

## INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS | CARPET

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION.  
IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY.**

### DIRECT GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Newly poured concrete floors generally will take 30 days per inch to cure. Moisture should not exceed 5 lbs./1000sf per 24 hours or 80% relative humidity as determined by current ASTM standards. If the results are more than 5 lbs or higher than 80% RH, do not proceed with the installation. Gypcrete or substrates with excessive dust must be cleaned, and then primed with an approved primer, such as a latex milk additive.
- The alkalinity or pH in a concrete slab should be between 5 and 9 for a glue-down installation.
- The floor and room temperature must be acclimated by maintaining the temperature at 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 and adhesive should be stored under these conditions for at least 24 hours before installation. The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation.
- When the installation is complete, the jobsite must be maintained at normal service temperature and humidity.
- Existing adhesive must be properly prepared prior to any installation of The Manufacturer's broadloom carpet. See note #1.
- Mechanically remove all wax, dirt, grease or paint. DO NOT use solvents to clean the floor. DO NOT use oil based sweeping compounds. Fill cracks more than 1/16" 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 an approved primer. DO NOT install over resin or silicate based curing compounds.
- 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.
- 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.
- Never cut carpet over carpet as this can result in over penetration of the blade and cutting loops on the lower carpet.
- 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.
- Furniture placement and heavy traffic should be avoided for at least 24 hours after a direct 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.

**NOTE:** 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.

Installation of The Manufacturer's broadloom carpet on a floor outside the scope of the guidelines in this document will void all applicable warranties.

The Manufacturer is not responsible for any product failure due to improper floor preparation and/or installation procedures. The required adhesive is TA-9680.

## **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

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

TA-9680 Adhesive	Seam Cement WF Taylor 775 or WF Taylor 2075
Seammaster Hot Glue Sticks or Orcon Fastlock	Straight Edge
Razor Knives	Dead Man
Cushion back cutter or top cutter	Hammer
1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-notched trowel	Stay Nails or 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/16" V-notched trowel
Dry Line	75-100 lb. roller
Chalk Line	Mini or Crab Stretcher and Power Stretcher
Tape Measure	Knee Kicker (to position carpet only)
Row Runners	

## **PILE DIRECTION**

All broadloom carpet should be installed with a consistent pile direction. This can be determined several ways. One of them is the pencil and paper test.

## **SEAM TRIMMING**

The seams must be trimmed on the row. If possible on pattern carpet, trim between patterns in the solid areas of the background. Use a row runner to separate the pile and open the row.

It is recommended for tufted carpet to trim the seam edge with a cushion back or loop pile cutter. Use a sharp blade with it positioned to cut close to the edge to be seamed. The cutter should be held straight up and down. Cross seams should be cut from the face if possible. This can be done by following the row across the width or using a straight edge and cushion back cutter to cut from pattern to pattern.

It is recommended for woven carpet to trim all the seams with a cushion back or loop pile cutter. Cutter should be held straight up and down. Immediately after trimming apply a bead of WF Taylor 775 or WF Taylor 2075 edge sealer to all cut edges of woven carpet. Press the latex into the base of the pile with thumb, smoothing out any lumps. Be careful not to rub the edges, which could distort the face yarns. Allow the edge sealer to completely dry before proceeding.

All tufted carpet seams must be sealed with WF Taylor 775 or WF Taylor 2075 sealer unless alternate method is used as described below. As an alternate method, seams can be sealed with WF Taylor 775 or WF Taylor 2075 edge sealer by applying to both sides of the seams and allowed to dry before applying adhesive. This can be done for all broadloom products.

## **TRANSITIONS**

All cut edges at transitions must be edge sealed or covered with an appropriate molding to protect the edges.

## **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. 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

## **ROLL SEQUENCING BY PATTERN COUNT**

Rolls of patterned carpet must be sequenced so the longest pattern is installed first, then the roll with the next longest pattern, etc. This procedure is critical, because it is impossible to shrink a longer pattern to match a shorter pattern. This requires each roll be measured for pattern repeat prior to installation. See specific pattern elongation installation procedures below.

