Adhesive
- Razor Knives
- NuBroadlok Edge Sealer OR LifeLoc Seam Sealer
- Dead Man
- Cushion back cutter or top cutter
- Hammer
- 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-notched trowel OR 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/16" V-notched trowel
- Stay Nails
- Dry Line
- 75 –100 lb. roller
- Chalk Line
- Mini or Crab Stretcher and Power Stretcher
- Tape Measure
- Knee Kicker (to position carpet only)
- Row Runners
- Straight Edge

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

### 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. Woven carpets have a different color warp yarn approximately 12" from the selvage edge.

### Seam Trimming

The seams must be trimmed on the row.

### Patterned Carpet

Trim between patterns in the solid areas of the background, if possible. Use a row runner to separate the pile and open the row.

### Tufted Carpet

It is recommended to trim the seam edge with a cushion back or loop pile cutter. Use a sharp blade with it positioned to cut close to the edge to be seamed. The cutter should be held straight up and down. Cross seams should be cut from the face if possible. This can be performed by following the row across the width or using a straight edge and cushion back cutter to cut from pattern to pattern. All seams must be sealed with LifeLoc Seam Sealer unless the alternate method is used as described below, using NuBroadlok Edge Sealer.

## Woven Carpet

It is recommended to trim all seams with a cushion back or loop pile cutter. Cutter should be held straight up and down. Immediately after trimming apply a bead of NuBroadlok Edge Sealer to all cut edges of woven carpet. Press the latex into the base of the pile with thumb, smoothing out any lumps. Be careful not to rub the edges, which could distort the face yarns. Allow the Edge Sealer to completely dry before proceeding.

**As an alternate method, seams may be sealed with NuBroadlok Edge Sealer by applying to both sides of the seams and allowed to dry before applying adhesive. This can be done for all broadloom products.**

## Transitions

All cut edges at transitions must be edge sealed or covered with an appropriate molding to protect the edges. For all carpets where no transition molding is used, apply a minimum of 1/8" bead of seam/edge sealer to the edge of the carpet along the entire transition.

## Pattern Matching and Alignment

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

**NOTE:** If you are having trouble matching a pattern, STOP and call Technical Services at 800-833-6954.

## Roll Sequencing by Pattern Count

Rolls of patterned carpet must be sequenced so the longest pattern is installed first, then the roll with the next longest pattern, etc. This procedure is critical because it is impossible to shrink a longer pattern to match a shorter pattern. This requires each roll be measured for pattern repeat prior to installation. See specific pattern elongation installation procedures below.

## Correcting Pattern Elongation

After the roll sequence has been established, all rolls should be dry-laid in sequence. Then glue half the long pattern and half the shorter pattern lengthwise. Stretch the shorter pattern to match the longer pattern by starting in the center of the seam and stretching toward the ends. Glue the remaining portion of the two breadths and repeat the above process. Stay nails will be needed to secure the pattern match as the adhesive sets. Pre-stretching the shorter pattern prior to gluing will help in pattern alignment.

## Corrective Steps for Bow and Skew

Make a cut across the patterns at one end. Then apply the adhesive using the proper trowel. Push the short corners to the wall and stretch the excess carpet created by the bow or skew to the opposite wall using a power stretcher and crab stretcher. Use stay nails to hold the pattern in place until the adhesive sets. Follow this procedure throughout the installation. In large rooms start in the center of the seam correcting the bow & skew with a power stretcher or crab stretcher. A dry line should be placed along the pattern for reference.

## Applying Approved Adhesive

NuBroadlok Premium Multi-Purpose Adhesive and NuBroadlok VRT are the only adhesives approved for use in direct glue-down installations. The use of NuBroadlok Adhesive is vital to ensure optimum results. Applying an improper adhesive can result in an installation failure for which Mohawk Group cannot be held responsible. To make certain that the proper amount of adhesive is

transferred to the back of the carpet, a 1/8” x 1/8” x 1/8” U-notched trowel or 1/8” x 1/8” x 1/16” V-notched trowel must be used. This will result in a spread rate of approximately 8 - 10 square yards per gallon. Lay carpet immediately into wet adhesive to allow working time to match patterns.

**Please Note:** The use of Mohawk Group brand adhesives is required to ensure optimum results; they are the only approved adhesives warranted by the Mohawk Group. Failure to use Mohawk Group brand adhesives may result in warranties being null and void.

## GENERAL INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

1. Make sure that the surface pile runs in the same direction. Check starting wall for squareness, allowing for an off-square wall. Strike a chalk line the entire length of the area where the seam falls.
2. Place two breadths in the proper position for installing and trim selvages. Line up the seam edges with the chalk line making sure they are perfectly flat and tension free.
3. Fold or roll both widths back a workable amount from the seam area for the entire length of the carpet.
4. Spread NuBroadlok Adhesive from the approximate center toward each end using a 1/8” x 1/8” x 1/8” U-notched trowel or 1/8” x 1/8” x 1/16” V-notched trowel with steady, even strokes. When sufficient floor area has been covered with NuBroadlok, wait until the adhesive has reached the appropriate tacky stage before dropping the first breadth of carpet into place. Apply a thin coating of LifeLoc Seam Sealer to the seam edge of the first breadth. Follow this procedure for each succeeding breadth at the seam. Drop or roll the second breadth into position and fit the seam in tightly using a crab stretcher, if necessary. Roll looseness and air bubbles away from the seam. All tufted seams must be sealed with LifeLoc Seam Sealer unless alternate method is used as described above. All woven seams require NuBroadlok Edge Sealer as described above.
5. **See steps above for correcting bow, skew and pattern elongation.**
6. The remaining portion of the first breadth can now be folded or rolled back from the floor. Apply NuBroadlok to the floor; wait until the adhesive has reached the proper tacky stage before dropping the carpet into place. Be sure to have enough personnel spreading the adhesive so that, after the floor is covered with adhesive, each breadth is in place within the determined period of open time.
7. Roll out looseness and air bubbles as the carpet is put in place. Repeat above procedures on continuing breadths. To trim the carpet at the wall, use a razor-blade knife or suitable wall trimmer.
8. Roll completed installation with a 75-100 lb. roller in both length and width. This will allow the adhesive to penetrate the carpet backing properly.

### Chair Pads

Chair pads are recommended for use under chairs with roller casters. Casters must be the flat round type with 5/8” to 1” width minimum. If chair pads are not used, the appearance of the carpet will b decline. Maintenance will be required more frequently when pads are not used.

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

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