

INSTALLATION



Stretch Fit Installation Instructions

First things first

Before installation make sure that all the underlay received is as per your order and that there has been no damage in transit, obviously, let us know straight away if there are any issues.

It is important to allow the underlay to acclimatise to room temperature for as long as practical, room temperature should be at least 18°C and the relative humidity should not exceed 65%. In general the working practices should be as described in the following Code of Practice:

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

The following instructions are intended to act as additional notes to this code of practice and to cover or emphasise those particular details relating to the installation of Footfall Underlays.

Please also refer to the specific instructions of the carpet manufacturer.

Sub Floor Conditions and Floor Preparation

In general sub floor conditions should comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice quoted above.

A lot of effort goes into these standards and codes of practice with the aim of getting the best installation, so our advice is take a look at them.

Basically, it says that all sub floors should be clean, dry, level and structurally sound and free from any cracks and contamination. All cracks and holes should be adequately repaired to ensure a smooth finished appearance, patching and levelling compounds must be suitable for the end use application and must be compatible with any adhesives that may be used. Wooden floors showing warping, shrinkage or unevenness must be made good before continuing.

Asphalt floors must be isolated by applying a compatible 3mm thick surface underlayment, this avoids any chance of migration of the asphalt to the carpet.

Temperature/humidity and conditioning

The ideal indoor temperature for installation is between 18-35 °C, with a maximum air relative humidity of 65%. The subfloor temperature should not fall below 10 °C and it is important that the carpet and underlay are stored on site at the same temperature as the areas to be installed.

Underfloor heating

An ideal temperature for installation will be close to that to be used in normal conditions. If the underfloor heating is switched off the sub floor surface temperature should ideally be around 15 °C but no lower than 10 °C. Always tell the end user to avoid sudden or large changes in temperature, ideally temperatures should be increased in stages of 2 to 3 °C this allows the carpet to reach equilibrium to the new temperature before increasing further. In use underfloor heating should not exceed 27 °C.

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Lay out the underlay on the subfloor in the longest continuous lengths possible, taking into account carpet seam placement, it should be laid with the scrim upwards and the rubber crumb to the subfloor.

Cut the underlay so that it is approximately 50mm over the length required around the perimeter of the room. The seams must be butted together without compression or gaps. Ideally the underlay should be fitted at right angles to the run of the carpet.

There are many types and qualities of gripper, a width of 25mm obviously will offer more stability than narrower gripper. For large open areas use



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architectural gripper with 3 rows of pins or consider doubling up the gripper to give added strength so that a good tension can be achieved.

Gripper should be installed by mechanical fixings except in the case where there is underfloor heating is present. When fixing with glue gripper should be cut into smaller lengths of a maximum of 150mm. Grippers should be fixed so that they do not lift throughout the life of the carpet. Gripper should be positioned leaving a consistent gap of two thirds the thickness of the carpet to a maximum of 8mm, against all fixed objects such as skirting boards, architraves etc. Gripper should not be fixed across doorways.

The underlay should be fitted to the perimeter formed by the gripper and if possible laid at 90° to the direction of the carpet ensuring that joints do not coincide. The underlay should be butted together with tight seams with no gaps or compressions.

Always install the carpet in accordance with the carpet manufacturer's instructions.

These instructions are not exhaustive, if in any doubt please contact Footfall Flooring Ltd.



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