

Installation Instructions

Commercial Carpet

Carpet rolls are manufactured and can be supplied in various widths of 3.66mts, 4.0mts and 1.95mts and in roll lengths up to 30 metres or more.

These GH Commercial Carpet Installation Instructions should be reviewed by contract installers prior to commencement of works on site. All installations should be in accordance with the latest version of Australian Standard AS2455.1 – “Textile Floor Coverings – Installation Practice – General”. Should the installer(s) have any queries in relation to the below recommendations, please contact your GH Commercial representative.

GH Commercial will not be responsible for improper installation.

These installation instructions cover all brands of commercial carpet rolls in the GH Commercial portfolio (including products branded Godfrey Hirst, Feltex, Feltex Woven and Mohawk Group).

These instructions also cover installation of our commercial carpet rolls on all backing systems, including Quick Comfort™ cushion backing and HealthBac® impervious backing. Both types must be installed using the direct stick method outlined further below.

Woven Carpets Only: It is a characteristic of woven carpets, that there will be more stretch in its length than its width, making woven carpets susceptible to rucking in multiple width installations and/or high traffic areas if conventionally laid. On this basis, GH Commercial woven carpet must be installed using double bond over soft underlay or direct stick to a suitable subfloor for all commercial installations (i.e. conventional installation is unsuitable) unless otherwise approved by your GH Commercial sales representative prior to commencement of installation. For woven carpets, particular consideration should be given to the appropriate method suited to the installation taking into account all criteria including number of widths, likely traffic load, pattern matching, roll lengths and end.

Installation Instructions

PLANNING

- It is recommended that the carpet be installed the length of the area in order to allow traffic to flow along the length of the installation instead of across the width. The natural pile lay of the carpet should be facing the main entry of the area to be installed and that a full width of the product be installed at the main entry with full widths used across the space and fills or cut widths be reserved for the edges of the area to be installed. It is not recommended to install part widths in the centre of the main field of an area.
- Due to subtle variations that can happen during manufacturing from start to finish of a production run, it is not recommended to use fills from a single roll across multiple areas in a large project unless it can be verified that the shade, pile lay, and pattern match to an acceptable level in order to do so.
- Cross joins may be used to minimise waste and allow for the joining of lengths longer than it is possible to manufacture and transport. Some products and designs will allow for cross joins better than others. Some loop pile woven carpet by their inherent construction, are difficult to cross seam to a satisfactory standard. It is important to recognise this and all care in planning should be undertaken to eliminate/minimise cross joins.
- If cross joins cannot be avoided, the installation contractor should discuss this matter with their client at the time of quotation and ensure that, as much as possible, the location of the joins in the project are in appropriate and acceptable locations for the end user.

- For projects using custom carpet or for areas of installations where a higher wear potential is expected such as stairs or entrance ways that might focus foot traffic into a confined space, it is recommended to purchase and store some additional carpet for future replacements.

PRE-LAYING CHECKS

It is the retailer or flooring contractor's responsibility to verify that the product supplied is the correct product, colour and quantity for the project, prior to installation. GH Commercial will not be responsible for any visible defects after the carpet has been installed.

SITE TESTING AND CONDITIONING

Sub floor must be tested for moisture (RH%) and alkalinity (pH) in accordance with the latest version of AS2455.1. GH Commercial prefers the use of the hood test method to determine RH% on concrete subfloors.

GH Commercial products, adhesives and seam sealers must be allowed to condition on site for a minimum period of 24 hours, at a minimum temperature of 15°C and a maximum temperature of 30°C. The temperature must remain within this range for the entire installation period and a minimum of 48 hours after installation completion. The ambient relative humidity of the area where the carpet is to be installed should range between 40% - 50%.

FLOOR PREPARATION

Floor preparation should be done in accordance with AS2455.1. Sub floor must be dry, free of dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint or any other materials which could adversely affect the carpet or the adhesion of the carpet and/or the installation materials to the floor. The sub floor must be level and smooth. Depressions and cracks must be filled using an approved levelling compound in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All protrusions must be levelled. All use of screeds or materials for ramping must be done in accordance with AS2455.1 and the product manufacturer's instructions.

POST INSTALLATION CAUTION

Contractors should be aware that carpet installed in areas that are locked up for periods of time, unventilated and non-airconditioned may experience problems like rucking or moisture

issues due to the extreme changes in temperature and relative humidity that can occur.

GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION FOR ALL METHODS

- Rolls should be cut to length with a sharp knife and 'dry laid' to entire area to be installed. Roll sequencing should be implemented and checked prior to cutting. Check all edges for bow, skew and trueness to ensure the product is made within tolerance. Check both the width and length before cutting and allow enough waste in order to maximise pattern match (if necessary).
- Sheets must be allowed conditioning time prior to fixing.
- Work from the centre of the fixing area - outwards.
- Start by trimming a selvage edge and row cut subsequent drops. Position each of the cut edges together to check seam integrity. If an insufficient amount is trimmed off, bubbling may result. Seams should be sealed tight but without compression. For woven carpet, optimum seam appearance is achieved by trimming both selvages and latexing pre-cut edges prior to heat bonding with suitable heat bond tape.
- If cross joins are required, an appropriate seam adhesive should be applied to the cut backing yarns bonding all yarns and threads and when dry, the prepared cross joins should be hot melt taped. Hand sewn cross joins (if preferred for woven carpets) should be re-enforced with hot melt tape applied with the carpet face down. All cross joins should be cut and prepared in a manner that assures accurate pattern alignment is achieved.
- Fix perimeter using a wall trimmer such as Roberts # 10-905 or sharp knife.
- When using underlay, suitability of the system to achieve the required fire ratings should be checked.

Geometric printed or patterned carpet: (This applies to carpet that has a repeating pattern or texture).

Perfect pattern match cannot be guaranteed due to the extensible nature of textile products, such that even with special care in laying, some irregularities may be visible in the horizontal, vertical and diagonal pattern or texture, especially when viewing across multiple width installations. Patterned carpet, taking into account method of installation, requires more time, effort and skill which should be considered in the original labour quotation.

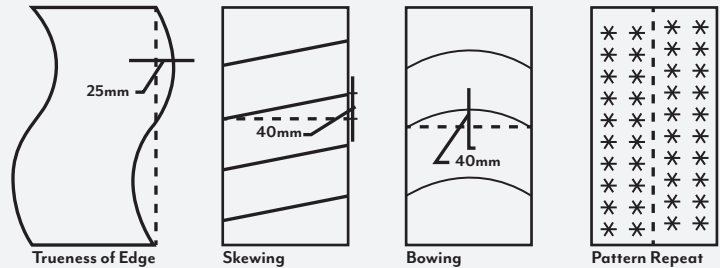


When making a seam on patterned carpet, accurate pattern matching is best achieved with the carpet laid flat and even, but not under tension. It is recommended that pattern variation within tolerance be compressed to remove the mismatch

rather than stretched and that afterwards the entire sheet should be stretched into place to complete the installation. The tolerances of GH Commercial carpet products are as follows:

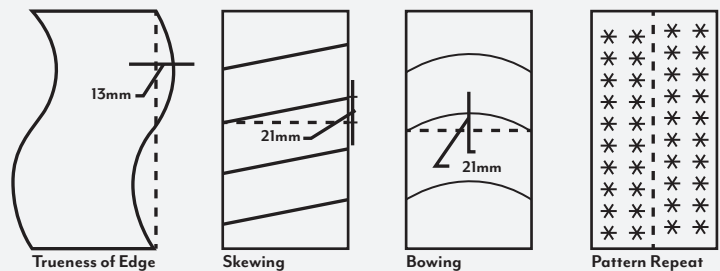
For standard 3.66m wide broadloom rolls:

Trueness of edge: 25mm in 3.66m width
Skewing / Bowing: 40mm in 3.66m width
Pattern Repeat: 2% or 72mm in 3.66m length or 144mm in 7.23m length



For 1.95m wide carpet rolls:

Trueness of edge: 13mm in 1.95m width
Skewing / Bowing: 21mm in 1.95m width
Pattern Repeat: 2% or 37mm in 1.95m length or 74mm in 3.9m length



Direct Stick Installation

It is imperative that all substrates be slightly porous/absorbent when installing carpet using the direct stick method. This will facilitate the correct curing of the adhesive by allowing the dissipation of water from the adhesive emulsion into the subfloor.

Sealing of the subfloor is NOT recommended as this may prevent adequate drying of the adhesive.

High porosity floors must be primed in accordance with AS2455.1. GH Commercial recommends RLA GS 400 Premium Wall and Floor Primer, Holdfast Primer 88 or equivalents. It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to apply an appropriate primer prior to commencement of carpet installation.

Timber sub floors must be prepared utilising a hard underlay in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In accordance with AS2455.1, the estimated service life of any hard underlay should not be less than the carpet. Hard underlay should be installed in accordance with AS2455.1. Also, in accordance with the latest AS2458 – "Hardboard" and/or BS1142 reduced density or medium density fibre board types MDF and MDFMR or medium density fibrous cement sheet is acceptable.

