


# The Mohawk Group

## Installation Guidelines for Modular Carpet

Ecoflex™ Urethane Cushion Backed  
Carpet Tiles  
PVC Backed Carpet Tiles  
Thermoplastic Backed Carpet Tiles  
Self Lock® Carpet Tiles

 The Mohawk Group  
1975 West Oak Circle  
Marietta, GA 30062  
800-554-6637  
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Field Services Department  
405 Virgil Drive  
Dalton, GA 30721  
800-833-6954

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 The Mohawk Group

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**Carpet Installation Check off List**

1. Newly poured concrete floors generally will take 90 to 120 days to cure. Moisture should not exceed five pounds/1000sf per 24 hours as determined by a calcium chloride test per ASTM F1869, or 80% relative humidity per ASTM F2170. If the results are more than 5 lbs or higher than 80%, do not proceed with the installation. Contact Field Services at 800-833-6954. Gypcrete or substrates with excessive dust must be cleaned, and then primed with The Mohawk Group's (TMG's) PrimeCoat or 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. When pH is between 9-12 and moisture is below 5 lbs or 80% then PrimeCoat can be used to block pH. Should the pH be outside this range, stop and do not proceed with the installation. Contact Field Services at 800-833-6954.
3. The floor and room temperature must be acclimated by maintaining the temperature at 65°F and 95°F, and the humidity between 10% and 65%, for at least 48 hours before, during, and 72 hours after installation. In addition, the carpet, adhesive and seam sealer should be stored under these conditions for at least 24 hours before installation. The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation.
4. Old adhesive must be properly removed prior to any installation of TMG's branded carpet. When cut-back adhesive is present or existing adhesive has indications of plasticization or PVC backed products are being installed then SureSeal must be applied after the old adhesive has been properly removed. See note #1.
5. Mechanically remove all wax, dirt, grease and paint. DO NOT use solvents to clean the floor. DO NOT use oil based sweeping compound. Fill cracks more than 1/16-inch wide with a Portland or cement based patching compound. The floor must be flat to within 1/8" in 10 feet. Use leveling compound when required. Patched areas may need to be primed (Consult patch manufacture for requirements) with PrimeCoat or an approved primer. DO NOT install over resin or silicate based curing compound.
6. 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.
7. Never cut carpet over carpet, as this can result in over penetration of the blade and cutting loops on the lower carpet. Never install broadloom carpet over carpet.
8. 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.
9. Furniture placement and heavy traffic should be avoided for at least 24 hours after a direct glue-down or double 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.

**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. UPS Bloc, HPS Bloc, Unibond, Unibond Flex Bloc and Weldlok cannot be installed using the tackless/stretch-in method. Attached cushions can only be installed by the direct glue method.
3. Installation of The Mohawk Group's branded Carpet and Carpet Tile on a floor outside the scope of the guidelines in this document will void all applicable warranties.

4. The Mohawk Group is not responsible for any product failure due to improper floor preparation and/or installation procedures. The required adhesives are TMG's family of adhesives.

#### **Required Equipment**

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

- Razor Blades
- Straight Edge
- TMG's Adhesives
- Wall Trimmer with Hook Blade (Optional)
- Cushion Back Cutter
- Tape Measure
- 1/16 x 1/16 x 1/16 square notch trowel (Ecoflex)
- Heavy Duty Frame Paint Roller with 3/8" Nap Roller (Thermoplastic and PVC)
- Razor Blade Knife
- Chalk line
- Scissors
- Floor Scraper
- 75 lb. Roller or 100 lb. Roller
- Portland Patching Compound

#### **Floor Priming**

**Concrete:** Prime only if floor is extremely porous or has excessive dust. Note: Any existing sealer or primer must be tested for compatibility with The Mohawk Group's Adhesive. Terrazzo, Marble, Vinyl Tile (VAT or VCT), Linoleum and other smooth nonporous surfaces do not require priming. Damp mop only, if patching is required on these areas, prime the patched areas.

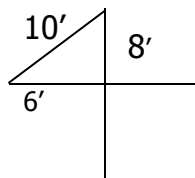
**NOTE: Old adhesive must be mechanically removed and sealed with TMG SureSeal prior to installation of any Modular carpets.**

A bond test must be performed over concrete substrates with unidentified sealers or primers: Adhere a small area of 2-3 feet of carpet and allow it to dry completely. Let it set for 24 hours. If the adhesive is bonded tightly, proceed with installation.

**Plywood Floors:** Plywood Floors must be completely primed. Plywood substrates must be no less than 3/4" thickness. Particleboard or thin plywood is not acceptable substrates.

