

Installation Instructions Carpet Tiles/Planks

Please read the below instructions before you begin installation

Quick Reference Guide

Installation:	Conform to current AS 2455.1 & 2455.2 standards and these instructions
Types of sub-floors:	Concrete, cement sheet or timber.
Installation system:	Full spread pressure sensitive adhesive.
Adhesives (to be used to manufacturer's directions):	Use Armstrong Flooring recommended adhesives as set out in the Armstrong Flooring Recommended Adhesive guide or other reputable brand adhesives that have been tested with Armstrong Flooring Carpet Tiles.
Special Instructions:	All Armstrong Flooring Carpet Tile and Planks are manufactured with a batch number, which is located on the product packing. Products installed in the same area should be from the batch.

WARNING!

Resilient floorcoverings, adhesives and underlays manufactured in or imported to Australia prior to 1 January 1984 may contain asbestos. If it cannot be definitively established that the previous floorcoverings, adhesives and/or underlay do not contain asbestos:

- You should avoid creating dust and should not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast or mechanically chip or pulverise the existing floorcoverings, adhesives or underlay, and
- The previous flooring should only be removed by an appropriately licensed asbestos removal contractor.

To The Installer

Before cutting and installing Armstrong Flooring floor coverings inspect the materials in a well-lit area to ensure correct product, colour, pattern and quantity (as ordered), that given areas are from the same batch and there is no obvious transit damage, manufacturing defects or other visual faults. Armstrong Flooring reserves the right to refuse an adjustment or claim for materials that are cut or installed where a reasonable inspection of the materials before installation would have identified the fault.

If there is a problem or doubt of any kind, then stop immediately and call Armstrong Flooring Customer Service on 1800 632 624 (AU) or 0800 449 649 (NZ).

Do not cut or install any damaged or defective material unless accepted, agreed and approved by all parties concerned.

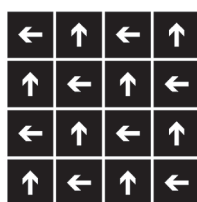
Job Site Preparation

Prior to installation carpet tiles/planks and adhesive should be allowed to acclimate to job climatic conditions for at least 24 hours at 15°C to 30°C. Temperatures in areas to be covered should be maintained at a minimum 15°C to 30°C for 48 hours prior to, during and after installation.

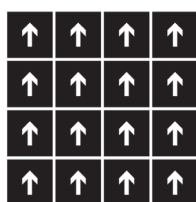
Directional arrows are printed on the back of all tiles and planks. Carpet tiles/planks have a number of installation method/direction options. Please refer to the Technical Datasheet for the particular product for the available installation methods/directions.

The required installation method/direction should be approved by the client prior to installation. Visibility of seams may vary depending upon installation method, and product patterns may require repositioning of individual tiles or planks to avoid dark or light lines occurring at the seams, particularly if using non-directional installation styles which can result in tiles or planks displaying a greater degree of shade change. If no specific installation method is stated it is recommended that ¼ turn installation direction is used as this will break up the reflectance angles in the installation so minimizing the visual impact of any future repairs/replacements.

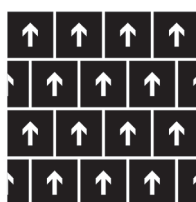
- Carpet Tiles Examples:



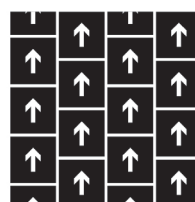
QUARTER - TURN



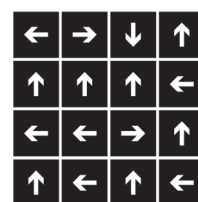
MONOLITHIC



BRICK

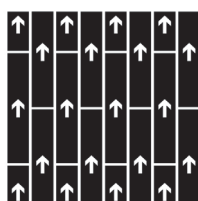


ASHLAR

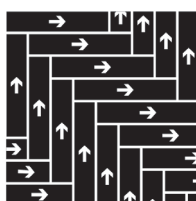


NON - DIRECTIONAL

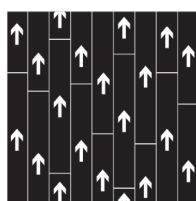
- Carpet Planks Examples:



