

## Carpets Installation Guidelines

Carpet and Carpet Tile

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### Preface

These sheets have been compiled to present a basic overview of procedures when installing Gradus carpets. It has been designed as a guide for users of our products, and should be read in conjunction with relevant British Standards and codes of practice i.e.

**BS 5325:2001** - Code of practice for installation of textile floor coverings

**Carpet installation manual** - Published by RBI (Europe) Ltd for The National Institute of Carpet and Floor layers (NICF)

As with all textile floor coverings it is essential that correct installation techniques, materials, accessories and tools be used if a trouble free installation is to be achieved.

The following instructions will assist in saving time on the installation and avoid costly callbacks for restretching etc.

Should you require any additional advice prior to installation please contact Technical Support on 01625 428922.

### Introduction

#### Installation of Secondary Backed Tufted Carpets in Contract Areas

The Gradus Carpets range of cut-pile and loop-pile tufted carpets are available with different types of secondary backing designed to meet specific end-use applications and customer requirements. The following table details the different types of secondary backing with the appropriate installation system:

BACKING	INSTALLATION SYSTEM		
	DIRECT STICK	DOUBLE STICK	TACKIFIER
BROADLOOM			
IMPERVIOUS			
BITUMEN			

	Recommended by Gradus
	Not recommended by Gradus

\*Gradus do not recommend the use of secondary backed carpet with double stick underlay systems.

### Sub Floor

Before laying the carpet the sub floor should be checked to ensure that it is in good condition to receive carpet. The sub floor should be clean, free from contamination, smooth and free from indentations and ridges, which could have an effect on the appearance and wear of the carpet.

When installing carpets onto concrete or cementitious sub floors it is extremely important to ensure that the sub floor is dry and the relative humidity is below 75%. This can be checked using a hygrometer or other specialist products such as one of the Protimeter range of instruments.

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### Conditioning

All textile materials, adhesives, etc should be conditioned in the area in which they are to be used for a period of 24 hours before they are installed. If installing tiles, these should be removed from their boxes to condition.

### Direct Adhesion - for Broadloom and Impervious Carpets

#### Step 1

The carpet is laid out and cut oversize by about 50mm to allow for subsequent trimming in. The position of any seams is marked on the sub floor using a chalk line.

#### Step 2

The carpet is turned back to about half its length or width, as appropriate, and the adhesive spread on the sub floor using a notched trowel of the correct depth. The carpet is then laid into the wet adhesive. The carpet is then rolled or glided to ensure adhesive transfer. The procedure is repeated for the second half of the carpet.

#### Step 3

The edges of the carpet are trimmed to ensure a neat finish. After approximately 1 hour the carpet is glided or rolled to ensure correct adhesion.

**Pvc impervious backed carpet should be acclimatised at room temperature in the area in which it is to be installed for 24 hours before installation. The carpet should be installed using F.Ball & Co F45 or Bostik Laybond HT adhesive. All carpet joints should be sealed using F. Ball F30 seaming adhesive. Adhesives should be applied according to the manufacturer's instructions. The carpet should not be trafficked during the installation process or until the adhesive has fully cured.**

### Seaming

The joints on broadloom and impervious foam backed carpets should be sealed by using a proprietary seaming adhesive, the use of such adhesive is also necessary when installing pvc impervious backed carpets.

### Installing carpet on stairs

A suitable stair edging, available from the Gradus range of stair edgings, should always be used on stairs.

### Installation of Carpet Tiles

#### General

Carpet tiles should be removed from their boxes and conditioned on site for at least 24 hours before fitting.

An arrow on the back of the tile indicates the pile direction. Tiles can be laid with the arrows in the same direction to create a broadloom effect or in a chequer board effect by laying tiles at right angles to each other.

#### Setting Out

Before setting out for the installation, it is essential to ensure that the sub floor is clean, dry, level, smooth and free from contaminants. To obtain a high standard of installation it is necessary to plan your setting out carefully.

The correct starting point for setting out is the centre of the area to be tiled. It should be noted however that the final starting point for the installation might be offset from the centre line to ensure the correct size and balance of the side cuts.

There are several ways of determining the centre of an area depending on the shape of the room.

### Regular Areas

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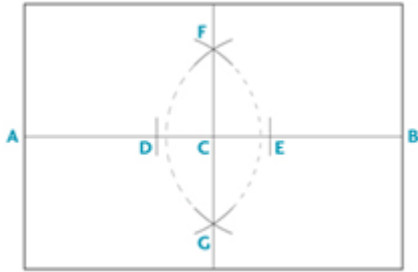
#### Gerflor Flooring UK Limited

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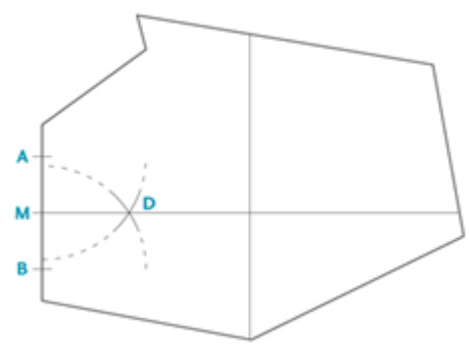
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1. Measure the two shortest walls at opposite ends of the room and mark the centre points A and B.
2. Strike a chalk line between these two points making a line AB. Measure the length of this line mark the centre C.
3. Mark two points on this line D and E one metre from C.
4. Scribe arcs from D and E to cut at F and G.
5. Join F and G with a chalk line and extend the line to the walls. This line should pass through point C. The two line AB and FG will form a right angle at C. This can be checked by using the 3,4,5 rule.
6. The centre of the area to be tiled has now been determined and two datum lines made.

