

# installation guide

## Fundamentals

1. Always check before fitting that the carpet supplied does correspond to the requested specifications (colour, width...)
2. Provide for a detailed fitting-plan before starting to cut the carpet.
3. Make sure that the substrate complies to the following requirements: it must be level, dust and grease free, shock and crush proof, dry. The surface is dry when it contains a maximum of 3% moist, as measured with a CM sensor device. If required, the surface will need to be repaired and leveled at least 24 hrs in advance.
4. It is strongly recommended to let the carpet rest before fitting. Before, during and after fitting the referred room temperature should be at least 15° C and the relative moist per-cent-age must not exceed 30-60%.
5. It is recommended to completely glue the carpet using adhesives showing the EC1 label: these adhesives are environmentally friendly with a low degree of emissions and free of solvents. For more information on these topics, please contact your supplier.
6. It is essential to fit the carpet in the same direction. It is therefore very important to check the pile direction before fitting. To be absolutely sure about the pile direction, please proceed as follows:

Put a sheet of paper on the carpet  
Put a pen on the sheet of paper  
Pressurize the pen ;roll it back and forth

The direction in which the paper will  
move is the pile direction

## Subfloor preparation

Whatever the subfloor is, before work commences the fitter should ensure that it meets the following criteria:

- structurally sound and level
- free of any cracks
- permanently dry: prevent moisture affecting the dimensional stability of the carpet and to guard against rot
- surface has to be firm and stable
- smooth: prevent any telegraphing of indentations and ridges through the surface
- enough expansion joints
- on the same level as joining rooms
- clean and free of all contaminants (dust, grease, oil, paint and plaster)
- adequate surface temperature
- adequate room temperature
- if an underfloor heating system is present, it must operate within controlled temperatures

Irregular subfloors can be corrected by using the appropriate smoothing compound.

Most subfloors will require priming. The type and condition of the subfloor has a direct influence on the installation and performance of a carpet with Action Back and the importance of subfloor preparation cannot be emphasized too strongly.

For further information request the subfloor preparation guide of your adhesive producer where you will find detailed information on how to prepare the subfloor and which products should be used.

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## Installation Methods

Carpets for contract use can be fitted in 2 different ways:

- complete adhesion
- by stretching with carpet gripper (for carpets with Action Back only)

### Complete adhesion

It is recommended to completely glue the carpet using adhesives showing the EC1 label: these adhesives are environmentally friendly with a low degree of emissions and free of solvents. For more information on these topics, please contact your supplier.

Spread the adhesive with a notched trowel evenly over the subfloor. We advise using a trowel with fine notching in order to apply a minimum of adhesive what will facilitate the removal of the carpet afterwards.

After the waiting time, lay the carpet into the adhesive and press firmly to ensure overall contact with the adhesive.

If there are seams, we advise always to stick the seams down with a dispersion adhesive.

Before seaming commences, make sure that the edges are butt-joined together perfectly. Cut the carpet pieces along the knots using a knife with hooked blade. Close the seam and check, before applying the adhesive, the matching and the design repeats of both carpet pieces.

Fold both carpet pieces back and apply the dispersion adhesive with a notched trowel evenly over the subfloor. After the recommended waiting time, lay the carpet into the adhesive and press firmly to ensure overall contact of the Action Back with the adhesive. Close the seam and trim the carpet at the walls.

Cross seams - Cross seams have to be avoided. All construction threads are cut in the process of making cross seams. If cross seams are necessary, they will be clearly visible and should be covered with a covering profile.

Carpets may only be fitted on staircases using a full stick down method with a solvent free dispersion adhesive recommended for stairs. Always consult first the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer in order to find out which adhesive to use.

Before starting to fit a carpet on a stair-case, we recommend to apply an adhesive coating on the back of the carpet with a flat trowel. Allow this coating to dry before you start sticking the carpet on the staircase.

This prevents too much of the adhesive to be taken up by the carpet backing.

Measure how long the carpet should be to cover both tread and riser and cut with a hooked blade knife the carpet pieces that you need.

Apply the contact adhesive evenly over the tread and riser of the upper step with a notched trowel.

If certain corners of the steps are difficult to reach with a trowel, you can also use a normal brush to apply the adhesive.

After the recommended waiting time, the carpet can be laid into the adhesive of the upper step and firmly pressed.

Stretch the carpet perfectly over the stair-nose, using pincers, and press it firmly in the contact adhesive of the riser.

Finally you can trim the carpet at the bottom of the riser. Fit the carpet in the same way on the remaining steps and you will get a superb result on your staircase.

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## Stretching on gripperrods for carpets with Action Back

Position the grippers allowing a gully between the strips and the wall. This gully should be approximately three quarters the thickness of the carpet to be laid.

