

INSTALL CARPETING

Carpet is one of the most common floor coverings found in homes today. These installation instructions go over the essential things you'll need to know during your carpet installation. For more detailed information on what to do before, during and after your carpet installation, see the full **Installing Carpet** guide on FindAnyFloor.com.

CARPET INSTALLATION METHODS

You can install carpeting with one of these methods:

- **Stretch-In** – For rolls of broadloom carpet. The carpet is cut to the correct dimensions and laid out above a suitable pad. The carpet is secured using tackless strips around the perimeter of the room. This is the most common installation method in homes today.
- **Glue Down/Double Glue Down** – For certain types of broadloom carpeting. The carpet is glued directly to the subfloor (glue down) or the padding is glued to the subfloor and the carpet is glued to the padding (double glue down). This method is good for indoor/outdoor carpeting or commercial, patterned carpet in high traffic areas.
- **Carpet Tiles** – Carpet tiles are arranged in various patterns and secured to the subfloor with adhesive tabs or double-sided tape. This method is mainly used in commercial buildings; however, it is gaining popularity in homes.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

You will need most of the general tools and materials on the first list plus anything specific for your installation method.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpenter's square | <input type="checkbox"/> Hammer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet or utility knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet (rolls or tiles) | <input type="checkbox"/> Padding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk line | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety goggles |

Stretch-In Installation

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awl | <input type="checkbox"/> Power stretcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet cutter | <input type="checkbox"/> Seaming iron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet roller, carpet tractor or rolling pin | <input type="checkbox"/> Seaming tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Stair tool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gripper edge | <input type="checkbox"/> Staple gun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knee kicker | <input type="checkbox"/> Staples |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leather work gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Tackless strip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nails | <input type="checkbox"/> Tackless strip cutters |

Glue Down/Double Glue Down Installation

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adhesive | <input type="checkbox"/> Nails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet roller, carpet tractor or rolling pin | <input type="checkbox"/> Notched trowel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gripper edge | <input type="checkbox"/> Push broom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leather work gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Seam sealer kit |

Carpet Tile Installation

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glue adhesive or double-sided tape (if required) | <input type="checkbox"/> Painters tape (if desired) |
|---|---|

INSTALLATION BASICS

- Carpet can be installed in rooms on any grade level over wood, particle board and cement subfloors.
- Some carpet can be installed over radiant heat systems. Always check with your manufacturer to ensure your carpet is approved for this type of installation.
- Most manufacturers do not recommend installing carpet tiles in Below Grade environments as mildew and mold can form below the tiles.
- Do not install carpet tiles above existing padding or carpet, unsealed concrete floors, unfinished waxed floors, or hand-painted/vintage floors.
- Choose the proper pad for your specific type of carpet. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations when choosing a pad. Do NOT reuse your existing pad. Installing an old or incorrect pad can cause your carpet to delaminate, wear prematurely or void the manufacturer's warranty. For more specific information about carpet pads, see the full **Installing Carpet** guide on FindAnyFloor.com.

PREPARE FOR INSTALLATION

- Remove all existing flooring, if necessary. Do not remove any existing flooring if you find asbestos. Follow all local, state and federal guidelines when handling and/or disposing of asbestos.
- Ensure your concrete subfloor is sealed with an appropriate sealer to protect the carpeting and pad from moisture.
- For glue down/double glue down commercial installations, perform a Calcium Chloride and pH Alkalinity test on concrete subfloors. Acceptable ranges include:
 - **Calcium Chloride** – Not to exceed 5 lbs per 24 hrs per 1000 sq ft.
 - **pH Alkalinity** – Above 9 on the pH scale.
- Ensure the subfloor is flat, level and free from all major dips or valleys. Minor imperfections (paint overspray, small dips) are OK.
- Remove all quarter round molding and doors and set aside. Leave wall base in place. NOTE: You may have to do some touch up to existing wall base after your installation.
- Sweep and vacuum your subfloor before installing your carpet.
- Always install safely. Use the proper safety equipment and follow all the manufacturer's safety recommendations.

STRETCH-IN METHOD

With this method the carpet is cut to the dimensions of the room and laid out above a suitable pad. The carpet is stretched and secured to tackless strips around the perimeter of the room. This is the most common installation method in homes today.

