

# The Mohawk Group

## Installation Guidelines for

Direct Glue-Down Installation  
Unibond RE Carpet (Pattern &  
Non-Pattern)

### The Mohawk Group

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 The Mohawk Group

KARASTAN

LEES

Bigelow

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**Carpet Installation Check off List**

1. Newly poured concrete floors generally will take 90 to 120 days to cure. Moisture should not exceed five pounds/1000sf per 24 hours as determined by a calcium chloride test per ASTM F1869, or 80% relative humidity per ASTM F2170. If the results are more than 5 lbs or higher than 80%, do not proceed with the installation. Contact Field Services at 800-833-6954. Gypcrete or substrates with excessive dust must be cleaned, and then primed with The Mohawk Group's (TMG's) PrimeCoat or an approved primer, such as a latex milk additive.
2. The alkalinity or pH in a concrete slab should be between 5 and 9 for a glue-down installation. When pH is between 9-12 and moisture is below 5 lbs or 80% then PrimeCoat can be used to block pH. Should the pH be outside this range, stop and do not proceed with the installation. Contact Field Services at 800-833-6954.
3. The floor and room temperature must be acclimated by maintaining the temperature at 65°F and 95°F, and the humidity between 10% and 65%, for at least 48 hours before, during, and 72 hours after installation. In addition, the carpet, adhesive and seam sealer should be stored under these conditions for at least 24 hours before installation. The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation.
4. Old adhesive must be properly removed prior to any installation of TMG's branded carpet. When cut-back adhesive is present or existing adhesive has indications of plasticization or PVC backed products are being installed then SureSeal must be applied after the old adhesive has been properly removed. See note #1.
5. Mechanically remove all wax, dirt, grease and paint. DO NOT use solvents to clean the floor. DO NOT use oil based sweeping compound. Fill cracks more than 1/16-inch wide with a Portland or cement based patching compound. The floor must be flat to within 1/8" in 10 feet. Use leveling compound when required. Patched areas may need to be primed (Consult patch manufacture for requirements) with PrimeCoat or an approved primer. DO NOT install over resin or silicate based curing compound.
6. Carpet should only be bent when absolutely necessary for transporting purposes only and must be unrolled immediately. Carpet should be rolled out and allowed to relax for at least 24 hours prior to installation.
7. Never cut carpet over carpet, as this can result in over penetration of the blade and cutting loops on the lower carpet. Never install broadloom carpet over carpet.
8. Carpet should be protected from heavy traffic and construction dust with a non-staining building material paper. Never use plastic sheeting as it will trap moisture and prevent proper curing of the adhesive. Plastic may also leave residues that can result in rapid soiling after removal.
9. Furniture placement and heavy traffic should be avoided for at least 24 hours after a direct glue-down or double glue installation. Furniture and heavy equipment concentrated 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**

1. 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.
2. UPS Bloc, HPS Bloc, Unibond, Unibond Flex Bloc and Weldlok cannot be installed using the tackless/stretch-in method. Attached cushions can only be installed by the direct glue method.
3. Installation of The Mohawk Group's branded Carpet and Carpet Tile on a floor outside the scope of the guidelines in this document will void all applicable warranties.

4. The Mohawk Group is not responsible for any product failure due to improper floor preparation and/or installation procedures. The required adhesives are TMG's family of adhesives.

#### **Required Equipment**

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

- Lees Unibond Wet Set
- 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/16 V-Notched Trowel or 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-Notched Trowel
- 75 to 100 lb. Roller
- Top Cutter
- Stay nails
- Dead Man and Pull Boards
- Knee Kicker (to position carpet only)
- Crab Stretcher and Power Stretcher

#### **Pile Direction**

Tufted carpet will have arrows on the back and/or a colored yarn tufted on one side. When seaming, the pieces of carpet should be joined with the arrow running in the same direction on each breadth. All cut carpet used as fill pieces should be marked to indicate pile direction before the arrows are removed.

#### **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.

#### **Widthwise Cuts**

All widthwise cuts must be made with a top cutter and straight edge following a pattern from point to point. Trim with the blade closest to the seam edge; holding the cutter slightly away from the seam edge at no more than a 5 degree angle, so as to cut slightly more backing material than face yarn.

#### **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

**Please Note:** If you are having trouble matching a pattern, STOP and call Field Services at 800-833-6954.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Corrective Steps for Bow and Skew**

Make a cut across the patterns at one end. Then apply the adhesive using the proper trowel. 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 Wet 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.

### **Applying Approved Adhesive**

Lees Unibond Wet Set Adhesive is the recommended adhesive for Unibond Backing Systems approved for use in direct glue-down and double stick installations. The use of Lees Wet Set Adhesive is vital to ensure optimum results. Applying an improper adhesive can result in an installation failure for which The Mohawk Group 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 1/16" V-notched trowel or 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-notched trowel must be used. This will result in a spread rate of approximately 8-10 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 so tacky that carpet will not slip to make a proper pattern match.

### **General Installation Procedures**

1. Align the pattern in the center of each breadth. Check the bow and skew. If the pattern run-offs are more than one half in twelve feet, pre-stretch the carpet using a dead man 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. Once 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 pattern mismatch 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 Wet Set Adhesive from the approximate center towards each end, using the recommended notched trowel and steady, even strokes. When sufficient area has been covered with Lee's Wet 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 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 Wet 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. 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.

**Double-Bond Procedures**

Additional double-bond instructions are available upon request.

**Please Note:** The use of TMG's branded adhesives are required to ensure optimum results and are the only approved adhesives that TMG will warrant. Failure to use TMG's branded adhesives can result in warranties being null and void.

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