

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

AXMINSTER



INSTALLING AXMINSTER

Signature Floors *Axminster* shall be installed by experienced and qualified installers in accordance with industry standards and best practices as outlined in the current Australian/New Zealand Standards AS/NZS 2455.1 Signature Floors does not accept any claim for a product which has been incorrectly installed according to industry standards.

It is expected that all installers handling our materials, be familiar with the current AS/NZS 2455.1 the minimum guidelines for installing commercial carpeting. These guidelines are readily available to all installers. Many of these guidelines will prove helpful. We recommend skilled installers with the *Axminster* installation experience as it requires more time and attention to detail for a successful installation.

Signature Floors recommends the dual bond method of installation for all commercial installations. *Axminster* will stretch more in its length than its width, making the carpet susceptible to rucking in high traffic areas if conventionally laid.

Any other proposed method of commercial installation should be discussed with Signature Floors prior to the commencement of installation.

Prior to installation, all material needs to be carefully inspected. All these products are made from 'natural' fibres, containing various inherent irregularities synthetic fibre does not. We will not cover the cost of labour on visible claims, so it is important to inspect prior to investing your time.

DUAL BONDING

The selection of the dual bond underlay should be suitable for the environment in which it is to be installed, Signature Floors recommend the use of Dunlop Technics 5 and Airstep Sensi Slab. The installation of these underlays must be in accordance with underlay manufacturer's recommendations.

The use of smooth edge is recommended.

The selection and application of adhesive must be in accordance with the adhesive manufacturer's installation instructions. Installers should be aware of the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations, when applying adhesives, and ensure the correct size notched trowels are used and maintained for the duration of the installation

All dual bond installations recommended to be installed using smooth edge around the perimeter.

All seams are to be seam sealed with latex or solvent seam sealer and must be heat bonded using appropriate low profile low heat, heat bond tape, compatible with the *Axminster*.

When using dual bond to install *Axminster*, the installation should be performed using only enough tension on the carpet to move the fullness from the carpet. Further tension is not able to be maintained by the adhesives and may result in the carpet lifting from the floor or misalignment of the pattern sequence. A string line, power stretcher and or stay nailing may be required to align the pattern. The carpet must be rolled to ensure adhesive transfer.

CONVENTIONAL INSTALLATION

We recommend the use of this method only when dual bonding is not appropriate. When using this method the carpet must be installed over an underlay not less than 3000g/m². Foam underlay is not suitable for the installation of *Axminster*.

Axminster must be installed with the aid of commercial carpet gripper strips. The carpet must be installed taut, flat and evenly tensioned, and to achieve the appropriate degree of tension requires the use of a tubed power stretch, aided by a knee kicker or suitable tubeless stretcher. It may also be appropriate to use string lines, and stay nails to achieve pattern match sequences. Carpets must be stretched both length and width ways, in accordance to directions set out in the current AS/NZS 2455.1.

Conventional installations can be subject to bubbling and rucking as a result of uncontrolled site conditions, such as high traffic areas and heavy rolling loads. In these instances dual bond installations are recommended.

PLANNING AND LAYOUT

In planning, consideration should be given where possible that all selvedge seams run in the length wise direction of the area, so that traffic flows along rather than across the seams. Where possible, pile should face away from the main source of light, and towards the main entry points in the area. Full widths should be planned on the door side of the area and part widths or fills should be positioned on the opposite side of the room to the entry point.

For custom made *Axminster* each roll has been planned and produced to fit in a pre-determined position on the floor, each roll is marked and its place noted on the plans. It is important to identify the correct start point and alignment of the first roll to ensure proper layout of each area.

We recommend each area is "dry laid" prior to installation; this will enable the installer to foresee any adjustments to the layout that may be required. The pattern is to be squared and aligned in length and width before commencing final installation. Begin square and you can end up square, always think straight lines.

The use of string lines or lasers is recommended to ensure proper alignment, it may be necessary to power stretch and stay nail certain areas.

Whilst every effort is made to manufacture to the correct size requested, slight variations are unavoidable and the company will be deemed to have fulfilled the contract if the standards comply with those laid out by Australian Standards 1285.

All plans are compiled using all available information. All levels and dimensions must however be verified on site by the fitter before installation. Any discrepancies are to be reported to the project planner immediately.

Care should be taken in both the issue and installation in order to maintain correct/matching dye lots. These are identified on the back of the roll, packing list, invoice and control sheet (supplied by Signature Floors).

