



## Carpet Installation and Care Guide



Installing a carpet for the first time can seem daunting. However, it's easy if you have the right tools and know-how. Below you'll discover a step-by-step guide to make installing your new carpet a breeze.

### **Step 1 – Clean and prepare the subfloor**

The very first thing you need to do is make sure the subfloor is clean and dry. This includes making sure any staples are removed and any plaster is also eliminated. You can easily remove old plaster with a good quality scraper. Once done, sweep over the floor and then vacuum any dirt and debris ready for the carpet installation.



## **Step 2 – Place carpet grippers around the room**

Carpet grippers are essential during the installation and they're pretty easy to install. You'll ideally use two different gripper widths as this provides a better grip.

Depending upon how thick your new carpet is, you'll need to leave a 7-10mm gap around the perimeter of the room when you install the grippers. In order to secure them, make sure the nails are facing towards the wall and upwards. If you need to get extra strength, stagger the joints and cut the gripper accordingly.

## **Step 3 – Cutting the grippers**

It's a good idea to cut smaller grippers so that they can be used in the corners of the room. To do this, use a hammer and bolster. Two nails should then secure these smaller grippers to the floor.

## **Step 4 – Roll out your underlay**

If you're using underlay, start unrolling it from one wall to the other. You can cut the underlay with a utility knife to ensure it creates a smooth edge. Using the knife again, cut the underlay to the appropriate size by cutting on the inside edge of the carpet grippers.

## **Step 5 – Securing the underlay to the floor**

You'll need a staple hammer to secure the floor to the underlay. It's only necessary to staple around the outside edge of the room to secure it fully. If you're installing the carpet onto a concrete subfloor, you may also want to use spray adhesive.

## **Step 6 – Installing Additional Rolls of underlay**

Additional rolls of underlay will usually be required. When rolling out, make sure the central edges are pushed together to form what is known as a 'butt join'. After you've lined up the two edges, cut the roll to size then staple exactly how you did with the first roll.

## **Step 7 – Roll out the carpet**

After all rolls of underlay have been secured, roll out the carpet and use your feet to square it up. You'll need to make sure you're walking into the pile to ensure its straight edge runs along the wall and the pile is brushed upwards.

## **Step 8 – Stretching out the carpet**

You'll need your knee kicker here to get the carpet's straight edge onto the smooth edge. It's important to make sure your shoulder is above your hand when using the kicker to allow for maximum impact and to prevent you from slipping and potentially pulling the carpet out.

Use a bolster or carpet tucking knife to push the carpet on the gripper. Make sure the carpet is attached roughly at the quarter of the length of the room. Move on to the opposite side and work towards the corner in order to fully stretch the carpet.



### **Step 9 – Connecting the carpet**

Mark off a straight line within the pile using a nail, then use a utility knife to cut it open. Making sure the piles are running in the same direction, carefully line up the two sections of carpet. Take your joining tape and position it so that it is centred underneath the first piece of carpet. Peel the protective film away to reveal the adhesive and press one side down, followed by the other side. They should be closely butted together.

We know it can be confusing if you've never installed a carpet before. So if you require any further help don't hesitate to contact us.

### **Care and Maintenance**

We recommend that following a new installation you should vacuum your carpet taking care to use the correct settings and equipment supplied with the vacuum, carpets with a pile and no loops will benefit from brushes and the use of a beater bar, Carpets constructed from loops will benefit from suction only as brushes and beater bars will cause damage to the loops. You may find that the pile will shed particularly in the case of wool carpets, this is perfectly normal and is caused by smaller fibres working loose from the manufacturing process.

Following on from the installation you may notice a slight odour, this can be caused by the newness of the carpet itself, the underlay or possibly any adhesives that may have been used. Ventilate the room by opening any windows and doors, you should find any smell disappears after a few days.

We recommend a regular vacuuming regime not only will this will help prevent dirt and grit from getting into the carpet fibre but will also help to keep the tufts in an upright direction. The use of door mats at the entrances of outdoor areas will also help to reduce the amount of dirt, grit and moisture being transferred to the carpet, making sure that the door mats are also cleaned on a regular basis.

Wool has a good natural resistance to staining however they can still occur, don't panic and dive in with a stain remover and heavy brush. To begin lightly spray just plain water and see if will help lift the stain, take a plain white towel and try blotting the stain working from the outer most edges of the stain in towards the centre, this will help prevent the stain from getting any larger.

If the stain is a little tougher a mixture of water and white vinegar can be mixed and applied, allow it to work on the stain for about 10 – 15 minutes before you begin the blotting action, if it requires a brush to be used gently brush the pile 10 times in a single direction and then 10 in the opposite, NEVER scrub the pile, this can cause the tufts to burst and cause permanent damage.

The tips contained in this guide are only tips, and we recommend you seek cleaning advice from a professional service if you have any doubts in treating a stain.