INSTALLING CARPET

Congratulations on choosing carpet as your new floor covering! With the multitude of colors, styles and textures, it’s no wonder carpet is one of the most common floor coverings found in homes today. When it comes to installing carpet, you have a number of different options. This guide will help you determine what is right for your floor to ensure you have a successful installation.

✔️ TIP: If reading online, click on any item in this contents list or any grey text in the document to jump to a specific section.

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INSTALLATION OPTIONS

Understanding all your installation options is the first step in your carpeting project. In this section, we’ll discuss:

- Installation Areas
- Types of Carpet and Construction
- Suitable Subfloors

Installation Areas

Carpeting is a durable floor covering that is not affected by moderate changes in humidity. These characteristics enable carpet to be installed on any grade level in a home:

- **Above Grade**: Flooring installed on a second floor of a home or above.
- **On Grade**: Flooring installed on the ground level of a home.
- **Below Grade**: Flooring installed below the ground level of a home (such as basements).

**NOTE**: If the soil that surrounds the home is 3 or more inches above the floor on any level, that level is considered Below Grade. Most manufacturers do not recommend installing carpet tiles in Below Grade areas as they may develop mildew. If using the glue down method, ensure the Below Grade installation area passes all moisture tests.

Always consider the traffic level of each room when choosing your carpet. Since living rooms, dining rooms, hallways and stairways have considerable traffic, choose stain-resistant carpeting with a high density pile. Bedrooms and guest room have considerably less traffic so less dense, higher pile carpets, which are soft to the touch, are usually a good choice. If you are installing indoor/outdoor carpet, choose products that are moisture, mildew, stain and fade resistant.

When determining your installation area, also consider your carpeting color. Light colored carpets hide dust and lint better but tend to show stains and dirt more. Darker carpets, hide stains and dirt, but are more prone to showing dust and lint. Multicolored and middle tone carpets are a good compromise between dark and light colored carpets and may be good choices for high traffic areas or rooms where pets are allowed.
Types of Carpet and Construction

Today, homeowners have two main choices when it comes to installing carpet:

- **Broadloom Rolls of Carpet**: Carpeting that comes as large rolls. This is the most common type of carpeting.

- **Carpet Tiles**: Carpeting that is manufactured as individual tiles. This type of carpet is often found in commercial buildings and is gaining new popularity in residences.

Broadloom Carpet Construction

Broadloom carpeting is constructed in a variety of methods. Use the table below to help you determine which broadloom carpet construction style is best for your installation area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carpet Construction</th>
<th>Installation Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Berber</strong>: Level loop cut pile. Often made with thicker yarns for added durability.</td>
<td>High and low traffic areas. Use if you are looking for more formal looking carpet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cut Loop</strong>: Cut and uncut loops of varying heights.</td>
<td>High and low traffic areas. Use if you are looking for more formal looking carpet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frieze</strong>: Twisted and/or curled tufts. Also called trackless or twist.</td>
<td>High and low traffic areas. Very durable. Good for casual settings. Resists foot imprints well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level Loop</strong>: Basic pile that has equal height loops.</td>
<td>High traffic areas such as living rooms, dining rooms, hallways and stairways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilevel Loop</strong>: Pile that has loops of varying heights. Wool and synthetic Berbers are a type of multilevel loop carpeting.</td>
<td>High traffic areas such as living rooms, dining rooms, hallways and stairways. Very durable. Use if you are looking for more formal looking carpet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Random Shear</strong>: Cut and uncut loops. Has a textured look. Also called tip shear.</td>
<td>High and low traffic areas. Not recommended for kitchens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saxony Plush</strong>: Dense, equal height yarn tufts that are ½ inch high or less.</td>
<td>High and low traffic areas. Very durable. Use if you are looking for formal, luxurious, plush carpeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Textured Plush</strong>: Equal height yarn tufts that are more than ½ inch high. Less dense than Saxony Plush.</td>
<td>High and low traffic areas. Good for casual settings. Not recommended for stairways or in kitchens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When choosing your carpeting, remember to factor in seams. For most broadloom carpet installations, seams between sheets should be strategically placed so they are hidden or less visible. If you have a large room with many seams, talk with your flooring retailer about how well these seams will be hidden with each particular type of carpet before making your purchase.