ASHLAR



HERRINGBONE



RANDOM STAGGER

Subfloors

The condition of the subfloor not only has an important bearing on the appearance of the finished installation but can dramatically affect the life and serviceability of the floorcovering. It is the responsibility of the installer to assess and ensure that all subfloors are suitable and thoroughly prepared to meet the standard of AS 2455 for effective adhesive bonding and longevity of the carpet tiles. It is essential, therefore, that the subfloor be dry, smooth (no imperfections exceeding 1mm over 150mm), plane (no more than 4mm deviation over 2m), sound and clean and remedial work be completed pre-installation. The floor should be thoroughly cleaned to ensure it is free of old adhesive, grease, oil, paint, curing agents, parting compounds, surface treatments or similar used in the construction of the subfloor that may adversely affect adhesion and/or the carpet tiles.

Concrete Subfloors

Concrete subfloors must be cured and completely dry. New slabs should dry for at least one day per mm of thickness. Concrete slabs in contact with fill, hardcore or the ground must have a damp-proof membrane to prevent entry of moisture. Waterproofing additives and curing compounds do not replace the damp-proof membrane.

Concrete subfloors must be tested for moisture and alkalinity in accordance with current AS 2455.1 & 2455.2 using the "hood method" for RH testing. If a moisture barrier is not being used RH levels should not exceed 70% and a PH level between 7 to 9.

Any contaminants which may prevent adhesive forming a secure bond must be completely removed by mechanical (e.g. diamond grinding or shot blasting) prior to the installation of floor preparation and/or floor coverings.

Wooden Floors

Wooden floors must be firm, dry, and flat. Any squeaks or movement should be addressed. Where required timber sub-floors can be overlaid with a hard underlay or underlayment system. Hard underlay or underlayment systems must be installed to manufacturers specification and installation guides.

Access Floors

Access floors should be secure, smooth and level. Any non-conforming access floors must be assessed, rectified and repaired to allow installation of carpet tiles. Armstrong Flooring recommends an offset grid set out over the existing access panels - where possible and practical carpet tile seams should not align with access floor joints.

Heated Subfloors

Flooring material can be installed over heated subfloors provided the temperature at the surface of the slab does NOT exceed 28°C otherwise discolouration or other material alterations may occur.

If installing over a heated subfloor:

- Prior to the installation, the heating should be turned on for a minimum of 7 days prior to installation to remove traces of residual dampness that may be present in the subfloor.
- Heating should be turned off 48 hours prior to and during the installation to allow the subfloor to return to recommended installation temperature range.

- Heating should not be turned on until 48 hours after completion of installation to allow the adhesive to set and fully cure.
- Temperature can then be increased by 2 degrees per day until desired temperature is achieved. Maximum heating conditions should be avoided for a period of 7 days post completed installation, underfloor heating can cause localised hot spots that may be detrimental to the adhesive bond and to newly laid floor coverings.

Installation

1. Set out using a measuring tape and chalk line measure and find the centre of the room, create perpendicular lines intersecting to a 90-degree angle, ensure the first tile is placed at this reference point. This will ensure uniformity and a symmetrical appearance. The perpendicular lines can be adjusted to allow for perimeter cuts that fall less than half tile or plank width.
2. Apply pressure sensitive adhesive according to manufacturer guidelines. Armstrong Flooring recommends adhesive be applied with a long nap roller for general low traffic areas, or a new unworn V1 notch trowel for high traffic areas or areas with anticipated rolling loads to ensure optimal adhesion, ease of maintenance, and longevity of the flooring.
It is the responsibility of the installer to assess and ensure that the selected adhesive and application rate are suitable to the in-service conditions. Carpet tiles should be securely bonded, yet allow easy uplift as required for maintenance or repair. Use of incorrect adhesive system or application may void the Armstrong Flooring product warranty.
Adhesive must be allowed to completely tack off and change from white to clear to ensure no transfer – Never install carpet tiles into wet adhesive.
3. Placing the Carpet Tiles:
 - **Lay the first tile** in the centre of the room, aligning it with your predetermined reference lines.
 - **Press the tile firmly** onto the adhesive. To ensure full contact between the tile backing and the adhesive.
 - **Place each subsequent tile** working to the pyramid method and within the quadrants of the perpendicular lines, align tiles with the adjacent tile to ensure a consistent, neat installation. Complete each quadrants installation before proceeding the next quadrant. Adhering to the installation pattern or design selected by the customer.