**TIPS AND TRICKS**

When installing with the stretch-in method, you'll be using a few specialized tools:

- **Carpet Cutter** – Use this tool to cut carpet after it has been stretched and secured to the tackless strip. Begin by cutting an entry point into the carpeting between the tackless strip and the wall. Position the cutter close to the wall/baseboard at the entry point. Press firmly and guide the cutter along the wall to evenly trim the carpet.
- **Carpet Roller** – Use this hand-held roller tool to blend carpet fibers together along seams.
- **Carpet Tractor** – A larger version of a carpet roller with multiple rows of rollers. Use this tool instead of a carpet roller to help blend the fibers along seams.
- **Knee Kicker** – Use this tool to position carpet in large rooms and stretch carpet in small areas. Set the teeth of the tool to a position relative to the thickness of the carpet. Place the teeth into the carpet about 6 inches from the wall. Be sure the head is pointing down and at an angle to the wall. Kneel down and hold the tool with one hand, while supporting yourself with the other. With all your weight on your support hand, kick the padded end of the tool with the area just above your knee. Secure or continue to position the carpet.
- **Power Stretcher** – Use this tool to stretch carpet correctly in large rooms. Place the extendable end of the tool against the wall/baseboard. With the opposite end, set the teeth of the stretcher in the carpet on the opposite wall. Use a moderate amount of force to press the lever down to stretch the carpet. (You should see the carpet stretch.) Once stretched, secure the carpet to the tackless strip.
- **Seaming Iron** – Use this tool to seal all seams between sheets of carpet. Allow the tool to pre-heat then iron over the adhesive side of a strip of seam tape. Once the heat has activated the adhesive, place the two pieces of carpet together.

**INSTALL THE TACKLESS STRIP**

Begin by installing the tackless strip around the perimeter of the room as well as around all floor vents (but not in doorways). Be aware that tackless strips vary for wood and concrete subfloors.

1. Measure the amount of tackless strip you'll need for your installation area. Cut the pieces, if necessary.
2. Position the strip (with the tacks facing toward the wall) 1/4"-1/2" from the wall using either your fingers or a block of wood as a spacer. At corners, ensure the tackless strips meet without gaps.

3. Use nails (for wood subfloors) or masonry tacks or epoxy (for concrete subfloors) to secure the strips every 8"-10" or as directed by your carpet manufacturer.

**INSTALL THE PADDING**

Carpet padding is glued to concrete subfloors or nailed to wood subfloors. Many professionals install padding perpendicular to the way the carpet will be installed.

1. Roll out the padding in the room. Cut strips to cover the whole subfloor. Do not overlap.
2. Trim padding at tackless strips. Ensure there are no gaps between the padding and the strips.
3. Staple the padding every 18"-24" for wood subfloors. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for concrete subfloors.
4. Duct tape all seams.

**CUT THE CARPET**

When cutting, use a carpet or utility knife. Cut along the back for cut pile carpeting or along the face for loop pile carpeting.

1. Measure the longest side of your room in the direction the carpet will be installed. Add 6" to your measurement.
2. Unroll the carpet pile side down. Use a pencil and chalk line to mark your measurements.
3. Fold the carpet at the chalk line and use a carpet knife to cut along that line. Use a straight edge to help ensure you get a straight cut.
4. If you need more than one piece of carpet, measure and cut the next section until you have carpet for the entire area. Allow for 4"-6" of extra carpet on either side of each piece. You'll trim this once the carpet is laid out to ensure seams fit together tightly. If working with patterned carpet, allow for the pattern to match or repeat naturally on the next cut.
5. Layout the cut pieces of carpet in the room. There should be extra carpet along all edges. Avoid placing carpet seams directly above padding seams. Ensure the pile runs in the same direction on each sheet.
6. Cut the carpet at corners so it lays flat. When trimming outside corners, cut from top to bottom. When trimming inside corners, cut small "V's" (with the point of the "V" at floor level) until the carpet lays flat.

**CUT AND SEAL SEAMS**

If your room has seams, you'll need to cut pieces to fit together exactly then seal the seams using a seaming iron.

1. Overlap two carpet pieces by 4"-6" (or more for pattern repeats). Ensure the pile is running in the same direction and that any patterns match or repeat naturally.
2. Place a scrap piece of wood below the overlapped areas then use a carpet knife to cut through BOTH pieces of carpet.

- Align the two pieces of carpet on the floor. They should fit together exactly and patterns should match or repeat naturally. Discard the cut carpeting.
- Roll back the two pieces of carpet temporarily. Layout a strip of seaming tape (adhesive side up) along the whole seam.
- Run the seaming iron over the length of the seaming tape to activate the adhesive. Do not iron the pad or the carpet!
- Quickly, lay one half of the carpet into the adhesive tape then the other. Ensure the pieces fit snugly together to minimize the appearance of the seam. Press the two edges into the tape to ensure a good bond.
- Use a carpet roller, carpet tractor or rolling pin to roll the whole seam as directed by your manufacturer.