## **CORRECTION PATTERN ELONGATION**

After the roll sequence has been established, all rolls should be dry-laid in sequence. Then glue half the long pattern and half the shorter pattern lengthwise. Stretch the shorter pattern to match the longer pattern by starting in the center of the seam and stretching toward the ends. Glue the remaining portion of the two breadths and repeat the above process. Stay nails will be needed to secure the pattern match as the adhesive sets. Pre-stretching the shorter pattern prior to gluing will help in pattern alignment.

## **CORRECTIVE STEPS FOR BOW AND SKEW**

Make a cut across the patterns at one end. Then apply the adhesive using the proper trowel. Push the short corners to the wall and stretch the excess carpet created by the bow or skew to the opposite wall using a power stretcher and crab stretcher. Use stay nails to hold the pattern in place until the adhesive sets. Follow this procedure throughout the installation. In large rooms start in the center of the seam correcting the bow & skew with a power stretcher or crab stretcher. A dry line should be placed along the pattern for reference.

## **APPLYING APPROVED ADHESIVE**

TA-9680 Adhesive is the only adhesive approved for use in direct glue-down installations. The use of TA-9680 Adhesive is vital to ensure optimum results. Applying an improper adhesive can result in an installation failure for which MG cannot be held responsible. To make certain that the proper amount of adhesive is transferred to the back of the carpet, a 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-notched trowel or 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/16" V-notched trowel must be used. This will result in a spread rate of approximately 8 - 10 square yards per gallon.

Lay carpet immediately into wet adhesive to allow working time to match patterns. Unibond Flex Bloc and Weldlok Bloc may require a slight open time to allow excess moisture to escape.

## **GENERAL INSTALLATION PROCEDURES**

- Make sure that the pile-lay runs in the same direction. Check starting wall for squareness, allowing for an off-square wall. Strike a chalk line the entire length of the area where the seam falls.
- Place two lengths in the proper position for installing, and trim selvages. Line up the seam edges with the chalk line, making sure they are perfectly flat and tension free.
- Fold or roll both widths back a workable amount from the seam area for the entire length of the carpet.
- Spread TA-9680 Adhesive from the approximate center toward each end using a 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-notched trowel or 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/16" V-notched trowel with steady, even strokes. When sufficient floor area has been covered with TA-9680 Adhesive, wait until the adhesive has reached the appropriate tacky stage before dropping the first breadth of carpet into place. Apply a thin coating of WF Taylor 775 or WF Taylor 2075 seam sealer to the seam edge of the first breadth. Follow this procedure for each succeeding breadth at the seam.
- Drop or roll the second breadth into position and fit the seam in tightly using a crab stretcher if necessary. Roll looseness and air bubbles away from the seam. All tufted seams must be sealed with WF Taylor 775 or WF Taylor 2075 seam sealer unless an alternate method is used as described above. All woven seams require WF Taylor 775 or WF Taylor 2075 edge sealer as described above.
- The remaining portion of the first breadth can now be folded or rolled back from the floor. Apply TA-9680 Adhesive to the floor; wait until the adhesive has reached the proper tacky stage before dropping the carpet into place. Be sure to have enough people spreading the adhesive so that, after the floor is covered with adhesive, each breadth is in place within the determined period of open time.
- Be sure to roll out looseness and air bubbles as the carpet is put in place. Repeat above procedures on continuing breadths. To trim the carpet at the wall, use a razor-blade knife or suitable wall trimmer.
- Roll completed installation with a 75-100 lb. roller in both length and width. This will allow the adhesive to penetrate the carpet back properly.

## **TACKLESS CARPET INSTALLATION**

- Newly poured concrete floors generally will take 30 days per inch to cure. Moisture should not exceed 5 lbs./1000sf per 24 hours or 80% relative humidity as determined by current ASTM standards. If the results are more than 5 lbs. or higher than 80% RH, do not proceed with the installation. Gypcrete or substrates with excessive dust must be cleaned, and then primed with an approved primer, such as a latex milk additive.
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claims will be allowed for visible defects after the carpet has been cut and installed.