Note: After laying the initial 10m² to 15m², step back and inspect the overall effect. If acceptable, then proceed.

 - **Cut and trim tiles** as necessary using a utility knife with a straight or concave blade. DO NOT attempt to cut through the tile in one action. Fold the tile along the cutting line to separate the pile and expose the backing layer, using a utility knife with a concave or hook blade complete the cut from the underside. Templates should be used around columns/curved areas etc. Be sure not to leave excessive gaps between the tiles and fixtures, fittings and walls.
4. **Roll** the installed carpet tiles with a 45kg roller in both directions (East/West, North/South) to ensure full contact between the adhesive and tiles and adhesive transfer. This step is essential to avoid air pockets and gaps in the adhesive bond.
5. **Curing time:** The adhesive should be left to cure according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Typically, you can walk on the tiles lightly after 1-2 hours, but full curing time may take 24-48 hours.

Installing The Carpet Tiles To Stairs

Carpet tiles and planks can be installed to stair treads and risers as set out below provided the subfloor surface is suitably prepared. Carpet tiles/planks **CANNOT** be installed over the stair nose of the stair structure. A suitable stair nosing should be selected and installed to the nosing manufacturer's requirements and installation guides.

1. Measure and cut the required riser pieces. Apply pressure sensitive adhesive to the carpet tile/plank direct and the substrate, allow the adhesive to fully tack up and place the riser piece into location and roll with hand roller to ensure full bond.
2. Once the risers are in place, measure and cut the required tread pieces, apply sensitive adhesive to the carpet tile/plank direct and the substrate, allow the adhesive to fully tack up and place the tread piece into location and roll with hand roller to ensure full bond. Installation of the treads after the risers assists to hold and support the previous riser pieces installed.

NOTE: Depending on selected stair nosing the stair nosing may be required to be installed pre carpet tile riser and tread installation, where some nosing's are installed post carpet tile installation.

Armstrong Flooring carpet tiles/planks are not recommended to use on a separate underlay, as stability and/or performance of the product cannot be guaranteed.

Precautions During Construction

All flooring should be protected during the construction period using paper-based floor protection system. Where additional or solid protection is required first install, the paper-based flooring protection system, and then rigid material over this (plywood, hardboard).

Surface protection should only be applied over clean floors. Do not apply tape or stick protection directly to the flooring.

Do not allow water to sit on or under the protection materials. Should the protection materials be exposed to water and become wet, the protection materials **MUST** be immediately removed. Allow the floor to dry, then re-apply surface protection.

Armstrong Flooring does not recommend the use of plastic materials for the protection of carpet floor products during construction (e.g. builder's plastic, corflute®, sticky back carpet or vinyl protector or films), as these materials can damage the floor. Should any plastic materials be required post installation, it is the responsibility of the contractor should any condensation occur.

Post Installation

- Remove all debris and installation waste.
- Allow 48 hours before vacuuming.
- Remove all floor preparation materials, any adhesive residue from flooring and skirtings/kick boards. Adhesive residue may be removed using a clean white cloth dampened with small amounts of water or by following the adhesive manufacturer's instructions.
- To allow for the setting and drying of adhesives, do not allow heavy rolling loads for at least 24 hours after installation. If rolling loads cannot be avoided, protect the flooring by covering with paper-based protection and then to disperse the weight cover this with rigid material (plywood, hardboard).

For detailed maintenance instructions please refer to the Armstrong Flooring Cleaning and Care Instructions for Carpet Tiles/Planks.

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