

TUNTEX™

CARPET TILE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTION



Make sure you inspect the carpet tiles prior to installation. No claims will be honored if tiles are installed with visible defects. Read all instructions prior to beginning installation.

Also refer to CRI-104/BS5325-2001 or AS/NZS2455.2 installation standards for additional information.

Note: It is recommended that Installers lay out 9 – 16 tiles first, in the desired installation, and get end user approval of the installation method before installing.

SITE & TILE MATERIAL CONDITIONING

Due to the nature of textile materials, they need to be acclimatized to the atmospheric conditions that will prevail after installation and during use. Carpet tiles from Tuntex should be unpacked and allowed to condition in an area having a minimum temperature of 16 degrees Celsius for at least 24 hours before installation. Relative humidity must be between 10% - 65% maximum for 24 hours prior to installation. These conditions must remain constant and be maintained for 48 hours after completion of installation.

Textile floorcoverings, especially cut pile products, can be susceptible to temporary pressure marking - an effect caused by packing, storage and shipment. This temporary effect occurs with all grades of carpet and will vanish as the tufts recover and the carpet regains its original appearance.

PREPARATION

It is the owner's or general contractor's responsibility to provide an acceptable substrate for the specified installation, which must also be inspected by the installation contractor prior to installation. The subfloor must be clean, dry and free of dirt, oil, grease, paint and non-compatible adhesives or coatings, including old cut-back adhesive. Existing adhesive trowel ridges must be leveled by scraping, sanding or patching prior to adhesive application to ensure proper pressure sensitive adhesive contact. All cracks should be filled using a leveling or patching compound.

Use of latex additive in lieu of water will create better bonding properties. Do not install over hazardous materials such as asbestos, resin or silicate based curing compounds. Do not use oil or silicate based sweeping compounds. Bond tests must be performed over concrete with unidentified sealers or primers.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Dust, dirt, debris, and noncompatible adhesive must be removed before installation begins. Surfaces must be smooth and level with all holes and cracks filled with latex based patching compound. Unlevel floors will result in more abrasion of the edges.

LATEX ADHESIVES

Any Residues or old latex adhesive must be removed and floors sanded or covered with a skim coat of patching compound. Latex adhesive may also be covered with the adhesive manufacturer's approved adhesive sealer.

Note: Failure to remove or seal old latex adhesive may cause installation failure, plasticizer migration, shifting, buckling or edge curling; these conditions will not be covered under warranty.



MOISTURE & PH TESTING

Subfloor surfaces must be tested for moisture content. It is the responsibility of the general contractor and/or installer to perform moisture tests prior to starting the installation. It is recommended that calcium chloride tests be performed (ASTM F2170) to detect the presence of moisture. Carpet tiles will not resolve moisture problem. Substrate must have a alkalinity level of between pH7 and pH9. It is recommended that a qualified independent third-party testing agency be used for determining the moisture and alkalinity conditions of a concrete slab, this testing is a prudent and necessary safeguard for the general contractor and owner to reduce the risk of concrete slab related flooring problems.

Note: Moisture emissions in excess of the recommended levels can cause the adhesive to chemically break down and fail. This condition can result in shifting, buckling, edge curling or damage to carpet tiles.

SUBFLOORS

New Concrete

New concrete must be fully cured and free of moisture. New concrete requires a curing period of between 90- 120 days. Tests for moisture and alkalinity must be performed as detailed under moisture & PH testing.

Old Concrete

Old concrete should be checked for moisture. Dry, dusty, porous floors must be sealed. Sealers will not correct a moisture problem.

OLD CARPET

Remove old carpet and check adhesive for compatibility. If unsure, remove or cover adhesive with a patching compound or appropriate sealer.

LAYOUT

Begin the layout by carefully marking working lines on the floor surface to act as the starting position and guide for your carpet tile installation. First, determine that your room is as square as possible: Take measurements to determine the center of the room and snap two chalk lines that intersect at the center of the room. These lines will provide a guide for squareness as you install the carpet tile as well as divide your room into 4 manageable quadrants. It may be necessary to offset the centerline to ensure that perimeter tiles are no less than (half of a tile). Position the first tile at the intersection of the horizontal and vertical layout lines, dry lay a few tiles in one of the recommended installation methods for that particular product (monolithic, quarter turn, brick, etc.), to give you and the customer indication of the overall appearance.

APPLYING ADHESIVE

The subfloor should be scraped clean of old adhesive, and thoroughly swept before applying adhesive. The adhesive should be spread in one quadrant at a time, and should be spread only over areas that you will install in the current day. The full spread adhesive application method is required for heavy traffic use. Spread pressure sensitive adhesive to 100% of the floor area by trowel, roller or spray in accordance with the adhesive manufacturers instruction. The adhesive should be given adequate time to dry completely until it becomes clear and tacky. Drying times will vary based on local conditions but can be greatly reduced by using circulating fans. The adhesive is ready for installation when you can place your hand in the glue and remove it with no transfer to your hand. Coverage rate is dependent on the condition of the subfloor and adhesive manufacturer's instructions.

TILE PLACEMENT

Starting in the corner of one quadrant, install carpet tiles in a pyramid fashion. Install by butting edges together evenly, being careful not to compress tile (this can cause peaked edges). Arrows are embossed on the tile backing to show pile direction. Unless instructions are stated for quarter turn installation, always lay tile with the arrows in the same direction. Tiles in the completed installation should be tight but not compressed. To ensure proper spacing when installing carpet tiles, measure the distance covered by 10 tiles installed on the floor with no visible gaps, peaks or overlaps. The measurement should be equal to 10 times the tile size +/- 5mm, this measurement is an indication of correct placement of tiles to prevent compression or gapping between tiles.

CUTTING / TRIMMING

Carpet tile will require cutting at perimeters, floor electrical outlets, and door openings. Whenever tiles are cut or trimmed, adhesive must be used. Loop pile tile may require some trimming or clipping of tufts. This is typical of this type construction and is not a manufacturing problem. Small pieces of tile should also have glue applied to the backing to help hold them in place.

STAIRS

Use a raised stair nosing and cut tiles to fit nosing, both step and riser. Use full spread adhesive under carpet tile.

CHAIR PADS

Chair pads are recommended for use under chairs with sharp points or roller casters. Casters should 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 and maintenance and/or shifting of the tile may be required more frequently.

LOOP PILE CONSTRUCTION

Carpet tile with loop pile constructions may experience yarn blossoming at the edges, which is consistent with this type of construction. Clipping or shearing the yarn edges can remedy this condition.

TILE ARRANGEMENT

Some carpet styles require more attention from the installers during installation. Due to the light row, dark row construction of these products, dark lines may appear at the edges. This is not a manufacturing defect. These products will require shifting tiles around to avoid dark lines at the edges. Light colours and Highlight colours may show more dirt and soil during use.

Certain carpet tile styles are recommended for different installation methods than others. (e.g. Some styles are recommended for quarter-turn only while others are more flexible). Check the product specification for the recommended installation methods for each particular carpet tile style.

POST INSTALLATION

Masonite or Heavy Kraft paper may be used as post installation protection.

Regardless of installation method do not use plastic, self adhering membranes or any other type of impermeable products. These can leave adhesive residue on the carpet fiber and will attract soiling and possibly cause discoloration. Use of these products will void the warranty.

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