Stretch In

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Unibond® Plus | Weldlok®

CARPET INSTALLATION CHECK-OFF LIST

1. Newly poured concrete floors generally will take 30 days per inch to cure. Moisture should not exceed 80% relative humidity as determined by current ASTM standards. If the results are more than 80% RH, do not proceed with the installation unless moisture mitigation is complete.
2. The floor and room temperature must be acclimated by maintaining the temperature between 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 should be stored under these conditions for at least 24 hours before installation. The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation.
3. When the installation is complete, the jobsite must be maintained between 65° F and 85° F service temperature and humidity.
4. If the subfloor has existing adhesive it must be properly prepared prior to any installation of Mohawk Group's broadloom carpet.
5. 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 feet and 1/32" in 12 inches.
6. 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.
7. Carpet should only be bent when absolutely 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.
8. Never cut carpet over carpet as this can result in over penetration of the blade and cutting tufts on the lower carpet.
9. 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.
10. If any of the above conditions are not attainable, contact Mohawk Group Technical Services at 800-833-6954.

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. The Mohawk Group is not responsible for any product failure due to improper floor preparation and/or installation procedures.
4. Attached cushions cannot be installed by the stretch in method.

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REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

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

- Razor knives
- Top cutter
- NuBroadlok Edge Sealer
- Premium seaming tape
- Seaming iron with heat shield
- Knee kicker (to position carpet only)
- Crab stretcher and 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.

Flat rubber or urethane foam padding such as SmartTred should not exceed 3/8" in thickness and must have a minimum density of 16 pounds. A 1/4-inch pad is more desirable if it meets the density requirement.

Felted underlays (synthetic fiber cushion) such as Mohawk Group's SmartStep (28oz or 32oz weight only) or hair and jute underlays should be at least 28 oz in weight and should not exceed 3/8" in thickness.

Please Note: Underlays that are too soft or have an uneven or non-uniform density (including pads that contain deep bubbles or ripples or have a high profile, such as waffle pads) are not recommended for commercial carpet as they are frequently the cause of re-stretch calls and seam splitting.

TACKLESS STRIP

Commercial installations require either an architectural or commercial grade tackless strip (3 rows of pins) or double strips of Type C tackless. The gully between the wall and the tackless strip should be slightly less than the thickness of the carpet.

PILE DIRECTION

All broadloom carpet should be installed with a consistent pile direction. This can be determined several ways, one of which being 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.

LENGTHWISE CUTS

Bend the carpet along the length to separate the rows. Part or trace the pile with a screwdriver 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.

Please Note: Edge Sealer must be used on all seams.

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WIDTHWISE CUTS

All widthwise cuts must be made with a top cutter and straight edge following a pattern from point to point. Trim with the blade closest to the seam edge, holding the cutter slightly away from the seam edge at no more than a 5 degree angle, so as to cut slightly more backing material than face yarn.

PATTERN MATCHING

Carpet is a textile product 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 using the proper tools to bring the pattern into alignment. 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

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

PATTERN ELONGATION

All rolls should be dry-laid and the pattern repeat measured to establish the correct roll 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 roll 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 will be required to secure the pattern match as the seam is completed.

SEAMING PROCEDURES

Cut and prepare the carpet edges for seaming. Put the two seam edges together and make sure the loops and rows are lined up. Lift one breadth and apply NuBroadlok Edge Sealer at the bottom of the pile and backing material. Fold this breadth and allow the sealer to dry. Repeat this procedure on the other breadth.

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 2-1/2 but not 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.

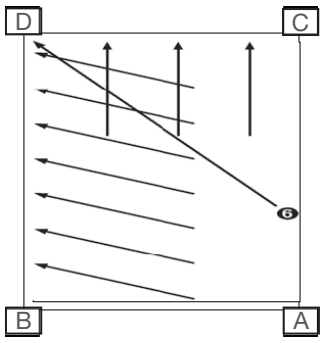
After positioning the hot-melt tape, push the iron very slowly to melt the tape adhesive, laminating the edges to the tape. Carefully push the two edges together as the carpet drops off the iron. Do not use tool trays or weighted metal to press the carpet into the tape as they will trap heat and cause the seam to cup, peak, or distort. The use of a sandbag or ventilated wooden board will allow heat to escape from the seam. Seam tractors should be used sparingly and do not use excessive pressure.

Allow the seam to set and dry before stretching the carpet. Carpet must be stretched both ways in length and width and a power stretcher is mandatory.

Please note: For all carpets where no transition molding is used, apply a minimum of 1/8" bead of seam/edges sealer to the edge of the carpet along the entire transition.

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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.

A power stretcher must be used as indicated. Failure to apply the proper stretch is likely to result in a restretch call.

RESTRETCHING

It is common industry knowledge that carpet occasionally has to 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. Mohawk Group will not be responsible for any costs incurred due to buckling or wrinkling as these conditions do not constitute manufacturing defects.

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 impacted and maintenance will be required more frequently.

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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