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Unibond Flex Bloc, Weldlok Bloc, and attached cushions cannot be installed by the Tackless method.

### **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

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

TA-9680 Adhesive	Seam Cement WF Taylor 775 or WF Taylor 2075
Seammaster Hot Glue Sticks or Orcon Fastlock	Razor Knives
Top cutter	Premium Seaming Tape
Seaming iron with head 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" in thickness and must have a minimum density of 16 pounds. A 1/4" pad is more desirable if it meets the density requirement.

Felted underlays (synthetic fiber cushion) such as 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 them is 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.

## WIDTH WISE CUTS

All width wise 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° 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" across the 12-foot width

**Skew (bias):** 1-1/2" across the 12-foot width

**Pattern Elongation:** 1-1/2" in 12 feet along the length

## 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.

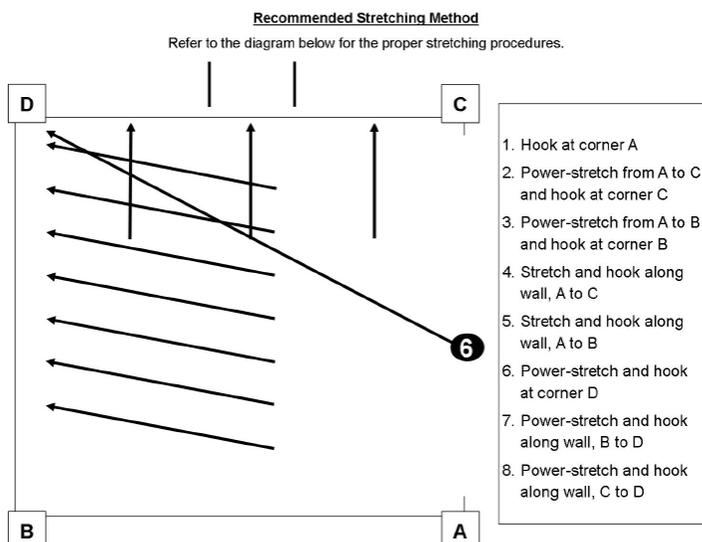
After the roll sequence is established, stretch the shorter pattern to match the longer pattern by starting the center of the seam and stretching toward the ends. Stay nails will be needed to secure the pattern match as the seam is put in.

## 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 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 {Unibond Flex requires a modified EVA (ethylene vinyl acetate) co-polymer 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, or 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 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. 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.

## RECOMMENDED STRETCHING METHOD

Refer to the diagram below for the proper stretching procedures.



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 re-stretched. 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.

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

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

## **CARPET CLEANING & MAINTENANCE**

- The best way to ensure long-lasting beauty, comfort and durability in your carpet is to vacuum it regularly, as it prevents soil from becoming embedded in the carpet's pile.
- Depending on the type of carpet you have, you'll want to use a vacuum with a rotating brush, a beater bar or suction only.
- When vacuuming high pile or premium soft carpets look for the following features that will allow you to easily maintain your carpet:
  - Adjustable Height - use the highest setting where appropriate.
  - Efficient Airflow - avoid vacuums with very concentrated or sealed suction.
  - Large Wheels allow the appliance to glide easily across the carpet.
- Consider professional cleaning every 12-18 months, depending on traffic and other use factors, frequency of vacuuming and whether the carpet is a light or dark color.
- Use scissors to clip sprouts and snags; do not pull them or you may damage the carpet
- To remove a dent caused by heavy furniture, stroke carpet with the edges of a coin. You can also use a hair dryer or a steam iron to gently raise the dented area while you tug upward on the tufts.