Additional seams may be required on site to ensure infinite weave panels will be positioned as shown on plan.

CARPET ON STAIRS

Stair nosing and return must be rounded 19 to 25 mm to prevent sharp stair edges from cutting the carpet and underlay, and to provide proper carpet contact for adhesive installations. Smooth edge is recommended for both dual bond and conventional installations.

Smooth edge is to be installed on each tread. Pins on the tread point toward the riser. On a waterfall type stair installation, smooth edge must be installed on risers. Pins on the risers point down to the tread. The gully between the strips is slightly less than double the carpet thickness. Where a turned finish is desired,

smooth edge and cushion are about 35 mm less than the carpet width, allowing for a turn under on each side of the stairs. Some stairs require tack strip on the sides to maintain the proper tension. When using a cap and band or upholstered technique, Smooth edge is not used on riser.

Carpet length should be installed parallel to length of stairs, with the pile running down the steps.

SITE CONDITIONS

Temperature and Humidity

Carpet must be installed when the indoor temperature is between 18-28°C, with a maximum RH (relative humidity) of 85%. If ambient temperatures are outside these parameters, the installation must not begin until the HVAC system is operational and those conditions are maintained at least 48 hours before, during and 72 hours after completion. Inside temperature should never fall below 12°C.

Floor Preparation

Carpet must be installed over properly prepared substrates that are suitable for the specific product and installation method selected. There is a minimum of 400mm of air space under wood sub-floors.

Concrete Floors

Even with adequate curing time, concrete floors can present an unacceptable moisture condition by allowing excessive amounts of moisture vapor to pass through to the surface. This can be a problem even on suspended concrete floors. Test all concrete floors for moisture emission rates using an in situ probe moisture test kit, the results should be less than 85%. Alkalinity, a pH reading above 9 requires corrective measures and is not suitable for installation.

Trimming

Carpet edges at seams must be trimmed far enough into the material to maintain the structural integrity of the carpet and to join edges without gaps or overlaps. Never cut carpet directly on top of carpet without use of a board. 'Top Cuts' can easily occur on flat-weaves and loop pile carpeting.

Sealing Edges

Once the edges are trimmed, both trimmed edges of the carpet sections to be joined must be sealed with an appropriate seam adhesive. Latex seam sealer or

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solvent adhesives are acceptable. Seam adhesive must be applied in a manner that encapsulates the backing without contaminating face yarns.

NOTE: Improper sealed edges often lead to seam delamination for loss of face yarn. This will be considered an installation related claim.

Seams

All *Axminster* will be constructed with two rows of coloured yarn down each selvedge edge. These must be trimmed off at installation to achieve the appropriate pattern match and a high quality seam finish. After trimming, edges must be seam sealed using latex to support the tuft bind on the cut edge. Seams must be heat bonded using appropriate low profile low heat, heat bond tape, compatible with *Axminster*.

When planning, note that the width of broadloom is 3600mm.

Unprotected Edges

At the transition between carpet and other floor coverings, carpet edges must be protected and covered with appropriate trim. In transition areas, the edge of the hard surface must be a minimum of 1.5 mm higher than the carpeted flooring. Seam sealer must be applied to the edge of the carpet at the transition area.

CAUTION: Improper pin-plate adjustment on knee kickers, power stretchers, crab-type stretchers, or similar installation tools can cause permanent damage to woven products. Use only the finer, more closely spaced pins (also known as a cotton head.) Make certain the pin depth adjustment is suitable by first practicing on a scrap of *Axminster*.

Once the carpet has been checked and all the necessary site preparations have been completed, layout according to the seaming diagram and proceed with careful attention to dye lot placement.

PROTECTION AFTER INSTALLATION

Traffic over adhesive installations should be restricted for a minimum of 48 hours to allow proper adhesive cure. Premature traffic can cause installation failure. Exposure to water from cleaning or other sources should be restricted for a minimum of 30 days.

Materials for Protection

If required to protect the finished floor covering from dirt, paint etc. or if additional work is to be done after the installation, cover it with a non-staining building material paper. Protect the installation from rolling traffic by using sheets of hardboard or plywood in affected areas

CAUTION: Plastic sheeting should not be placed over any carpet installation because it may present a slip hazard. In addition, it may trap moisture, retarding adhesive cure and/or promoting mold and mildew growth. Care should be used when using protective films with tack-adhesive; some have been found to leave residual deposits, resulting in rapid soiling after removal of protective film.

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