Fit the underlay over the whole floor area and trim the surplus underlay flush to the edge of the grippers, ensuring that the underlay does not cover it.

Fit the carpet on the underlay and over the carpet gripper. Tension the carpet along the wall, hooking the carpet to the gripper using a Knee Kicker and press it into the gully using an Easy Tucker tool.

Surplus carpet can be trimmed off at the appropriate walls, leaving ca. 1 cm extra for turning down into the gripper gully for a neat, tightly fitting, non-fray edge.

If there are seams in an area where you would like to fit an Action Back carpet with underlay and carpet gripper, we would advise you to use the hotmelt seaming tape to achieve a seamless finish.

Before seaming commences, make sure that the edges are butt-joined together perfectly. Cut the carpet pieces along the knots using a knife with hooked blade. Close the seam and check, the matching and the design repeats of both carpet pieces.

Place a seaming tape under the seam and bump the two carpet pieces together so the cut edges of the carpet butt together exactly. Set the seaming iron at the end of the tape and tuck the seam edges under the rear metal edge guide so they will line up and guide along the welding head. Move the iron along at a steady speed. Always seam in the direction of the pile. If you run the iron against the pile, shading along the seam may occur.

The adhesive will be pumped up from the tape and through the welding head at the rear of the iron, fusing and sealing the seam edges permanently together. Use a seam roller on the carpet at the rear of the iron to ensure a good penetration of hot melt adhesive into the carpet backing. Brush the face yarn up so it will not cool in a down position. After the seam has cooled, the carpet can be trimmed.

Cross seams - Cross seams have to be avoided. All construction threads are cut in the process of making cross seams. If cross seams are necessary, they will be clearly visible and should be covered with a covering profile.

Prior to fitting on stairs, the stairs must be clean and dust free. Ensure that the stairs are firm and any tacks or nails are removed. Cut the gripper to fit across the width of the stairs and fit to the tread and riser with the pins pointing toward the crotch of the stairs. Fit the underlay across the width of the stairs from the back edge of the Gripper on the tread to the back edge of the Gripper on the riser in one piece. Staple to hold in place. Trim the surplus underlay so that the Gripper is not covered.

Fit the carpet on the staircase starting at the bottom of the riser (pile direction downwards), gently stretching the carpet over the gripper using a knee kicker and press the carpet into the gully using the easy tucker.

Note that the combination of standard Gripper pins and hook tape on the Gripper allows you to bolster the Action Back carpet into the stair crotch without the tape grabbing prematurely.

Once the carpet is sufficiently bolstered, tension the carpet onto the Gripper tape using a Knee Kicker. Roll the carpet up onto the next tread and repeat the procedure for the remaining stairs.

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## Correction of pattern distortion if carpet is stretched

When installing a carpet that displays a pattern, it is critical that you know the tolerances stated in our document 'EN tolerances'. Sometimes we can not guarantee a perfect pattern match and some distortion can occur. This can be corrected by a professional fitter and by powerstretching the carpet.

It is very difficult to describe how to do the stretching in detail as each carpet displays a unique pattern, which requires different techniques to correct problems. The information described below will work in the majority of situations IF the problem is within the tolerances listed. These procedures work both for stretch-in over cushion and direct-glue installations.

**SKEW** – Using the following information if the skew is no more than 1% of the roll width should correct the distortion.

Mark a diagram as follows:

A – Bottom left corner

B – Top left corner

C - Top right corner

D - Bottom right corner

Prior to proceeding, check the room for squareness. Cut the carpet across the width on the skewed pattern.

Starting in corner A, set 3-foot each direction. Using powerstretcher, stretch the carpet from A to B - Do not overstretch.

Set and tuck the carpet along wall A-B – do not trim wall B-C at this time.

If carpet is running away from Wall A-D, proceed as follows:

Set powerstretcher from Wall A-B at a 15-20 degree angle toward Corner D. Stretch carpet and hang it on the tackstrip, do not trim. Ripples may appear in the length and width of the carpet which is normal.

Set wall A-D with powerstretcher, knee-kicker is acceptable if minimal movement is required. Continue to stretch from wall A-B to wall D-C keeping pattern aligned, do not trim.

Using a tape measure, periodically check the measurements of the pattern alignment from A-B wall to C-D wall.

Once this is accomplished, stretch from A-D wall to B-C wall keeping the pattern align.

Prior to trimming in, check to see that all patterns are aligned.

**BOW** – Tolerance is 1% of the roll width

Start by cutting on the pattern

Follow the same method as if correcting the SKEW.

**PATTERN DISTORTION (length)**

tolerances see document 'EN tolerances'

You must be able to stretch the shortest pattern to the exact length of the longest pattern.

By starting in the center of a breadth of carpet and stretching both ways, it is possible to minimize stretching.

Start with the largest pattern elongation present as all carpets must match to this.