### Irregular Areas

This method is similar to that for regular areas.



If the area to be tiled is irregular, take any convenient wall and determine the midpoint M.

1. Mark two points A and B on this line one metre from M.
2. Scribe arcs from A and B to cut at point D.
3. Strike a chalk line from M through D and continue to the opposite side of the room.
4. Measure the length of this line and mark the centre point C.
5. Following the procedure for regular rooms, determine and draw a right angled cross line. This can be checked using the 3,4,5 rule.

Having determined the centre point of the area to be tiled and drawn the two datum lines at right angles to each other, it is advisable to have a dry run to ensure that the proposed layout will balance and that there will be no awkward size filling pieces to be cut. If necessary the datum lines can be adjusted to ensure a balanced installation.

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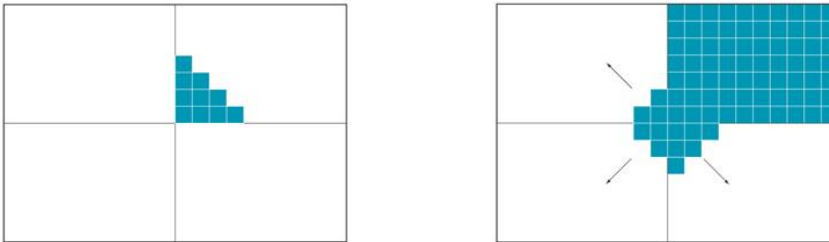
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### Laying the Tiles

Gradus recommend that tiles be installed over a tackifier adhesive. The tackifier should be applied according to the adhesive manufacturers recommendation. The tackifier should be allowed to dry to a clear tacky film before laying the tiles. Tiles should not be laid into wet tackifier as this will result in a permanent bond.

### The starting point for the installation should be as near to the centre of the room as possible.

Starting at the intersection of the two datum lines the tiles are built up in a pyramid fashion using the step technique. It is important to ensure that the tiles are butted up tightly together, taking particular care to prevent the trapping of pile between adjacent tiles.



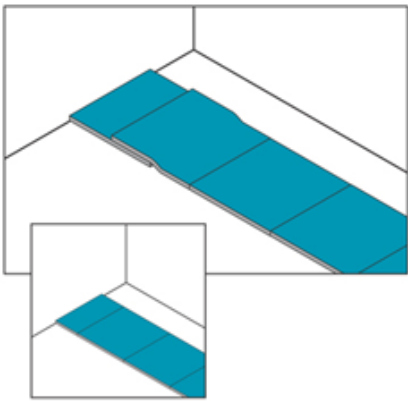
Having completed the first quadrant, the remaining quadrants can be completed. Growth should take place, not along the datum lines but along an imaginary diagonal line.

### Cutting perimeter Tiles

There are several methods, which can be used to obtain an exact fit of the perimeter tiles.

#### Method A

When the last full tile has been fitted take another tile, turn it upside down and slide it under the last full tile, ensuring that it is tight against the wall and with the pile running the right way.



Using the final tile as a guide cut the upside down tile with a sharp knife. Turn the cut tile over and lay it tight against the wall.

#### Method B

When the last full tile, A, has been fitted, a second tile, B, is placed directly on top. A third tile, C, is now placed face up on top of tile B, but butting up tightly against the wall.

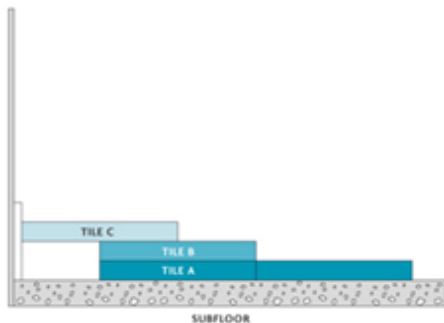
A small incision is now made with a sharp knife on each side of tile B where tile C overlaps.

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Having removed tiles B and C, tile B is turned over and using a straight edge, the tile is cut from the back. The cut tile will fit exactly between tile A and the wall.

### Installing carpet tiles on stairs

When installing carpet tiles on stairs the tiles are cut to fit each individual stair tread and riser and adhered with a permanent adhesive.

A suitable stair edging, available from the Gradus range of stair edgings, should always be used on stairs.

### References

It is strongly recommended that the installer be fully conversant with the information and recommendations contained in the following publications:

BS 5325:2001 Code of practice for the installation of textile floor coverings

The Official NICF Carpet Installation Manual

Reference to adhesive manufacturers instruction leaflets is also recommended

### Notes

To comply with Gradus carpet warranties, appropriate stair edgings must be fitted on all stairs.

For further information contact Gradus Technical Support on 01625 428922

Refer to the sample book to check the appropriate tile laying direction.