

CARPET TILE INSTALLATION GUIDE

The essential guide to preparing for carpet tile installation.



LIFESPACE

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1. BEFORE YOU BEGIN: CHECK PRODUCT DELIVERY

Upon receipt of your carpet tile delivery, follow these essential checks:

- **Inspect packaging:** Look for any signs of damage. Do not install tiles that appear to be water damaged, torn, or crushed.
- **Confirm batch numbers:** Ensure all boxes are from the same batch/dye lot to maintain consistent colour and pattern.
- **Check quantities:** Verify the correct number of tiles have been delivered, allowing 5–10% extra for wastage and future replacements.
- **Acclimatisation:** Let the tiles acclimate for at least 24 hours in the installation environment (ideally between 18–27°C and 40–65% relative humidity).



2. STORAGE IN HOT OR COLD ENVIRONMENTS

Carpet tiles are sensitive to temperature and humidity fluctuations:

- **Avoid extreme temperatures:** Do not store tiles below 10°C or above 30°C for extended periods.
- **Acclimatise before installation:** If tiles have been stored in cold conditions (e.g. unheated warehouses), allow at least 24-48 hours at room temperature to prevent curling or poor adhesion.
- **Avoid direct sunlight:** Store in a shaded, dry place to prevent UV damage.

3. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION & UNEVEN FLOORS

A smooth, clean, and dry subfloor is essential:

- **BS 5325 compliance:** The subfloor must comply with the requirements of BS 5325: "Installation of textile floor coverings."
- **Check for level:** Use a straightedge to identify dips or rises over 3mm in 2 metres.
- **Rectify issues:** Level uneven subfloors with a suitable self-levelling compound. Repair cracks or holes before beginning installation.
- **Clean surface:** Remove dust, oil, grease, or old adhesive residues.

4. UNDERFLOOR HEATING CONSIDERATIONS

Carpet tiles can be installed over underfloor heating with care:

- **Temperature limit:** Ensure surface temperature does not exceed 27°C.
- **Gradual heating:** Bring the temperature up slowly after installation to avoid adhesive softening or tile movement.
- **Switch off during installation:** Always turn off heating at least 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation.

5. SETTING OUT

A well-planned layout ensures a professional finish:

- **Centre the layout:** Start by finding the centre of the room using chalk lines to form quadrants.
- **Dry lay first row:** Place tiles without adhesive to test alignment and balance.
- **Avoid narrow cuts:** Adjust centre lines to prevent tiles less than half-width at the edges.

Determine the direction of the tiles prior to starting any work. Each tile has directional arrows on the back. These arrows allow for one-directional or multi-directional installation. Stripe like designs are best installed in a chequerboard type orientation.



6. BONDING & ADHESIVES

Use the correct adhesive for safety and durability:

- **Non-solvent adhesives only:** Never use solvent-based spray adhesives as they are hazardous and can damage backing materials.
- **Approved methods:**
 - Tackifier adhesive (for loose-lay or semi-permanent installation)
 - Pressure-sensitive adhesives (PSAs)
 - Suitable adhesives are available from the following suppliers: Ardex / Bostik / Eurocol / F.Ball / Mapei / Thomsit / Tremco / Schonox / Uzin.
- **Apply evenly:** Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for application rate, drying time, and open time.
- **Roll tiles in place:** Use a 75 kg roller to ensure full adhesive transfer.

Whilst cutting carpet tiles, a build-up of bitumen can sometimes accumulate on the surface of the blade and obstruct its cutting edge. Such deposits can be easily removed using white spirit and cloth.

7. POST-INSTALLATION CARE

Protect your investment with proper aftercare:

- **Initial cleaning:**
 - Vacuum the floor to remove installation dust and loose fibres. We recommend vacuums that include both rotating brushes and suction as they tend to unseat deep seated dry spoil that can often be a major cause of visual disparity. Suction only type vacuum cleaners are not recommended.
 - Spot clean any adhesive smudges.
- **Avoid excess moisture:** Do not wet clean the floor for 48–72 hours post-installation to allow full adhesive cure.

8. PROTECTION

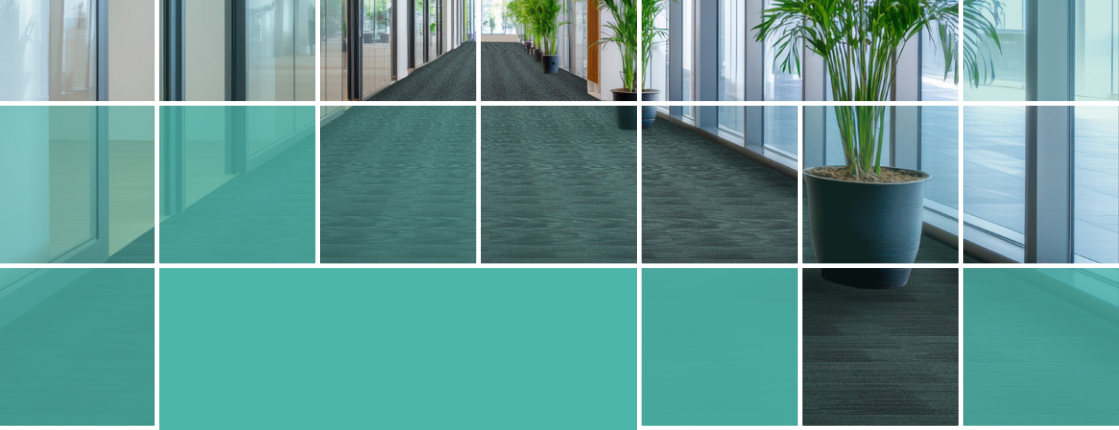
If the space is still under construction or refurbishment:

- **Cover the floor:** Use breathable, non-staining protection materials (e.g., Ram Board or heavy-duty craft paper).
- **Avoid plastic films:** These can trap moisture and damage tiles.
- **Limit heavy loads:** Avoid dragging furniture or equipment over unprotected tiles.

To prevent excessive wear to the carpet tiles surface, use protective mats under chairs that contain caster wheels. Protective measures should also be utilised under the legs of heavy point loaded furniture.

For best results, post installation on site temperatures should remain above 10degrees and ambient humidity should not fall below 40%.





9. ONGOING MAINTENANCE

Prolong life and appearance with a regular schedule:

- **Daily:** Vacuum high-traffic areas.
- **Weekly:** Vacuum full space.
- **Monthly:** Spot clean with low-moisture methods.
- **Annually:** Consider professional deep cleaning. Hot water extraction deep cleaning methods should be undertaken 2 times a year.
- Bonnet cleaning is not recommended.
- Use interim cleaning systems to manage the carpets appearance. Encapsulation cleaning methods are recommended.
- Promptly address all spots and spills as quickly as possible to avoid staining. Spot removers with a pH of between 6 and 8 are preferred. Rinsing may be necessary.

10. BS 5325 – SUMMARY OF KEY REQUIREMENTS

Ensure your installation adheres to the UK's official Code of Practice:

- Proper acclimatisation and subfloor preparation.
- Use of appropriate adhesives and techniques.
- Avoidance of tension or distortion in tiles.
- Protection against direct sunlight and temperature extremes.
- Clear documentation of installation method and materials used.

TIP FOR INSTALLERS

Always keep a few spare tiles from the same batch in case of future repairs. It's a small step that can save you big headaches later.





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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
CARPET TILE INSTALLATION:**

VISIT [LIFESPACEFLOORING.CO.UK/INSTALLATION](https://www.lifespac flooring.co.uk/installation)

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