#### **Site Layout**

1. The starting point in a modular installation must be as near to the center of the room as possible and must be positioned to utilize the largest perimeter cut module size.
2. Snap a chalk line parallel to one major wall bisecting the starting point. It will be necessary to offset the center chalk line to assure perimeter modules will be at least half size.
3. A second chalk line must be snapped from the starting point at 90° to the first line. This can be accomplished using a 6-8-10, or larger triangle, depending on the room size. (See Illustration A) Meters or feet will be used to lie out the triangle in these proportions.



**Illustration A**

#### **Pallet and Box Sequencing**

It is very important to install carpet tiles in the order they were manufactured. This is easily accomplished by selecting pallets in sequential order and following the numbers located on each carton of tiles to ensure the most uniform look. Typically, an installation will begin with the lowest carton numbers and progress through the highest numbers until the project is complete.

**Adhesive Application**

**EnPress Adhesive Application**

- Non Mohawk Group adhesives will not be compatible and will void product warranties.
- If Self Lock carpet tiles have been purchased, the adhesive has been pre-applied to the backing. Carpet tiles can be installed directly to the floor with no additional adhesive. If the substrate is dusty or porous, use The Mohawk Group’s Prime-Coat to prime the surface.
- For PVC and Thermoplastic carpet tiles, apply the adhesive with a heavy-duty frame paint roller with 3/8” nap roller. For Ecoflex tiles, apply the adhesive with a 1/16 x 1/16 x 1/16 square notched trowel as directed by the adhesive label.
- The adhesive must be applied in a FULL SPREAD – NOT grid.
- The spread rate for roll on application is 35 to 40 yards per gallon when using a 3/8” nap roller. Ensure the proper application amount of adhesive to the sub-floor. Prior to installation, mark off a small area of the sub-floor and determine the adhesive spread rate. This will allow you to determine the proper coverage level and amount of pressure to apply to the roller during installation.
- On smooth surfaces, be careful not to apply too little adhesive. Just because a surface is smooth and/or sealed, it still requires a proper coating of adhesive.
- Allow the adhesive to dry to a clear and tacky state. Tiles must be installed immediately after adhesive has dried. To determine if the adhesive is dry, press finger into adhesive. When dry, adhesive must not transfer to finger.
- (Ecoflex Urethane Cushion Tile) - The spread rate for trowel application must be between 16 – 22 square yards per gallon.

**IMPORTANT:** Set-up is approximately 45 to 90 minutes depending on the climate and humidity.

- Roll Floor with 75 to 100 pound Roller

|  | <b>Spread Method</b>                       |
|--|--|
| PVC Vinyl Tiles  | 3/8” Roller                                |
| Thermoplastic Tiles  | 3/8” Roller                                |
| Ecoflex Urethane Cushion Tiles   | 1/16x1/16x1/16<br>Square notch Trowel Only |
| Self Lock Carpet Tiles   | Adhesive Already Applied                   |
|  | <b>Spread Rate</b>                         |
| 1/16”x1/16”x1/16” square notched trowel<br>(Ecoflex Urethane Cushion Tile) | 16 – 22 square yards per gallon            |
| 3/8” Nap Roller Approximately<br>(Thermoplastic and PVC)                   | 35 - 40 square yards per gallon            |

**NuSpraylok™ Adhesive Application**

For PVC backed carpet tiles and Ecoflex Urethane Cushion carpet tiles, The Mohawk Group’s NuSpraylok Spray Adhesive may also be used. For specific product information and installation instructions, obtain the Technical Data Sheets on the following SKUs: DK115, DK116, and DK131 may be used for PVC tiles. DK130, DK128 and DK127 may be used for Ecoflex Urethane tiles.

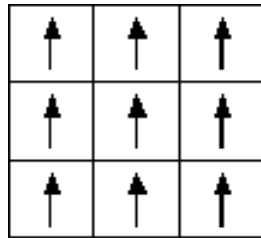
Technical Data Sheets may be obtained from the Mohawk Group’s Field Services department by calling 800-833-6954 and selecting option 5.

**Tile Installation**

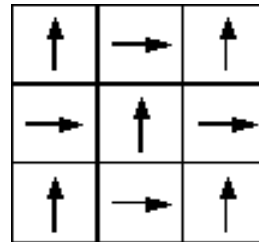
Make sure to inspect The Mohawk Group Tiles for dye lot style, quality and shipping damage prior to installation. Do not install any product that has visible problems. For concerns, please contact Field

Services at 800-833-6954.

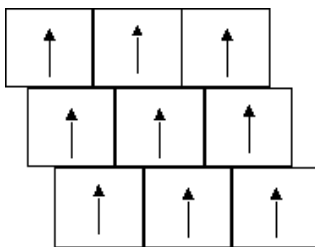
Before you begin the installation consult product specification to determine which installation format(s) are approved. Shown below are some common installation formats.



