

# Tackless Installation — Woven Carpet

Exclusive to Karastan Contract and Mohawk Commercial.

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**Carpet Installation Checkoff List**

1. 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, seam sealer should be stored under these conditions for at least 24 hours before installation.
2. 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 damage.
3. Never install carpet over carpet.
4. Never cut carpet over carpet, as this can result in overpenetration of the blade and cutting loops on the lower carpet.
5. It is important to protect new or existing carpet during the furniture move-in phase. Furniture and heavy traffic concentrated pressure, and movement over unprotected carpet can cause a loss of tension. 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.

**Required Tools and Materials**

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

1. Razor-blade knife
2. Top cutter
3. NuBroadlok™ Edge Sealer
4. NuBroadlok Seam Sealer
5. Premium seaming tape (3" or 6")
6. Seaming iron with heat shield
7. Knee kicker (to position carpet only)
8. 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. For all Mohawk Woven carpets, flat rubber or urethane foam padding should not exceed 3/8 inch in thickness and must have a minimum density of 16 pounds. A 1/4-inch pad is more desirable if it meets the density requirement.

Felted underlays or hair and jute underlays should be at least 28 oz. density or greater and not to exceed 3/8" in thickness.

*Please Note:* Underlays that are too soft or have an uneven or nonuniform 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 restretch calls and seam splitting.

**Tackless Strip**

An architectural tackless strip (3 rows of pins) is mandatory for installation areas exceeding 30 linear feet. 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 full-width Woven carpets have an arrow on the back (running approximately 2 feet from the selvage along one side of the carpet) or a selvage marker to indicate pile direction. When seaming, the pieces of carpet should be joined so the arrow or selvage marker is on the same side of each breadth. All cut carpet used as fill pieces should be marked to indicate pile direction before the arrow or selvage marker is removed.

**Recommended Cutting Methods**

Woven carpets should be cut between the rows 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 and expose the backing yarns. 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. All cut edges must be sealed by pressing a thin coating of NuBroadlok Edge Sealer into the base of the pile and backing.

**Widthwise Cuts**

Follow the same procedure as for lengthwise cuts, inserting the top cutter with the blade close to the seam edge. All cut edges must be sealed by pressing a thin coating of NuBroadlok Edge Sealer into the base of the pile and backing.

**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 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.

**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 NuBroadlok Edge Sealer at the bottom of the pile and backing material. Fold this breadth and allow the edge sealer to dry. Repeat this procedure on the other breadth.

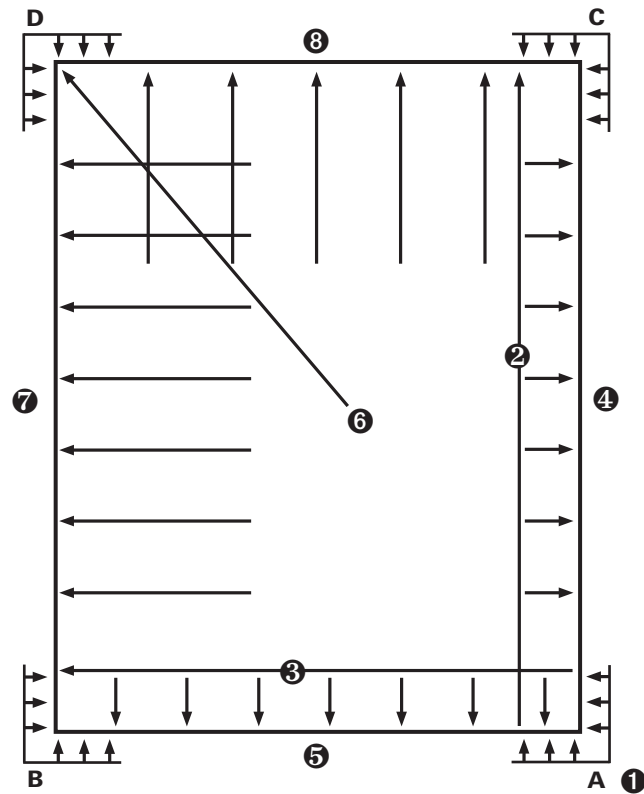
Select a premium seaming tape; some Woven carpet may require a 6-inch tape to minimize peaking at the seams. The iron must have a heat shield or Kool Top, and the face of the iron should be clean to allow the thermostat to work properly. The iron setting should be 2-1/2, or not more than 3. Before making the seam, prestretch 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 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 four (4) ways, and a power stretcher is mandatory.

### Recommended Stretching Method

Refer to the diagram below for the proper stretching procedures.



1. Hook at corner A.
2. Power-stretch from A to C and hook at corner C.
3. Power-stretch from A to B and hook at corner B.
4. Stretch and hook along wall, A to C.
5. Stretch and hook along wall, A to B.
6. Power-stretch and hook at corner D.
7. Power-stretch and hook along wall, B to D.
8. Power-stretch and hook along wall, C to D.

A power stretcher must be used as indicated. Failure to apply the proper stretch is likely to result in a restretch call.

**CAUTION:** DO NOT ANGLE A POWER STRETCHER. A straight stretch is essential, as illustrated.

### Restretching

It is common industry knowledge that carpet occasionally has to be restretched. 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.

Mohawk recommends the following procedure: (a) remove all movable furniture, fixtures, etc., from the problem area; (b) release the carpet from the tackless strips; and (c) reinstall the carpet according to these installation procedures, incorporating the correct tackless strips, pad, and power stretcher use, as detailed.

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

*Please Note:* More stretch will be gained in the length of Woven carpet than in the width. However, the carpet must be stretched in the width regardless of the amount obtained.

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

### Please Note:

The use of Mohawk branded adhesives are required to ensure optimum results and are the only approved adhesives that Mohawk Industries will warrant. Failure to use Mohawk branded adhesives can result in warranties being null and void.