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734 SOUTH RIVER STREET
CALHOUN, GEORGIA 30703
1.844.225.3100
www.encorehospitalitycarpet.com

Installation Instructions

Broadloom Carpet

Before cutting any of your carpet, please inspect it to ensure it is the correct pattern, style, color, and size. Please review the dye lot of each roll. Rolls from different dye lots should not be installed side by side as shade differences may exist. Please inspect your carpet for visible defects. If there are any questions or problems do not cut the carpet. Please call ENCORE at (855) 225-3100.

ENCORE will not be responsible for carpet cut or installed with visible defects. Carpet must be installed by a qualified installer, in accordance with The Carpet and Rug Institute's Standard for Installation CRI 104. ENCORE cannot be responsible for installation related deficiencies.

Storage of Carpet & Site Preparation

All carpet must be stored in a manner which protects it from all outside elements. Rolls should not be stacked more than 2 rolls high, and should not be stored for more than 90 days prior to installation. The carpet should not be installed until the HVAC system is operational, and the ambient temperature must be maintained between 65 and 95 degrees F (18 and 35 degrees C), and the relative humidity must be between 10% and 65%. The temperature of the subfloor must not be below 65 degrees F. These conditions must be maintained at least 48 hours before, during, and 72 hours after the installation. The carpet should be allowed to acclimate in these same conditions for at least 24 hours before installation.

Site Conditions

The subfloor should be clean, dry and free of dust. Any cracks, holes, or depressions should be patched and made level with a cement based patching compound. For glue down or double stick installations, any grease, wax, paint, curing agents, excessive old adhesive, or any foreign substances which would interfere with the bond of the new adhesive should be removed. New concrete should be cured, clean, and dry. If the subfloor is powdery or dusty, it should be primed with a suitable primer that is compatible with both the subfloor and the adhesive.

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Carpet Cushion

ENCORE recommends that all carpet cushions used with our carpet be a minimum density of 7.5 lbs. per cubic foot, and be no greater than 7/16 of an inch in total thickness. ENCORE has available a variety of cushions for both stretch in and double glue installations, and all of our cushions meet or exceed the density and thickness requirements. ENCORE recommends the use of ENCORE cushions with the installation of ENCORE carpets.

Methods of Installation

All ENCORE carpets may be installed via the stretch in method, the double glue method, or the direct glue method. There are differences between cutting and installing En-Pointe, and tufted carpet, versus printed carpet. Before cutting the carpet, each roll should be examined and measured for bow, skew, pattern elongation, and trueness of edge. This will allow the installer to properly place the rolls for seaming.

Seam & Edge Preparation

All carpet must be cut from the face, and all carpet except printed carpet should be row cut. To row cut, first determine where you are going to match the pattern at the seams. Then use a row finder, an awl, or a flat screwdriver to separate the rows of yarn where you are going to cut the carpet. Using a cushion back cutter with a sharp blade, cut the carpet where you have separated the yarn.

Cutting Seam Edges on Printed Carpet

When cutting printed carpet for seaming, you should cut the carpet from the face and not the back. Do not row cut printed carpet. Find an exact point in the carpet where you want to make your seam. The exact point should be far enough in from the edge of the carpet that you will have a good edge to seam. Use a metal straight edge as a guide to cut from the exact point in the first pattern to the next, etc. Use the straight edge down the entire seam edge and cut the carpet in short distances. Do not snap a chalk line and cut down the chalk line as you may have some minor variations in the patterns that will prevent you from matching the pattern.

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Seam Sealing for Stretch In & Double Glue Installations

All cut edges must be seamed with a high quality seam sealer. A bead of seam sealer should be applied down the entire length of both sides of the carpet to be seamed. The seam sealer should be applied at the point where the yarn enters the secondary backing. Be careful to keep the seam sealer from getting on the face of the carpet. Allow the seam sealer to dry completely before making your seam. Seam sealer should also be used on any cut edges where the cut edge of the carpet meets a transition strip or another flooring surface. A transition strip is required where the carpet meets another flooring surface. The strip should be installed to cover the cut edge of the carpet to prevent edge ravel.