STRETCH AND SECURE THE CARPET

Once your carpet is laid out above the pad and any seams are sealed, you're ready to stretch and secure the carpet to the tackless strips.

- Starting in one corner of the room, use the knee kicker to stretch and secure the carpet to the tackless strip. Work your way along the whole wall.
- Move to an adjacent wall and stretch and secure the carpet with the knee kicker.
- Move to the wall opposite of the one you started on. Use the power stretcher to stretch and secure the carpet along this whole wall. Remember, it should take moderate force to push the lever down. Too little or too much force will stretch the carpet incorrectly. Use a piece of scrap carpet between stretcher arm and the wall on the opposite side.
- Move to the last remaining wall. Use the power stretcher to stretch and secure the carpet to the tackless strips.



TUCK IN, TRIM AND FINISH UP

- Use a stair tool to tuck in the carpet between the tackless strip and the baseboard.
- Use a carpet trimmer to trim away any excess carpet along all walls. In doorways, trim the carpet so it extends half way through the doorway.
- Trim all loose fibers. DO NOT pull.
- Vacuum and begin using your newly carpeted room.

GLUE DOWN METHOD

The glue down/double glue down method is similar to the stretch-in method. However, you'll be gluing the carpeting and/or padding directly to the subfloor. This method is a good choice for:

- Areas exposed to excessive humidity (such as boat docks, ramps or outdoor patios).
- Inclines or ramps.
- Offices or commercial areas with heavy foot traffic or modular furniture.

If you're using the glue down method, you will NOT install padding below the carpet. If you want to use padding, use the double glue method: You'll glue the padding to the subfloor then glue the carpet to the padding. Only use the glue down method if recommended by the carpet/padding manufacturer.



TIPS AND TRICKS

- Prior to installation, keep the installation area at a comfortable temperature (between 65°F and 95°F).
- Keep the relative humidity between 10%-65%.
- Perform a Calcium Chloride and pH Alkalinity test on concrete subfloors. Acceptable ranges for Calcium Chloride should not exceed 5 lbs per 24 hrs per 1000 sq ft. The pH Alkalinity should be above 9 on the pH scale.
- Unroll your carpet and allow it to acclimatize for 24 hours or as directed by your manufacturer.



INSTALL THE PADDING

Only install padding if you are using the double glue down method. Ensure your carpet and padding is approved for this type of installation. Follow all the manufacturer's recommendations for spread rate, trowel type and open working time.

- Roll out the padding in the area. Cut strips to cover the whole subfloor but do not overlap. There should not be any gaps between strips of padding.
- Roll back and temporarily secure each strip. Apply the adhesive to the subfloor following all the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Unroll the padding into the adhesive.
- Allow the adhesive to dry completely before installing the carpet.



CUT THE CARPET AND SEAMS

When cutting, use a carpet or utility knife. Cut along the face for loop pile carpeting or along the back for cut pile carpeting.

- Measure the longest wall in the direction the carpet will be installed and add 6".
- Unroll the carpet pile side down. Use a pencil and chalk line to mark your measurements on the back of the carpet.
- Fold the carpet at the chalk line and use a carpet knife to cut along that line. Use a straight edge to help ensure your cut is straight.
- If you will need more than one piece of carpet, measure and cut the next section until you have carpet for the entire area. Allow for 4"-6" of extra carpet on either side of each piece. You'll trim this once the carpet is laid out to ensure seams fit together tightly. If you are working with a carpet pattern, allow for pattern match.
- Layout the cut pieces of carpet in the room. There should be extra carpet along all walls, perimeters and seams. Avoid placing carpet seams directly above padding

seams. Ensure the pile runs in the same direction on each piece.

6. Weight down each section (with buckets of glue or paint). Or nail the carpet temporarily in place to avoid shifting.
7. Trim the carpet so it is flush with the installation area and lays flat at all corners. When cutting outside corners, trim from top to bottom. When cutting inside corners, trim small "V's" (with the point of the "V" at floor level) until the carpet lays flat.
8. At seams, overlap the two carpet pieces by 4"-6" (or more for pattern repeats). Make sure the pile is running in the same direction and that patterns match or repeat naturally.
9. Place a scrap piece of wood below the overlap area to protect the padding or subfloor. Use a carpet knife to cut through BOTH pieces of carpet.
10. Align the two pieces of carpet on the floor. They should fit together perfectly and patterns should match or repeat naturally. Discard any excess carpet.



GLUE THE CARPET

If using the glue down method, you will be gluing the carpet directly to the subfloor. If using the double-glue down method, you'll be gluing the carpeting to the padding.

