

INSTALLATION

Using the proper installation and the right underlayment underneath extend the life of your carpet and have a positive effect on retaining the appearance of the carpet (appearance change). Choosing the right underlayment depends on the situation and the requirements.

Floor

A proper floor literally forms the basis for achieving a good result with installation. The floor should be completely smooth (free of bumps and holes) and durable enough to handle the wear; it should be clean and dry at all times; it should maintain its shape and stability. Seams and cracks between the floor and the baseboards are to be sealed using a suitable filler to stop unwanted draughts and, therefore, the associated dust and/or dirt build-up. This dirt on the edges is extremely persistent and practically impossible to remove.

Stretching or gluing?

It is preferable to stretch the carpet. The texture will appear more luxurious and indentations will bounce back more quickly by stretching the carpet than by gluing it. If it is impossible to stretch the carpet due to the situation (e.g. underfloor heating, room design) or the traffic (e.g. castors) the carpet will have to be glued.

Underlayment

Suitable underlayment is an important part of the flooring: It provides comfort, luxurious beauty and ensures that the carpet continues to look great for a longer period of time. Soft underlayment causes large indentations in the carpet which makes it difficult for the carpet to resilient. This gives you the feeling that you are dragging your feet when walking on the carpet. Research and tests show that underlayment with a high resistance against indentations and the ability to keep resilient from indentations work the best and bring out the best in our carpets. High resistance to indentation is especially important for carpets with a cut and loop texture: the heavy backing of these carpets do not recover well from wear and indentation. We recommend using rubber underlayment without air pockets or recesses with a thickness of 6 mm in a shot weight of at least 2500 g/m² or so-called PUR rebond underlayments. These lightweight underlayments (e.g. Best Base Elegance) combine a great recover capability with light weight (1000 to 1500 g/m²) due to its special design. The disadvantage of felt underlayment is that it can lose its resilience and recovery capability. Therefore its use is not recommended with our carpets.

Stretching

When using the stretching method, the underlayment is first placed on the floor, perpendicular to the direction the carpet will be installed between the tack strips and set in place with the appropriate glue. Skid-resistant glue, when applied correctly, has enough adhesive quality and does not leave any residue when removing the underlayment. Gluing prevents problems of the padding shifting on the floor and with size stability (e.g. shrinkage). The underlayment must be compatible with the floor surface. The underlayment itself hardly has any smoothing characteristics, therefore, the floor must be completely smooth, otherwise irregularities in the floor will be visible through the carpet. If you cannot use tacks in the floor, the tack strips can be glued. After removing the stretch strips, the sub-floor can become damaged.

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The carpet is installed on top of the underlayment and stretched, preferably by using a wall-to-wall stretcher and attached to the strips using the smooth-edge method. A knee kicker can be used for smaller areas. The carpet is to be stretched gradually instead of forcefully and the stretcher pins must attach well to the back of the carpet to avoid damage. The highest tension level is to be done in the direction the carpet is being installed.

Gluing

When gluing, the underlayment is spread out on the ground, perpendicular to the direction the carpet will be installed, and attached using the appropriate glue. A skid-free glue has enough adhesive power when used correctly and does not leave any residue when removing the underlayment. Gluing prevents problems with the underlayment shifting on the floor and with size stability. The underlayment must be compatible with the floor surface and the glue. The underlayment itself hardly has any smoothing characteristics, therefore, the floor must be completely smooth, otherwise irregularities in the floor will be visible through the carpet. The carpet is glued to the underlayment using the appropriate type of glue. The gluing process occurs in parts due to the open times of the glue in such a way that glue is applied to the entire surface. No one can walk on the carpet right away once the glue has been applied in order to prevent permanent indentations. The carpet is to be well flattened using a carpet slide. The glue supplier will indicate how much time needed for this.

Seams

When making a seam, we recommend to first cut off the selvedge and the first row of pile from both strips of carpet. The strips of carpet are to be cut straight between the rows of pile. By cutting the carpetside together, the rows of pile can be cut and a frayed seam is created so that you do not have to use this method. The texture or the design of the carpet has to continue beyond the seam. Both strips of carpet must be installed with the pile falling in the same direction. When stretching the carpet, create the seams using thin splicing tape so that it is not visible. Splicing tape that is too thick causes the carpet to bulge. The seam must be properly joined and pulled completely taut before the splicing tape can be stitched. Avoid a lot of tension on the splicing tape. The splicing tape has limited strength and is often more elastic than the carpet so that the seam does not open. When using glue, you can create the seam without using splicing tape. Preparations and instructions are the same as for stretching. Make sure that the glue does not leak through at the seam.

Stairs

Carpet made for stairs can either be stretched or glued to each step. In this case, the underlayment has to be glued over the entire surface with glue made for that purpose (skid-resistant glue does not adhere well enough for this purpose). The front of each step must first be equipped with a half-round slat before installing the underlayment. After the underlayment has been installed, it must have a radius of at least 2.5 cm (total thickness of step 5cm).

Underfloor heating

Carpet can be installed in rooms that have underfloor heating without any adjustments or problems. Both the underlayment and the carpet must be glued in order to prevent any trapped air and any damages to the underfloor heating system. Please refer to the recommendations for applying the glue.

The underlayment must be suited for underfloor heating. When the heating is on, the humidity level must be high enough (at least 50%) in order to prevent dehydration and static shocks from the carpet.