

Direct Glue-Down Installation- Unibond Patterned Carpet Unibond U2 Patterned Carpet

Exclusive to Lees Carpet

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Carpet Installation Check off List

1. Newly poured concrete floors generally will take 90 to 120 days to cure. If moisture exceeds five pounds as determined by a calcium chloride test kit (Refer to CRI 104) consult manufacturer.
2. The alkalinity or pH in a concrete slab should be between 5 and 9 for a direct glue-down installation.
3. The temperature of a concrete slab must be stabilized above 65° both 24 hours before and 24 hours after installation.
4. The following environmental conditions inside the building are critical for proper installation: The temperature must be between 65°F and 95°F, and the humidity between 10% and 65%, for at least 72 hours before and 72 hours after installation. In addition, the adhesive and carpet should be stored under these conditions for at least 24 hours before installation.
5. Old cut-back adhesive must be properly sealed or removed prior to any direct glue-down installation.
6. Carpet should be rolled out and allowed to relax for at least 24 hours prior to installation. Carpet should never be folded or creased, as this can result in permanent wrinkles.
7. Never cut carpet over carpet, as this can result in over penetration of the blade and cutting loops on the lower carpet.
8. Furniture placement and heavy traffic should be avoided for at least 24 hours after a direct glue-down installation. Furniture and heavy equipment concentrate 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: 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.

Required Tools and Materials

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

1. Power stretcher and crab stretcher
2. U2 Set™ Adhesive
3. Knee kicker (to position carpet only)
4. Top cutter
5. Stay nails
6. Dead man
7. 50 to 100 lb roller
8. 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-notched trowel

Tile Direction

Tufted carpet will have arrows on the back and/or a colored yarn tufted on one side.

Lengthwise Cuts

Bend the carpet along the length to expose the two backing yarns between the lines of the pile. 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.

Widthwise Cuts

Follow the same procedure as for lengthwise cuts, inserting the top cutter with the blade close to the seam edge.

Pattern Matching

It must be understood that carpet is a texture 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

If you are having trouble matching a pattern, STOP at once and call the hotline number, 800.833.6954

Please Note: Pattern installation instructions and diagrams are shipped in each roll of carpet.

Roll Sequencing

Rolls of patterned carpet must be sequenced so the longest pattern is installed first and the roll with the next longest pattern can be stretched to match the longer one. 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.

Equipment Recommendations

For stretch-in installations and for stretching to match the pattern on glue-down installations a power stretcher and a crab stretcher are required to obtain suitable matches. Knee kickers should only be used to position the carpet. The same method should be used for double glue-down installations.

A dead man and pull boards are required for obtaining suitable stretch on longer breadths.

Applying Approved Adhesive

Lee's U2 Set Adhesive is the adhesive approved for use in direct glue-down and double stick installations. The use of Lee's U2 Set Adhesive is vital to ensure optimum results. Applying an improper adhesive can result in an installation failure for which Lees Carpet 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 must be used. This will result in a spread rate of approximately 6-8 yards per gallon.

Proper open time is critical for the adhesive to develop proper tack. Open time will usually range from 10 to 30 minutes but should be evaluated in a small area before proceeding with the installation. Allow the adhesive to remain open long enough to develop tack. However, not too tacky that the pattern can slip to make a proper match.

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, glue half the long pattern and half the shorter pattern lengthwise. Stretch the shorter pattern to match the longer pattern by starting the center of the seam and stretching toward the ends. Stay nail will be needed to secure the pattern match as the adhesive sets.

General Installation Procedures

1. Align the pattern in the center of each breadth. Check the bow and skew. If the pattern run-off is more than one half inch in twelve feet, pre-stretch the carpet using a deadman and power-stretchers. This procedure is done before any adhesive is applied. Stretch in ten to twelve feet increments at a time.
2. If the pattern needs to be stretched one half inch in twelve feet, stretch the carpet one-inch in twelve feet. After the stretchers are removed, some of the stretch will slip back, but not the entire stretch. At this time, the installer will be able to determine the amount of stretch the carpet will require to achieve the pattern match after the adhesive has been applied.
3. After the pattern has been dry laid, make sure that each section of carpet lines up to the chalk lines on the floor. Position the carpet so that the patterns are matched in the middle of each breadth. Stay nails or pails of adhesive may be used to prevent shifting of the carpet.

Very carefully fold the long pattern section back 6' from the seam. Fold the short pattern sections back 2' to 4' from the seam. The degree of the mis-matched pattern will determine the amount that should be folded back on the shortest pattern section. If the patterns are close in match then both sides can be folded back 6'.

4. Spread Lee's U Set Adhesive from the approximate center towards each end, using a 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-notched trowel and steady, even strokes. When sufficient area has been covered with Lee's U-Set Adhesive, wait until the adhesive has reached the appropriate tacky stage (usually 10 to 30 minutes. Open time will vary depending upon the environmental conditions), but wet enough to slip the carpet to correct patterns, before dropping the first breadth of carpet into place. 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 knee kicker or crab stretcher. Roll looseness and air bubbles away from the seam.
5. The remaining portion of the first breadth can now be folded or rolled back from the floor. Apply Lees U Set Adhesive to the floor; wait until the adhesive has reached the proper tacky stage, but wet enough to slip the carpet to correct patterns, 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.
6. 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.
7. Roll completed installation with a 50 to 100 lb. roller in both length and width. This will allow the adhesive to penetrate the carpet back properly. After rolling, if the air bubbles appear, a hole can be made thru the carpet with an ice pick or AWL to relieve gases or air.

Corrective Steps for Bow and Skew

For direct glue-down installations, cut a breadth at one end on the pattern and spread the adhesive, allowing room to make a seam. 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 stretcher or mini stretcher. A dry line should be placed along the pattern for reference.

Trueness of Edge

After trimming the edges, the carpet should be dry-laid with the short edge overlapping until the void disappears. Working from a chalk line, fold the carpet back 4 to 5 feet on each breadth, spread Lees U Set adhesive and allow the adhesive to tack up but wet enough to allow slippage time so that the patterns may be properly matched. The breadth that overlaps must be compressed to form the seam, forcing the excess carpet away from the seam. It may be necessary to stay-nail along the seam until the adhesive cures. The fullness/excess carpet should be dispersed into surrounding areas by rolling away from the seam.

Double-Bond Procedures

Additional double-bond instructions are available upon request.

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

Please Note:

The use of Lee's branded adhesives are required to ensure optimum results and are the only approved adhesives that Lees Carpet will warrant. Failure to use Lee's branded adhesives can result in warranties being null and void.