1. Layout the carpet as it will be installed. Make sure all seams are flush.
2. Starting on one side of the room, roll back and temporarily secure each section of carpet. Ensure all carpet pieces are weighted or nailed down so that they do not shift when you roll them back.
3. Use a trowel to spread the adhesive onto the subfloor or padding. Follow all the manufacturer's recommendations with regard to trowel type, spread rate and open working time. If your area has seams, seal the seams as you get to them. Refer to the next section for specific instructions.
4. Unroll each section of carpet and lay into the glue. Ensure the carpet is firmly in contact with the adhesive.
5. Use a push broom to sweep the carpeting to push out any air bubbles.
6. Use a carpet roller (75-100 lbs for carpet only; 30-35 lbs for carpet and padding) to roll the newly installed section, if recommended by the manufacturer. Roll widthwise and lengthwise.
7. Repeat Steps 2 through 6 for the other half of the room.



SEAL THE SEAMS

With the glue down method, you'll seal seams as you reach them during the gluing process.

1. Apply the seam sealer according to the manufacturer's recommendations along one edge of a glued down section of carpet.
2. Quickly, place the edge of the carpeting into the adhesive and seam sealer. Ensure the seam is tight but not overlapping. Make sure both pieces of carpet are firmly in contact with the seam sealer adhesive.
3. Roll the entire seam as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.



LET THE FLOOR SET

1. Once all carpet is installed, remove any weights or nails.
2. Allow the adhesive to set and dry completely according to the manufacturer's guidelines. This usually takes between 24-48 hours.
3. Vacuum the area and cut any loose fibers; do NOT pull!

CARPET TILES

Installing carpet tiles is similar to installing vinyl tiles. Before installation, follow your manufacturer's specific storage and acclimatization guidelines.



INSTALL CARPET TILES

Begin in the middle of the room and establish your pattern then work your way towards the walls.

1. Snap a chalk line between two opposite walls.
2. Center one carpet tile directly on top of the rectangle (right angles) formed by the 2 chalk lines in the center of the room. Weight the tile down but DO NOT adhere to the subfloor yet.
3. Snap a chalk line between walls along the four sides of your center tile to give you a starting grid. Place painters tape along chalk lines to define them better, if desired.
4. Layout your carpet tiles in all directions to establish the pattern for the room. DO NOT secure to the subfloor yet. Ensure the piles are running in the correct directions and that the pattern will work with your room dimensions.
5. Once satisfied with the fit, begin securing the carpet tiles to the subfloor. Start with the center carpet tile and work your way towards walls in each direction. Carpet tiles should be snug but not overlapping. Ensure the carpet pile does not get stuck between the seams.
6. Along walls, scribe fit your carpet tiles to fit.



LET THE FLOOR SET

Allow your carpet tiles to set according to your flooring manufacturer's recommendations. Once set, vacuum and begin using your newly carpeted area.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE AREAS

Carpet can be installed in a variety of special circumstance areas such as on stairs or around brickwork. For more detailed information about installing in these areas, see the full **Installing Carpet** guide on FindAnyFloor.com.



INSTALL ON STAIRS

You have two options when installing carpeting on stairs:

- **Waterfall Method** – One length of carpet is used to cover the entire stairway. This method is somewhat easier and considered more modern.
- **Cap and Band Method** – Individual carpet pieces are used to cover one riser and tread. This method is recommended for patterned carpets as you can better control where the pattern falls.
- **Glue Down Method** – Similar to the Cap and Band method, except you'll be gluing the carpet to the padding as well as securing with the tackless strips.

When installing carpet on stairs, you'll use tackless strips and staples to secure the carpet to the subfloor.

For complete installation instructions and safety information, see the full **Installing Carpet** guide on FindAnyFloor.com.



INSTALL AROUND BRICKWORK

Install your carpet around brickwork the same way as along walls.

TRANSITIONS AND TRIM

Install transitions and trim to put the finishing touches on your room.



INSTALL TRANSITIONS

Carpet transitions vary depending on the type of flooring you are transitioning to.

Carpet to vinyl/linoleum transitions include:

- **Metal Transitions** – Available in silver or gold. (Other materials and/or colors may be available.) These transitions are screwed or glued to the subfloor. A clamp-down or nap-lock device holds the carpet in place. This is the most common transition.

Carpet to other flooring transitions includes:

- **Reducer Strip** – Used to transition a higher profile flooring surface to a carpeted area.
- **End Molding** – Used to transition a similar height floor (tile, laminate or hardwood) to a carpeted area.



INSTALL TRIM

Install all quarter round to hide any gaps between the carpet and the wall base. Generally, quarter round molding looks better with lower pile carpets. When installing quarter round, always glue the trim to the wall and nail at an angle every 16". Use white or a matching color caulk to fill any gaps between the quarter round and the wall base.

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