For GH Commercial carpets other than woven carpets, underfloor heating must be switched off 48 hours prior to installation and not turned back on for a minimum of 48 hours after completed installation. Turning heating elements back on prior to the 48 hour curing time may affect the performance of the adhesive. Heating surface temperature must not exceed 27°C. For woven carpets, the carpet should be installed with the underfloor heating turned on as this allows the product to shrink back when the heating is turned off rather than expanding (and potentially rucking) when the heating is turned on.

SEAM SEALER AND ADHESIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPLICATION RATES

The quality of installation depends on the quality of the seams. If the seams are not permanently bonded together, the carpet may unravel and begin to break down at the edges, making it appear badly fitted and causing premature wear.

Seam sealer must be used for all seams both widthwise and lengthwise. For all products, other than those with HealthBac® impervious backing, GH Commercial recommends the use of a water-based seam sealer such as RLA GS 5 (or equivalent) used in conjunction with RLA R100 or RLA R95 carpet adhesive (or equivalent). For products with HealthBac® impervious backing, the use of a water based, low VOC adhesive such as Roberts 85 Fast Tack Carpet Adhesive or Nexus Medibond TR1 adhesive (or equivalent) used in conjunction with Roberts GS5 seam grip or Nexus SW 100 (or equivalent) seam sealer is recommended.

GH Commercial requires a 100% application of carpet adhesive in accordance with the adhesive manufacturer's instructions including the notch size of the trowel to be used. Most adhesive manufacturers require different notch sizes for different types of carpet. GH Commercial products with Quick Comfort™ cushion backing, require the use of a 'V3' notched trowel. GH Commercial products with HealthBac® impervious backing require the use of a 2.4m 'V2' notched trowel giving an approximate spread rate of 2-3m²/litre. The spread rate may also need to be varied by the contractor in accordance with the site conditions of the subfloor.

If using an equivalent adhesive and/or seam sealer it is recommended that the flooring contractor checks its suitability with a GH Commercial representative prior to application. Please note that seams are NOT covered by the manufacturer's warranty.

General Instructions for Direct Stick Installation:

- Fold / roll back in the width direction on either side of the centre seam.
- Re-install one width of carpet into the adhesive and roll with a 25-30 kg roller. This will ensure even transfer into the adhesive and remove trapped air bubbles.
- Seam seal by applying a continuous bead of seam sealer to the cut edge of backing. Adjacent edge should now be carefully abutted using a seam tractor to finish the join. Excess seam sealer must be removed immediately by wiping with seam cleaner.
- Repeat process for all other seams and edges.
- On completion of installation, roll entire area to ensure removal of air bubbles.

Please note: GH Commercial recommends that the product should be folded back in the width direction to allow for the spread of adhesive. Rolling or folding the product in the length direction may cause bubbling and compression at the seams.



Dual Bond Installation

Ensure subfloor is prepared and in an adequate condition to install carpet and underlay as per AS2455.1 and as set out above (refer direct stick instructions). Underlay should be conditioned according to the manufacturer instructions and not less than 3 hours in the area where it is to be installed.

If the underlay manufacturer recommends, underlay should be installed 90 degrees to the direction of the carpet installation. Joins in the carpet should not fall within 300mm of joins in the underlay. All underlay joins should be close fitting in order to eliminate show-through when the carpet is installed. All installation of underlay should be in accordance with the AS2455.1 and with the manufacturers' instructions including what type of adhesive should be used. For woven products, carpet gripper should be used around the perimeter of the installation. For other products, if the manufacturer recommends the use of carpet gripper for their dual bond product, it must be used.

When installing carpet in the dual bond method, suitable heat bond tape should be used for all carpet joins. Rolling the carpet and underlay after installation can help to eliminate air bubbles and will ensure a full bond across the floor.

Conventional Installation

Ensure subfloor is prepared and in an adequate condition to install carpet and underlay as per AS2455.1 and as set out above (refer direct stick instructions). For commercial applications, commercial carpet gripper should be used.

Gripper should be installed around the entire perimeter of the area to be installed and a maximum of 60% of the carpet thickness should be allowed to create the gully between the gripper and the wall. Gripper should be installed in accordance with AS2455.1 and should be fixed according to the manufacturer's instructions to ensure that it is fastened adequately to hold the carpet.

Underlay should be selected in accordance with AS2455.1. Underlay should be fixed to the subfloor using staples or adhesive. Heat bond tape should be used that is suitable for commercial purposes. All carpet installed using the conventional installation method should be power stretched in accordance with AS2455.1.

Important warning: These GH Commercial Carpet Installation Instructions are intended to assist in achieving a premium quality installation. Any variation to the recommendations above by the installation contractors on site may affect the warranty. For further information, please contact your local GH Commercial Sales representative.