

Installation Instructions for Commercial Patterned Carpet

Marabella requires your assistance to insure that this quality product is received and installed properly. The installation procedures contained in these instructions are intended for the experienced and competent installer. Marabella recognizes the Carpet & Rug Institutes “Standard for Installation of Commercial Carpet”, also known as “CRI-104”, which is recognized as the minimum basic industry guidelines for installation of commercial carpet. For copies contact the Carpet & Rug Institute, P.O. Box 2048 Dalton, GA 30722, tel: 706-278-3176.

Before Cutting This Carpet

1. **Check for visible defects.** No claims will be considered on carpet that has been cut or installed with visible manufacturing defects.
2. Verify that the carpet is the correct style and color specified by the owner, occupant, or design professional. No claims will be considered for incorrect style or color once the carpet has cut or installed.
3. All carpet should be cut in a clean, dry, well-lighted environment.
4. All cuts should be tightly rolled, not folded, tagged and properly stored.
5. Carpet should be installed after all work by other trades people has been completed. The installer and/or general contractor assumes total liability for damage and deterioration, including wear, compaction, soiling, staining, abrasion and stretching.

General Conditions

At least 24 hours prior to installation roll out carpet on job site and smooth wrinkles. This allows carpet to relax and become more pliable for seaming and pattern match.

The building, carpet and any adhesives that may be used must be conditioned to a temperature of at least 65 degrees F and a relative humidity between 12% and 65%, from 48-72 hours before installation, and remain constant within this range throughout the installation. Lighting systems should be in service, as visual inspection under occupied conditions is essential during installation. It is the installer’s responsibility to confirm these requirements with general contractor.

Subfloor must be dry, level and free of dirt, grease, oil, paint, sealer, old adhesives and other foreign materials. Loose boards, parquet flooring, resilient tiles, etc., should be repaired, replaced, or removed if necessary, for a secure underlayment.

Marabella recommends that all concrete subfloors (new or old) be sealed. If floors are not sealed, installer must obtain written release from general contractor before proceeding. Note the sealing products must be compatible with adhesives.

Cracks in old concrete subfloors greater than 1/8” deep must be patched with an approved latex patching compound.

Concrete requires curing form 90 – 120 days after pouring. Before installing carpet, check for excessive moisture content. If excessive moisture is detected or suspected, an Anhydrous Calcium Chloride Moisture test must be performed before proceeding. If moisture transmission rate exceeds 5 lbs. per 1000 square feet per 24 hours, installer must obtain written release from general contractor before proceeding.

It is the installer’s responsibility to test for excessive alkalinity by wetting floor and applying pH test papers. If pH exceeds 9, the general contractor should be notified to correct.

Planning and Layout

All carpet installations should have an accurate scale drawing prepared in advance denoting seam placement and direction in which carpet will be laid. Consideration of the following is also recommended:

- ❖ Plan for seams to run length of major areas and parallel to, not across, the main traffic paths.
- ❖ Plan major seams so that natural light does not shine across them.
- ❖ Avoid seams at major pivot points or that intersect perpendicular to doorways.
- ❖ Corridors and halls should be laid lengthwise to minimize number of seams, potential seam failure and to enhance pattern appearance.
- ❖ Arrows on back of carpet are reference points for direction of pile lay.
- ❖ Roll sequence should be carefully followed unless otherwise advised.
- ❖ Pattern carpets have the best texture and pattern match at seams when installed sequentially from the same roll and/or dye lot.
- ❖ Always allow extra carpet for pattern matching

Seam Cutting and Edge Preparation

All seams must be row cut. Patterned carpet is not matchable unless row cutting procedure is strictly observed on all carpet to be seamed. The steps required in row cutting involve opening a row at a predetermined point of pattern match with a flat blade screwdriver or other implement then cutting along that specific row using a loop pile cutter. Patterns can then be aligned and matched by stretching with a power stretcher and/or knee kicker.

All cut edges must be properly sealed with a quality solvent, latex or acrylic based seam sealer prior to beginning the sealing process. Time must be allowed for the sealer to dry prior to seaming.

At transition edges where carpet meets other floor covering materials (such as marble or hardwood) a suitable edge trim transition strip is recommended, as well as a bead of seam sealer to protect against potential raveling or fraying associated with cleaning and heavy traffic common to such areas.

Cushion Recommendations

Proper cushion choice is extremely important to the performance of carpet. Marabella recommends no cushion in excess of ¼” thickness or less than 10 lbs. per cubic foot density. Cushions that are too thick or too soft will cause excessive flexing of the carpet and result in seam failure, delamination and restretching problems.

Stretch-In Installation

Marabella recommends that Type 3 architectural tack strips be used with its products and that a power stretcher be used to obtain 1-1.5% length and width final stretches. Details for this procedure are explained in CRI-104 and should be followed accordingly.

Direct Glue Installation

Marabella requires the use of premium environmentally safe low VOC adhesives. A minimum 1/8” x 1/8” U notched trowel should be used for Action Bac products. Details for these procedures are also explained in CRI-104 and should be followed accordingly.

Double Stick Installation

Double stick installation is an excellent method for installing Marabella products using cushions that meet the above requirements; however additional steps must be taken to insure a quality installation. Pad selection, use of the correct quantities of permanent adhesives (carpet to cushion), and the proper curing time for adhesives before traffic is allowed are all very critical points in the success of any double stick installation. Verify that proper recommendations of the adhesive and cushion manufacturer are followed prior to installation. Additional details for procedures are explained in CRI-104 and should be followed accordingly.

Pattern Matching

The use of a power stretcher to handle the pattern matching process is necessary on all installation types. Knee kickers are for initial positioning only not for the final stretch. Pattern carpet is a flexible textile product and may require special attention by the installer to achieve proper pattern match. Installation of patterned products usually require more time and labor than non-patterned products and should be considered in the original labor quote. Acceptable pattern matches are obtainable on carpet produced within Marabella tolerances. Marabella cannot guarantee a perfect pattern match on its patterned products.

- ❖ Dry lay all pieces prior to adhering to subfloor. This allows for proper sequencing to stretch shorter patterns to match longer ones or the ability to relocate pieces for a more acceptable match.
- ❖ Once all adjoining breadths are laid in place, adhere the elongated breadth to the floor. Lay carpet (short side) into “wet” adhesive so the carpet will slide when the power stretch adjustment procedure is imposed to obtain pattern match.
- ❖ Begin pattern matching at seam midpoint so that any pattern elongation and stretching may be corrected to each wall.
- ❖ Using a two-headed power stretcher or “dead man”, stretch the short pattern to match the longer ones. Use stay nails to hold the stretched side on pattern and use knee kicker to close any gaps or push any fullness toward center of the carpet.
- ❖ For breadths exceeding 40 feet in length, it may be necessary to spread the adhesive and pattern match in sections to prevent the adhesive from grabbing too quickly. Leave stay nails in place until adhesive reaches full bonding strength.

Marabella Tolerances for Patterned Carpets

Bowing	.75” in 12’ width
Skewing	1.5” in 12’ width
Trueness of edge:	.50 in 12’ length
Pattern Repeat:	(1%) 1.44” in 12’ or 2.88” in 24’
Construction Specifications:	+/- 5% Standard Industry Tolerance