

AXMINSTER CARPET TILE INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Carpet Tiles and other textile floorcoverings must not be installed until the work of all other trades has been completed

INSTALLATION

Installation should be carried out in accordance with the recommendations detailed in British Standard Code of Practice for installation of Textile Floorcoverings BS 5325:2001 (or any revision of this standard.) It is also recommended that the installation should be in accordance with The Contract Flooring Association Manual for Installation of Textile Floorcoverings (October 1989.) If surface tackifiers or other adhesives are to be used, the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines with reference to the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations and Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (as amended by the Consumer Protection Act 1987) should be consulted. Before commencing to lay tiles check that they are from the same batch number which is stamped on the back of each tile. It is important that batches are not mixed as shades may vary from batch to batch.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Concrete Floors

Uneven concrete floors should be screeded and should be neither friable nor loose and powdery. Concrete floors laid direct to ground should incorporate a damp proof membrane and should be sealed to prevent dust rising through tile seams. Newly laid concrete floors must be perfectly dry and if there are any doubts, tests should be made for dampness with a hydrometer and readings taken in accordance with British Standard Code of Practice CP203:1969 and any Supplementary Specifications. Laying should not be commenced until all the recordings taken show a value of 75% relative humidity.

Timber Floors

Timber floors must be smooth. If resurfacing is necessary use 6mm plyboard, nail or staple at regular closely spaced intervals. For wood block or similar, seek advice of Supplier.

Metal Deck Raised Flooring Systems

Take care not to scratch or damage metal surfaced raised floor modules. Do not lay carpet tiles onto modules which are scratched or damaged. It is essential that the correct tackifier is applied as directed and that over application is avoided. It is essential that the tackifier is allowed the correct cure time so that all moisture has evaporated.

APPLICATION OF SURFACE TACKIFIER

In all installations it is recommended that an all-over surface tackifier method should be used. We recommend an anti-slip surface tackifier such as F Ball Stycobond F41 applied using a roller and tray. This method ensures that the correct amount of adhesive is applied and avoids over-application which may cause problems with raised floor panels and timber floors. Never pour surface tackifier directly from the drum onto a raised flooring system. The tackifier must be allowed to dry to a clear tacky film in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. Under no circumstances must the tiles be laid in wet tackifier.

TEMPERATURE AND CONDITIONING

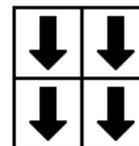
The general room temperature of not less than 13°C (58°F) should be maintained in the laying area well before and after laying. The tiles should be stored in the laying area for at least 24 hours at the same temperature and humidity that will apply when the tiles are laid and it is recommended that this is at least 18°C (65°F). In very hot climates we recommend that carpet tiles should not be laid in direct sunlight where temperature in excess of 55°C (131°F) may be expected.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

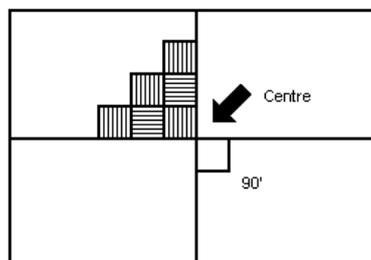
Where underfloor heating is installed this should be turned off at least 48 hours prior to laying. The maximum operating temperature should not be allowed to exceed 25°C (77°F) and large heavy furniture should be lifted slightly to allow the circulation of air to prevent heat build-up. Carpet tiles are good heat insulators and a check should be made with the manufacturers of the underfloor heating system or the local Electricity Board to ensure that the efficiency of the heating system is not affected.

LAYING

Tiles should be laid with the arrows pointing in the same direction to maintain the direction of pile and to create a broadloom effect. If possible the tiles should be fitted with arrows on the back of the tile perpendicular to the heaviest direction of traffic.



We recommend that laying is commenced from the centre of the room. To do this, measure the distance between the opposite walls to obtain the centre and draw a line. Repeat this with the other walls. Check to ensure that you are not left with a very small strip against the wall or in a doorway. If necessary adjust the starting point.



Start laying the tiles at the centre point and work outwards. Lay all the tiles which need no cutting before starting on those which need to be cut. The tiles should be fitted directly from the box to avoid unnecessary handling which could lead to fraying on the tiles edge. Any frays should be cut off using scissors to prevent further damage and the edge of the tile re-sealed with an adhesive such as pro plus edge sealant.

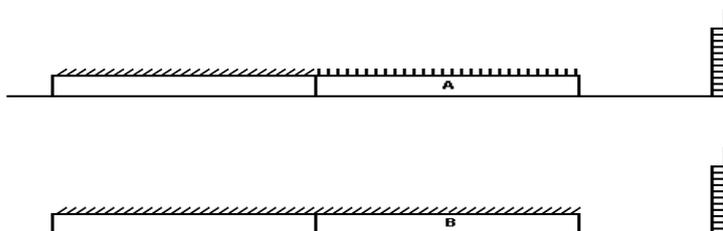
Ensure that each tile butts up to its neighbour as tightly as possible. However, do not cause 'peaks' by joining the tiles too tightly. Ensure that any pile trapped between tiles is eased out using a suitable tool.

Cutting to Edges and Walls

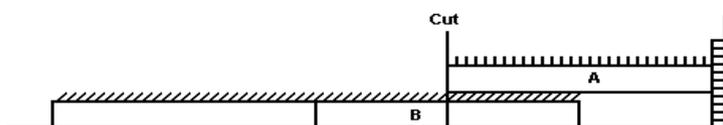
Use a Stanley knife or similar fitted with a long heavy duty blade using sharp, firm cutting strokes. If possible use a wood or hardboard base to prolong the life of the blade. Any cuts made in the tile need to be sealed with an adhesive such as pro plus edge sealant.

For a perfect fit against skirting boards, follow these instructions:

1. Lift the last uncut tile (A) and replace it with the tile to be cut (B).



2. Place tile A against the skirting board on top of tile B. Using tile A as a template cut through tile B.



3. Replace tile A in its former position and fit the cut tile B against the skirting board.



Awkward Shapes

It is advisable when fitting around circular pipes, door mouldings etc. to make a pattern out of thin card before cutting. Metal cover strips should be used in doorways when appropriate. To protect edges laid on stairs, stair nosing strips must be used.

Please refer to our Axminster Carpet & Tile maintenance for further recommendations.