

The Mohawk Group

Installation Guidelines for Tackless Installation

Action Back
Unibond Flex
Weldlock Plus

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 The Mohawk Group

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Bigelow

 DURKAN

Carpet Installation Check off List

1. Newly poured concrete floors generally will take 90 to 120 days to cure. Moisture should not exceed 5 lbs./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% RH, 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% RH, 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 compounds.
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 existing 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 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. 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 TMG's broadloom carpet 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.
5. Inspect all carpet prior to installation, 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 installed.

Required Equipment

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

- Razor-blade knife
- Top cutter
- Nu Broadlok Seam Sealer
- A modified EVA (ethylene vinyl acetate) copolymer hot-melt tape is required with Ultra Performance System backing and Unibond Flex. See tape manufacture guidelines to ensure that the product is designed for use with these products. All other products can use any 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 should not exceed 3/8 inch 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. Synthetic, felted underlays or hair and jute underlays should be at least 28 oz. density or greater.

Felted underlays (Synthetic Fiber Cushion) such as Mohawk's SmartStep, 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 full-width carpets have an arrow on the back running approximately 2 feet from the selvage along one side of the carpet. This arrow indicates pile direction. When seaming, the pieces of carpet should be joined with the arrow running in the same direction on each breadth. All cut carpet used as fill pieces should be marked to indicate pile direction before the arrows are removed.

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: Seam Sealer must be used on all seams.

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

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

Please Note: If you are having trouble matching a pattern, STOP and call Field 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 needed to secure the pattern match as the seam is put in.

Seaming Procedures

Cut and prepare seams. Put the two edges together and make sure the loops and rows are lined up. Lift one breadth and apply NuBroadlok Seam 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.

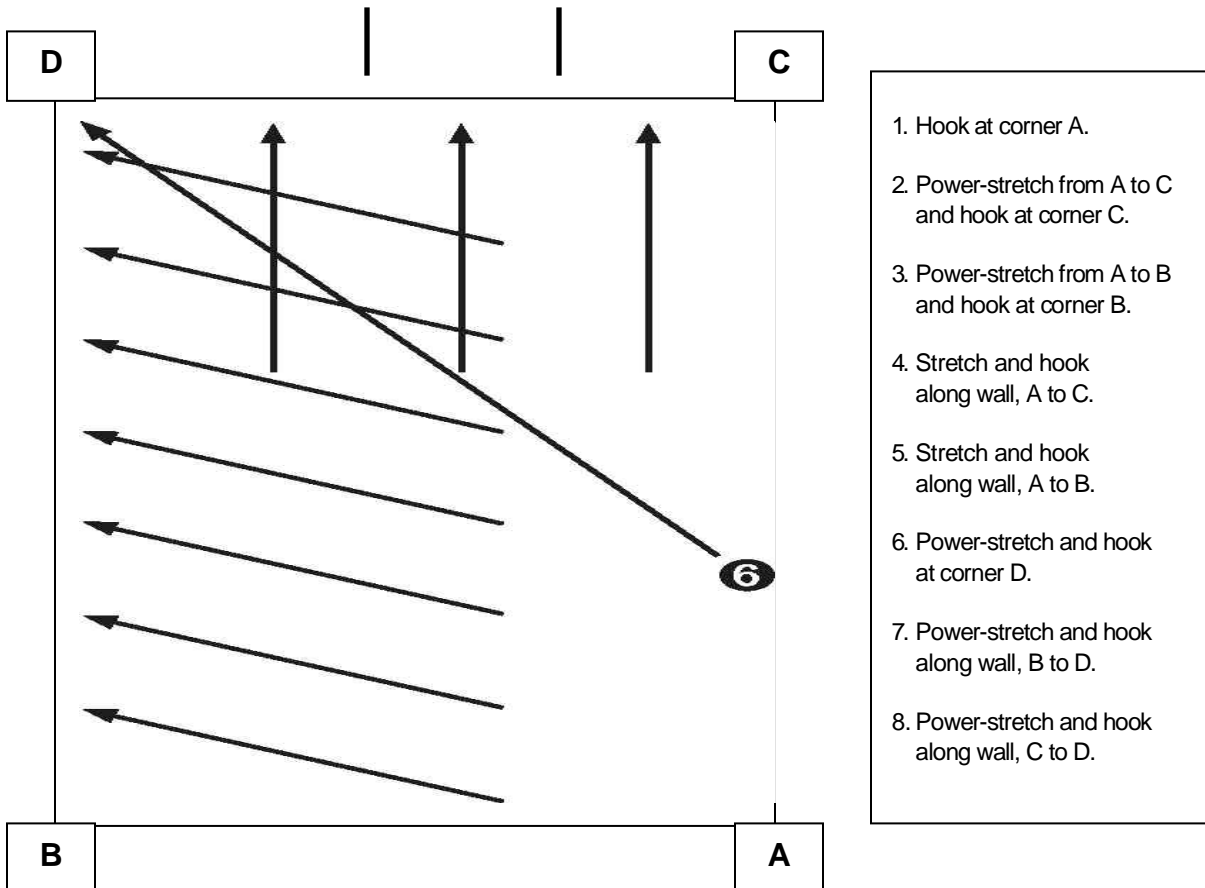
Select a premium hot-melt tape (on Ultra Performance System backing and Unibond Flex, a modified EVA (ethylene vinyl acetate) co-polymer hot-melt tape is required. See tape manufacture guidelines to ensure that the product is designed for use with these products). The iron must have a heat shield or 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, or not more than 3. Before making the seam, prestretch 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, laminating the edges to the tape. Carefully push 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. Do not use excessive pressure.

Allow the seam to set and dry before stretching the carpet. Carpet must be stretched four (4) ways in length and width, and a power stretcher is mandatory.

Recommended Stretching Method

Refer to the diagram below for the proper stretching procedures.



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.

TMG recommends the following procedure: (a) remove all movable furniture, fixtures, etc., from the problem area; (b) release the carpet from the tackless strips; and (c) reinstall the carpet according to these installation procedures, incorporating the correct tackless strips, pad, and power stretcher use, as detailed.

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

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.

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.