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Technical Bulletin

Carpet Installation - Essential Points

Carpet and related materials must be stored in a heated, dry space.

Carpet shall be transported in a manner that prevents damage and distortion.

Carpet should be unrolled and adequately relaxed prior to commencement of installation.

Carpet should only be installed over properly prepared substrates and subfloors.

Other trades must have completed their work before carpet is to be installed.

Carpet shall be installed only after the HVAC system is operational with the temperature maintained above 65°F (18°C) and the relative humidity below 65%.

Seams shall be kept to a minimum and positioned so that where possible:

- Seams run the length of the area.
- Main traffic runs parallel to, rather than across the seam.
- Natural light does not strike across the seam.
- Seams are away from areas subject to pivoting traffic.
- Seams are not perpendicular to doorway openings.

When two or more pieces of the same carpet are seamed together, the pile shall run in the same direction.

A properly constructed seam may not be invisible, but should have these properties:

- Has cleanly trimmed edges properly secured with appropriate adhesive prior to seaming.
- Has tightly abutted edges without gaps or overlaps.
- Maintains uniform appearance on the surface of the carpet.

For stretch-in installation, the use of a power stretcher is mandatory.

Tufted carpet with synthetic secondary backing should be stretched 1% to 1½% in width and length.

For adhesive installations, subfloor must be clean, dry, and free from contaminants that may interfere with adhesion.

- Concrete - must be properly placed, finished, cured, and free of excessive moisture and alkali.
- Wood - must be structurally sound with adequate underneath ventilation.

NOTE: For complete copies of the industry installation standards, CRI-105 for residential carpet and CRI-104 for commercial carpet applications, contact the Publications Department of the Carpet and Rug Institute at 706/278-0232.