

**Installation
recommendations for
carpets with
Action Back**

1. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

A carpet with an Action Back can be installed on a subfloor that is prepared as defined in BS 5325 The Installation of textile floorcoverings.

Whatever the subfloor is, before work commences the fitter should ensure that the subfloor meets the following criteria:

- structurally sound and level
- permanently dry: prevent moisture affecting the dimensional stability of the carpet and to guard against rot
- smooth: prevent any telegraphing of indentations and ridges through the surface
- clean and free of all contaminants (dust, grease, oil, paint and plaster)
- if an underfloor heating system is present, it must operate within controlled temperatures

Irregular subfloors can be corrected by using the appropriate smoothing compound.

Most subfloors will require priming.

The type and condition of the subfloor has a direct influence on the installation and performance of a carpet with Action Back and the importance of subfloor preparation cannot be emphasised too strongly.

For further information request the subfloor preparation guide of your adhesive producer where you will find detailed information on how to prepare the subfloor and which products should be used.

2. INSTALLATION METHODS FOR CARPETS WITH ACTION BACK

Carpet with Action Back backing can be fitted in 3 different ways:

- the carpet can be installed on a **release adhesive**;
- with a **dispersion adhesive** you will have a strong adhesion to the subfloor;
- It can also be **stretched** over underlay with carpet gripper.

a) Installation on release adhesive

The installation on a release adhesive is a very removal friendly installation method, that is especially suited for application in private homes. Especially for rented houses there is a great demand for easy and quick removal of carpets without damaging the subfloor. Because of this special request, we recommend to use release adhesives that are soluble in water and as such are easily to remove from the subfloor.

A release adhesive is best applied with a roller.

After the waiting time, the carpet can be laid into the adhesive and thoroughly pressed.

A release adhesive stays sticky over time. In this way changing carpets is very easy. The old carpet can be loosened and removed with no trouble at all and without leaving any carpet remains behind. The new carpet can immediately be installed, with or without the application of a new coat of release adhesive.

A release adhesive is not suited to stick seams down. For seams we recommend the use of a dispersion adhesive (or a universal tackifier).

b) Installation on dispersion adhesive

A traditional full stick down method using a **dispersion adhesive** is only recommended in cases where a specially strong adhesion Action back carpet is required.

Subfloor preparation is a vital first consideration, to ensure that no contaminants or surface irregularities are present which could affect the appearance or stability of the installation. Therefore take care that the subfloor is sound, smooth, permanent dry, absorbent and free from any contaminants which will affect the adhesion. If necessary apply first a suitable smoothing compound and/or a primer to the subfloor, to get the ideal conditions.

Before starting, consult the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer and follow these conscientiously.

Spread the adhesive with a notched trowel evenly over the subfloor. We advise using a trowel with fine notching in order to apply a minimum of adhesive what will facilitate the removal of the carpet afterwards.

After the waiting time, lay the carpet into the adhesive and press firmly to ensure overall contact with the adhesive.

If there are **seams**, we advise always to stick the seams down with a dispersion adhesive. Before seaming commences, make sure that the edges are butt-joined together perfectly. Therefore, place both carpet pieces partly on top of each other, so the designs of both correspond, and cut through both using a knife with hooked blade. Close the seam and check, before applying the adhesive, the matching and the design repeats of both carpet pieces.

Fold both carpet pieces back and apply the dispersion adhesive with a notched trowel evenly over the subfloor.

After the recommended waiting time, lay the carpet into the adhesive and press firmly to ensure overall contact of the Action Back with the adhesive.

Close the seam and trim the carpet at the walls.

Carpets may only be fitted on **staircases** using a full stick down method with dispersion contact adhesive.

Always consult first the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer in order to find out which dispersion contact adhesive to use. You can find under point 3. Recommended Products some possible dispersion contact adhesives that can be used for this purpose.

Before starting to fit a carpet on a staircase, we recommend to apply an adhesive coating on the back of the carpet with a flat trowel. Allow this coating to dry before you start sticking the carpet on the staircase. This prevents too much of the adhesive to be taken up by the carpet backing.

Measure how long the carpet should be to cover both tread and riser and cut with a hooked blade knife the carpet pieces that you need.

Apply the contact adhesive evenly over the tread and riser of the upper step with a notched trowel.

If certain corners of the steps are difficult to reach with a trowel, you can also use a normal brush to apply the adhesive.

After the recommended waiting time, the carpet can be laid into the contact adhesive of the upper step and firmly pressed.

Stretch the carpet perfectly over the stairnose, using pincers, and press it firmly in the contact adhesive of the riser.

Finally you can trim the carpet at the bottom of the riser.

Fit the carpet in the same way on the remaining steps and you will get a superb result on your staircase.

c) Installation on gripper and underlay

Position the Gripper allowing a gully between the gripper and the wall. This gully should be approximately three quarters the thickness of the carpet to be laid.

Fit the underlay over the whole floor area and trim the surplus underlay flush to the edge of the gripper, ensuring that the underlay does not cover the gripper.

Fit the carpet on the underlay and over the carpet gripper.

Tension the carpet along the wall, hooking the carpet to the gripper using a Knee Kicker and press it into the gully using an Easy Tucker tool.

Surplus carpet can be trimmed off at the appropriate walls, leaving a quarter of an inch extra for turning down into the gripper gully for a neat, tightly fitting, non-fray edge.

If there are seams in an area where you would like to fit an Action Back carpet with underlay and carpet gripper, we would advise you to use the Floorworks system to achieve a seamless finish.

Before seaming commences, make sure that the edges are butt-joined together perfectly. Place both carpet pieces partly on top of each other, so the designs of both correspond, and cut through both using a knife with hooked blade. Close the seam and check, before applying the adhesive, the matching and the design repeats of both carpet pieces.

Place a Floorworks seaming tape under the seam and bump the two carpet pieces together so the cut edges of the carpet butt together exactly.

Set the seaming iron at the end of the tape and tuck the seam edges under the rear metal edge guide so they will line up and guide along the welding head.

Move the iron along at a steady speed. Always seam in the direction of the pile. If you run the iron against the pile, shading along the seam may occur.

The adhesive will be pumped up from the tape and through the welding head at the rear of the iron, fusing and sealing the seam edges permanently together.

Use a seam roller on the carpet at the rear of the iron to ensure a good penetration of hot melt adhesive into the carpet backing.

Brush the face yarn up so it will not cool in a down position.

After the seam has cooled, the carpet can be trimmed.

Prior to fitting on **stairs**, the stairs must be clean and dust free. Ensure that the stairs are firm and any tacks or nails are removed. Cut the gripper to fit across the width of the stairs and fit to the tread and riser with the pins pointing toward the crotch of the stairs.

Fit the underlay across the width of the stairs from the back edge of the Gripper on the tread to the back edge of the Gripper on the riser in one piece. Staple to hold in place.

Trim the surplus underlay so that the Gripper is not covered.

Fit the carpet on the staircase starting at the bottom of the riser, gently stretching the carpet over the gripper using a knee kicker and press the carpet into the gully using the easy tucker.

Note that the combination of standard Gripper pins and hook tape on the Gripper allows you to bolster the Action Back carpet into the stair crotch without the tape grabbing prematurely.

Once the carpet is sufficiently bolstered, tension the carpet onto the Gripper tape using a Knee Kicker. Roll the carpet up onto the next tread and repeat the procedure for the remaining stairs.