Seam Sealing for Direct Glue Installations

All cut edges must be seamed with a high quality seam sealer. Follow the above instructions but place the seam sealer along the entire edge of only one of the breadths of carpet to be seamed. Do not allow the seam sealer to dry. Construct the seam while the seam sealer is wet, so that the seam sealer will transfer to the edge of the carpet that did not receive seam sealer and the edges of both breadths of carpet will have seam sealer on them.

Double Glue Installations

The cushion must be laid in a direction where the seams will be at a right angle (90 degrees) to the carpet seams, or offset by at least six inches. Do not tape or staple the cushion seams. The cushion must be one intended for double glue installations, and it must be adhered to the subfloor using a premium permanent adhesive. Do not use a pressure sensitive adhesive. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for trowel size but it should be a minimum of a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square or U-notch trowel, yielding about 18 to 20 sq. yds. (160 to 180 sq. ft.) per gallon. If the carpet seams are cut over the cushion use caution not to cut the cushion. The rolls should be placed in accordance to roll sequence based on the size of the pattern repeats so the rolls with the smaller patterns may be stretched to match the rolls with the larger patterns as shown in the pattern elongation diagram on page 5. A premium permanent adhesive must be used to adhere the carpet to the cushion. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for trowel size, but it should be a minimum of a 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-notch trowel which should yield about 5 to 8 sq. yds. (45-75 sq. ft.) per gallon. All carpet seams must be adhered with a non-silicone, low profile hot melt seaming tape. The carpet should be rolled with a 30 to 50 lb. roller. No traffic should be allowed on the carpet for a minimum of 48 hours after the installation.

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Stretch In Installations

All stretch in installations must be done with a power stretcher in order to obtain an adequate amount of stretch. Knee kickers should be used only to position the carpet. Architectural tack strip or two rows of commercial tack strip should be used for all commercial installations. All cut edges must be seam sealed prior to seaming. Use only pad that is designed for stretch in installations. Using six inch seaming tape will help prevent seam peaking. The carpet rolls should be placed in accordance to roll sequence based on the size of the pattern repeats so that the rolls with the smaller patterns may be stretched to match the rolls with the larger patterns as shown in the pattern elongation diagram the size of the pattern repeats below. It is helpful to pre-stretch the pattern prior to seaming.

Direct Glue Installations

On a direct glue installation, place the rolls in accordance to roll sequence based on the size of pattern repeats so the smaller patterns may be stretched to match the larger patterns (shown below). Before spreading the adhesive, inspect the carpet across several breadths to determine where you are going to correct for bow, skew, trueness of edge, and pattern elongation. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for trowel size but it should be at least a 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" V notch trowel yielding about 10 to 12 sq. yds. (90 to 110 sq. ft.), per gallon of adhesive. Begin making your seams in the middle of the room, and begin making your seams in the middle of the seam. This allows you to stretch any elongation in two different directions. You will need a power stretcher to match all the patterns at all of the seams. You may need to use stay nails to hold the carpet in place, where you have stretched the carpet to match the pattern. When the adhesive sets up, it will hold the carpet in place, and you will need to remove the stay nails after 24 hours.

Pattern Bow, Skew, & Trueness of Edge

Inspect each roll for pattern bow, skew, and trueness of edge, as illustrated in the diagram below. Inspect the carpet across several breadths to determine where you will need to correct the bow and skew. The carpet may or may not have true edges, but all patterned carpet will have some bow and skew. The tolerance is based on how much a qualified installer can correct by stretching the carpet. A power stretcher is necessary to correct for bow and skew.