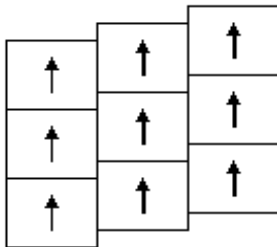
**Monolithic**



**Quarter-Turn**



**Brick Ashlar, 3-Step 8-Inch Offset**

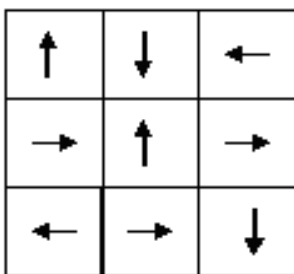


**Vertical Ashlar, 3-Step 8-Inch Offset**

**Ashlar Formats**

In the **Ashlar** installation formats, each row of carpet tiles is shifted 8 inches, either in a brick format or vertically (see diagrams to the left). This is a three-step process, i.e. each successive row of tiles must be offset one-third the length of the tile. It is **not acceptable** to shift the tiles only one-half the length of the tiles (two-step process). This installation method maintains the random appearance of the carpet tiles, eliminating line-on-line or dark-on-dark effects that can create a skewed look in the finished installation.

**Please Note:** Carpet tile products installed in the Ashlar format will not have the same finished appearance as the same product in a broadloom (12' width).



**Multi-Directional**

**Multi-Directional Format (Follow No Order)**

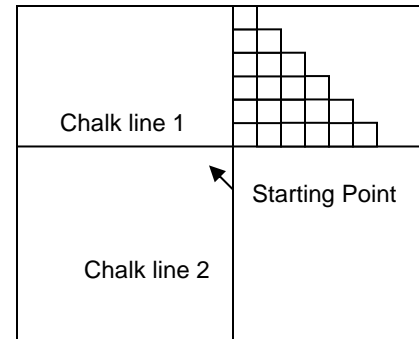
Tiles are to be placed without being concerned with the arrow direction (random). Mixing tiles from various boxes during installation will further blend color and design elements. This process is essential for achieving optimal aesthetics.

1. Start from the intersection point in the center of the floor. Install the tiles in one quadrant using the chalk lines as guidelines. Fill in the area in between the two chalk lines using the stair step method.

- Continue to install tiles in a stair step or pyramid pattern, starting at the center point. Check to ensure tiles are

properly aligned at edges during the installation. (See figure to right).

- Fit the tiles together by sliding them together, being careful not to trap face yarns between or under the edges of the tile. Press or roll the tiles into the adhesive. They will be removed at any time and repositioned.



**IMPORTANT:** As the tile is placed into position, start with a lower corner and press the tile into place in an upward motion with the palm of the hand. The entire tile must be pressed with the installers' palm. Do not try to put both corners down at the same time. *Do not jam or force the tiles too tightly.*

To ensure that the tiles are placed into the correct position and not compressed, the installer must measure 10 tiles. When installing Thermoplastic tiles, the measurement must be between 240 3/16" to 240 7/16". When installing PVC tiles, the measurement must be between 240 – 240 1/4".

**Please Note:** Tiles that are trimmed against the walls, baseboards, columns, etc. must be cut flush, but not too tight where they are forced into position. Ensure that the adhesive spread is within 1/2" of walls and other obstructions.

- All carpet tiles must be rolled with a 75 lb. or 100 lb. roller.
- Use an Orcon steel wheel seam roller or similar roller to blend and enhance the seams. The loop pile modules will have some yarn blossoming at the edges. The face yarn will require occasional trimming.

### **Cutting Border Tiles**

Cuts are made from the back. Install border tiles by placing the tile face down exactly on top of the last row of field tiles, keeping the arrows pointed in the same directions. This will be your cut tile. Using another tile, butt it against the wall allowing it to lie on top of the tile that is to be cut. Using this tile as a reference tile, score a line on the back of the tile that is to be cut. Cut the tile along the reference line being careful not to cut through the installed tile below. Install the cut tile with the cut edge along the wall. Use this same technique at doorways and other objects that must be cut around. A transition strip must be used to protect any exposed edges.

### **Stairs**

Modular Tiles Are **NOT** Recommended For Stairs

### **Chair Pads**

Chair pads are not required, but 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 tile will decrease. Maintenance and/or shifting of the modular tiles will be required more frequently when pads are not used.

### **Replacement Tiles**

Occasionally, it will be necessary to replace damaged or heavily soiled tiles. Tiles can be replaced with on site inventory or from another area of the installation. A difference of appearance will be noticed when the tile is replaced, however, this difference usually diminishes in a short time.

**Please Note:** The use of TMG's branded adhesives are required to ensure optimum results and are the only approved adhesives that TMG will warrant. Failure to use TMG's branded adhesives can result in warranties being null and void.

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