

Installation Guide

Home Choice Carpets

Carpets fall into three main types: felt, action and combi backed.

Preparation

Before you lay your carpet, you need to prepare your area.

- Firstly, give the floor a thorough sweep or vacuum.
- Check the floor's surface for any protruding nails, screw heads or any surface defects and if any are found make these flush with the floor's surface.
- If your floor is uneven or damaged, you may need to level it for a successful installation.
- Next, securely fit the carpet grippers around your room's perimeter (see below).
- Flooring products can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products.

Installation of grippers

Grippers work to keep the carpet securely in place, so it's important these are installed correctly.

- These need to be installed so that the gripper pins are angled towards the walls.
- **Top tip:** make sure you wear heavy duty gloves when handling these as the pins are very sharp.
- Position the gripper so that there is a gap of 3-4mm from the wall/skirting. An easy way to do this is to use a piece of wood (approx. 3-4mm wide) to position the gripper rods.
- You can fit it to concrete and wooden floors, and it comes with nails in place so it's ready to fix.
- If you can't nail the gripper rods into a concrete base, use gripper adhesive to resolve this.
- Make sure to position the gripper rods around the entire perimeter of the room, except for doorways.
- In doorways you'll need a threshold strip to finish off the flooring edge, consider the flooring in the adjacent room before choosing the appropriate strip.

Carpet underlay

All our carpets can be laid with a minimum of a 6-8mm underlay. We have 8-10mm options available.

- Fill the area within the gripper rods, edges can be overlap and you can stick this down with masking tape.
- Roll out the first length of the underlay, butting it up to the inside of the gripper rods - cutting to size if required.
- Roll out the next length of underlay and ensure the underlay doesn't overlap, join these together with gaffer tape.
- **Top tip:** for small gaps or awkward corners use underlay offcuts to minimise wastage
- Trim the ends to fit until all the underlay is fitted.
- Clean away any leftover underlay or debris.

Carpet installation

- **Top tip:** If you're installing the same carpet into two adjacent rooms, ensure to lay the carpet in the same direction, otherwise this will affect the overall look.
- Roughly trim the carpet with a utility knife to the shape of your room, allowing for extra for final trimming.
- Position the carpet so you're confident there is enough material to fill any alcoves and doorways.
- Once you're happy with the position, go over the carpet with both feet, working out any bumps, pushing them to the edge of the room, so you're left with an even surface.
- Vertically cut the excess carpet at the corners of your room, making this easier to work the carpet into the corner.
- Once the carpet is lying flat and fully into all corners, trim down excess, leaving approx. 100mm.
- Next, use a carpet stretcher to position into place and securely hook onto gripper rods.
- Once the carpet is fully secure, you should be left with an even fitted carpet.
- If not, any unwanted bumps should be corrected, by unhooking, stretching and rehooking.
- To remove the remaining excess, push the carpet into the corner and fold back onto itself, use a utility knife to trim, allow approx. 10mm excess, then use a carpet tucker to tuck the remaining carpet under the skirting board.
- Lastly, to secure onto the door threshold, cut and position carpet in the doorway and position the door threshold strip and cut the carpet just before the centre of the strip on the room side. Use the tucker bar to secure the carpet into the threshold strip.

Installation on stairs

- Installation to staircases require gripper or short pin gripper rods to be installed at a spacing of 10 -11mm from crotch to the front edge of the gripper rods with side spacing of 3-4mm for a continuous run of carpet.
- Stairs should be tensioned with stretcher before using a stair tool to tuck the carpet into the crotch.