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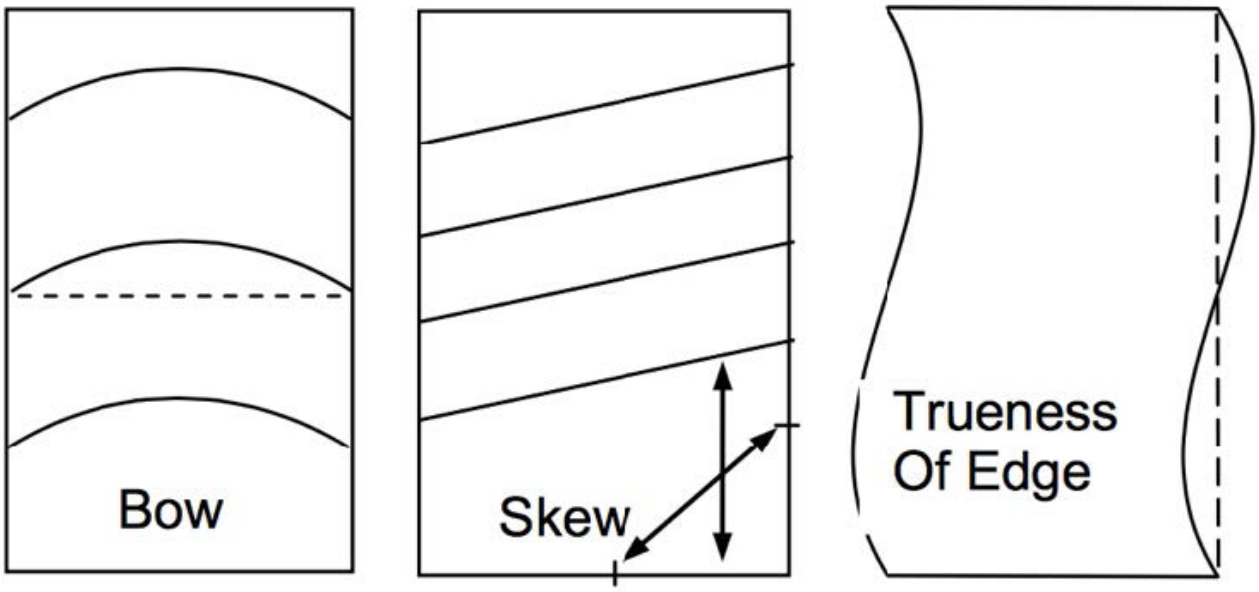

Correcting for Bow - Direct Glue & Double Glue

Row cut side seams on pattern. Cut the ends of the rolls on pattern, following the bow. Pull the center of the bow to the wall, creating a wrinkle or bubble in the longer edges. Spread the adhesive up to within six inches of the side seams, so the side seams can be made after the bow is straightened. Using a power stretcher, stretch the longer edges toward the other side of the room, removing the wrinkles or bubbles and straightening the pattern. Stay nail the carpet in place as you go, and remove the nails after 24 hours when the adhesive sets up. Stretch In – At all end seams and cuts at the walls, cut the carpet with the pattern, following the bow. First make side seams and match the pattern. Then cut both ends with the pattern, following the bow, and stretch the short edges to the wall. Align the pattern at the wall by stretching the long edges. Stretch to align the pattern at all walls.

Correcting for Skew - Direct Glue & Double Glue

Spread the adhesive up to within six inches of the side seams so that the side seams can be made after the skew is corrected. Cut the ends of the rolls with the pattern, following the skew. Position the short end of the skew at the wall creating a wrinkle or bubble at the long end of the skew. Stretch the long end toward the other wall, removing the wrinkle or bubble

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and straightening the skew. Use stay nails as you stretch, to hold the carpet in place. Remove the nails after 24 hours. Stretch In –First make the side seams and match the pattern. Once side seams have been made the carpet should be at an angle to the wall. Put the short side of the carpet on the tack strip, creating a wrinkle on the long side. Attach the long side to the tack strip while stretching across the room, forcing the wrinkle diagonally to the short side on the opposite side of the room.

Correcting for Trueness of Edge - Direct Glue & Double Glue

Snap a chalk line where the side seams are to be made. Row cut the sides of the carpet following the S-shape. Spread the adhesive for only half of the width. Bring the most extended part of the S to the chalk line, power stretch the valleys of the S-shape to the chalk line and make the seam being careful to match the pattern, and stay nail the carpet to hold it in place. Remove the nails after 24 hours. Stretch In – Follow the above for making the hot melt seams, and stretch each side of the carpet to a straight line against the wall to flatten the seam and remove the S shape.