### **CAUTION: DO NOT LET THE IRON TOUCH THE CARPET.**

- If your carpet is burned, remove the tops of the dark, burnt fibers with curved fingernail scissors. If the burn is extensive, the carpet may require patching or replacement.
- If a flooding occurs from a burst pipe, washing machine overflow or other leak, the carpet needs to be dried, front and back, by a professional cleaner with the proper equipment.

## **TIPS FOR REMOVING COMMON STAINS**

- For carpet care a wet/dry vacuum cleaner is the best way to effectively remove stains. Use the attachment with the best suction and vacuum as much of the stain as possible, continuing to add water to the stain as you go. Treatment of the affected area should begin immediately upon discovery. The more time elapses before treatment, the more difficult a stain will be to remove. For the best results, use Mohawk FloorCare Essentials Carpet Spot Remover and Cleaning Kit.
- First scrape the food spill gently with a spoon or dull knife, or a Mohawk FloorCare Essentials Carpet Cleaning Key, removing as much solid material as possible. If detergent is required, use it sparingly and gently rinse the area with water while moving the vacuum wand back and forth. use a towel to absorb all moisture.
- If spot removal solvent is necessary use Mohawk FloorCare Essentials Spot Remover or other low residue carpet spot remover that has been approved by The Carpet and Rug Institute of America. Apply several drops to a clean white cloth and blot the carpet in an inconspicuous area. If a color change occurs or color transfers to the cloth, consult a professional carpet cleaner.
- Place towels or cloth over wet area and weight with a heavy, colorfast object to absorb moisture. Leave overnight.
- If stains remain after cleaning, moisten the tufts in the stained area with 3% hydrogen peroxide and let stand for one hour. Blot and repeat until carpet is stain-free. No rinsing is necessary. Apply a pad of paper towels and weigh them down, allowing carpet to dry.
- Some stains cannot be removed because they permanently alter the carpet's color. These stains include acid toilet bowl cleaners, acne medication, alkaline drain cleaners, chlorinated bleaches, hair dyes, iodine, insecticides, mustard with tumeric and plant fertilizers. For these type of stains, call a professional. In order to maintain and protect your warranty coverage under the terms of these warranties, you must do the following: a minimum of one professional cleaning every 18 months is required.

## **RECOMMENDED SPRAY CLEANER: FreshFloors by WF Taylor**

## **ADDITIONAL CARPET CARE TIPS**

### **Beer, wine, coffee and tea**

- Blot and neutralize with white vinegar solution, then work a small amount of a detergent solution into the spot (1/4 teaspoon detergent per 1 quart of water). Continue applying detergent and blotting until spot is completely removed. Using a spray bottle, rinse with tap water and blot to remove excess moisture. Apply paper towels and weigh them down, allowing the spot to dry.

### **Blood, ketchup, cheese, chocolate, cola, cough syrup, mixed drinks, soft drinks, soy sauce, starch, toothpaste, white glue**

- First, note that all solutions for removing blood must be cool in temperature. Blot and neutralize the spot with an ammonia solution, using a spray bottle to saturate the spot. Next, work a small amount of detergent solution into the spot (1/4 teaspoon detergent per 1 quart of water) and continue applying detergent and blotting until spot is removed. Using a spray bottle, rinse with tap water and blot to remove excess moisture. Apply a pad of paper towels, weigh them down and allow to dry.

### **Mud and dirt**

- Allow mud to dry completely. Shatter the dried mud with a handle of a knife, then vacuum. For dirt, apply a small amount of detergent solution to the spot (1/4 teaspoon detergent per 1 quart of water) and blot with a white paper towel to work the detergent into the affected area. Continue applying detergent and blotting until spot is removed. Using a spray bottle, rinse with tap water, and then blot to remove excess moisture.

### **More from the Carpet and Rug Institute**

The Carpet and Rug Institute is a science-based source for the facts on carpet and rugs. This non-profit trade association represents more than 95% of all carpet made in the United States. Learn more about the CRI by visiting the website at [www.carpet-rug.org](http://www.carpet-rug.org).

***Contact your flooring retailer with questions or concerns regarding your flooring purchase.***