Pattern Matching Pattern Elongation

All patterned carpet will have some pattern elongation. It is an inherent characteristic of the manufacturing process. Pattern elongation is small differences in the sizes of the individual patterns and is so subtle you may not notice it by simply looking at the carpet. For this reason, you should measure an equal number of patterns down each side of each roll of carpet and see how many inches it takes to get an equal number of full patterns on each side. You should measure at least 144 inches (12 feet) or however many inches it takes to measure the last complete pattern. Compare the differences between the roll edges. For example, a carpet with a 3-inch pattern length should have exactly 48 patterns in 144 inches (12 feet). However, on one roll of carpet it may take 145 inches to get 48 complete patterns and the roll that you are seaming too may have 48 patterns in 144 inches, Therefore, you are going to have to stretch the one side of the carpet an inch in 12 feet in order to match the pattern at the seam. The only way to correct for pattern elongation is to stretch the shorter side of the seam to the longer side of the seam. Please see the diagram below.

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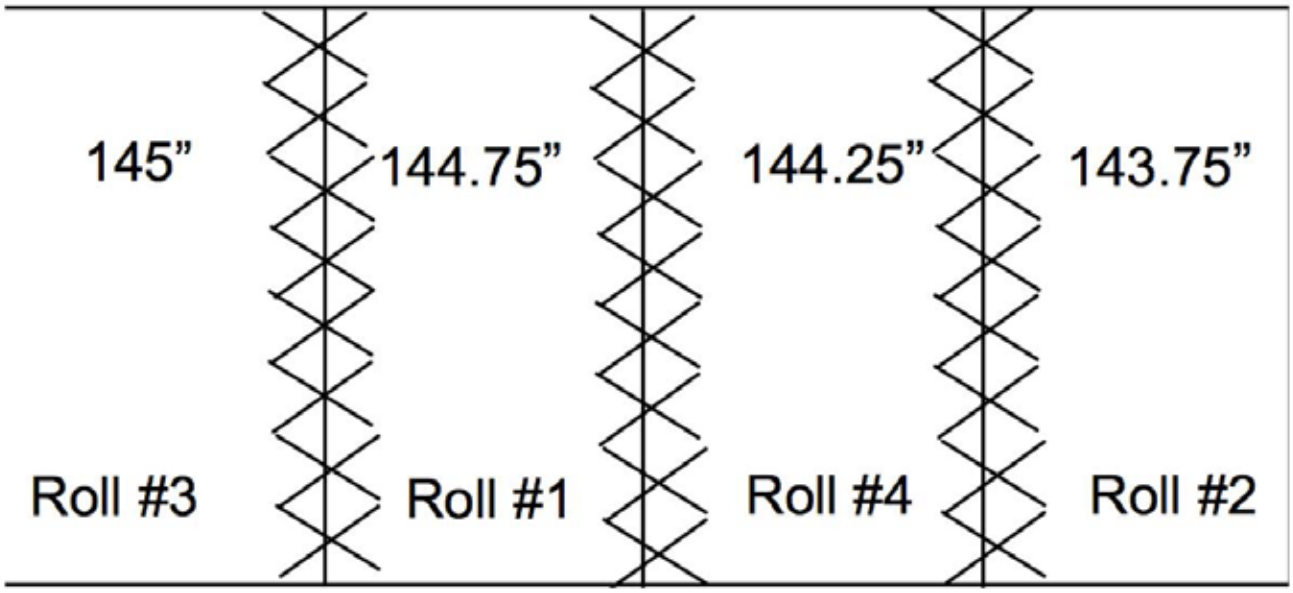

Correcting for Pattern Elongation

As mentioned, pattern elongation is a very small difference in the length of the patterns in a given difference. As such the only way to correct for this difference is to stretch the carpet with the shorter patterns to match the longer patterns. In the diagram above, the patterns on roll #1 are shorter (144.75”) than roll #3 (145”) therefore roll #1 must be stretched ¼” to match roll #3. Likewise, roll #4 must be stretched ½” to match roll #1, and roll #2 must be stretched ½’ to match roll #4.
Protecting The Carpet – If it is necessary to cover the carpet to protect it do not use any covering with applied adhesive as the adhesive will adhere to the yarn and create soiling issues. The carpet should be covered with craft paper, cardboard or breathable plastic.