**TIP:** Seams should run parallel to the incoming light sources. Consider how your seams will be placed before you purchase your carpet to ensure you have enough on hand during your installation.

### Carpet Tile Construction

Carpet tiles come in a variety of thicknesses, tile sizes, fiber and backing types, pile styles and adhesive methods. When purchasing your carpet tile, ensure the product has a warranty against shrinking and curling. Premium brand carpet tiles with secondary backings should also be covered against buckling.

Always consider your installation area when choosing carpet tiles. Thick, plush carpet tiles are better suited for bedrooms. Thinner, heathered carpet tiles work well for high traffic areas as they wear evenly and hide dirt. Be aware that you will be able to see the seams more readily with carpet tiles than with broadloom carpeting, especially if you choose beveled-edge carpet tiles.

**TIP:** One of the main benefits of using carpet tiles is that worn tiles can be removed and replaced or relocated. This helps your floor, as a whole, wear more evenly over time.

### Installation Methods

Broadloom carpet and carpet tiles are installed in a couple different ways:

- **Broadloom Rolls of Carpet:** This type of carpeting comes in a variety of roll sizes. Carpeting can be installed via three different methods:
  - **Stretch-In:** The carpet is laid out above a suitable pad, cut to the dimensions of the room and held in place by tackless strips along the walls or edges.
  - **Glue-Down:** The carpet is glued directly to the subfloor.
  - **Double Glue-Down:** The padding is glued directly to the subfloor. The carpet is then glued to the padding.
• **Carpet Tiles:** Carpet tiles are laid out in patterns (much like vinyl tile) and secured to the subfloor with adhesive tabs or double-sided tape. Padding is not used unless specifically recommended by the manufacturer. Some carpet tiles come with pre-attached pads for easy installation.

**Suitable Subfloors**

The subfloor is the surface upon which your carpet will be installed. Broadloom carpet and carpet tiles can be installed above the following subfloors:

• **Cement subfloors** must be clean and level. Fill all holes and cracks before installation.
• **Wood and particle board subfloors** must be clean, stable and free from any dips or high spots.

Some carpeting can also be installed over radiant heating systems or existing flooring. Always check with your manufacturer to ensure your type of carpeting is approved for these installation situations. Carpet tiles should not be installed above existing carpet and padding, unsealed concrete subfloors, unfinished waxed floors or vintage and hand-painted floors.

**Radiant Heat System Considerations**

Some types of carpeting can be installed over a variety of radiant heat systems. Radiant heat systems heat homes from beneath the flooring. There are three main types of radiant heat systems:

• **Radiant air** where air heats the flooring. Because air is a poor conductor of heat, this method is usually not very cost effective for most homes.
• **Electric radiant** where electric currents provide the heat. These systems are usually mats that are laid beneath or embedded into the subfloor.

**TIP:** Electric radiant heat mats are the easiest to work with when doing a remodel. Since the matting is thin, it is laid on the subfloor then covered with thinset mortar.

• **Hydronic radiant systems** (also called liquid systems) where heated water is pushed through tubing or piping laid in a concrete slab or below a subfloor.
Each of these systems can be installed by two different methods:

- **Wet** installation where the piping is installed directly in a concrete slab or in lightweight concrete above the subfloor.
- **Dry** installation where the piping is installed between two layers of plywood or attached directly below the subfloor. When installed between layers of plywood, aluminum diffusers are often used to distribute the heat evenly across the subfloor. When installed below a subfloor, reflective insulation may be used to direct heat upward into the floor.

Always check with your retailer or manufacturer to ensure the type of carpet you choose can be installed over a radiant heat system. Radiant heating affects the temperature, moisture and humidity of your carpet. Over time, these factors can cause your carpet to break down prematurely or delaminate if it was not designed to be installed over a radiant heating system.

In addition to your flooring manufacturer’s instructions, you should also keep these things in mind:

- Always follow your manufacturer’s temperature recommendations both before and during your installation.
- Keep the subfloor surface temperature below 82°F.
- The overall temperature of the room must not vary more than 15°F during the year. The relative humidity should stay between 35% and 65% year round.
PLANNING YOUR INSTALLATION

Now that you’ve decided on your carpet, it’s time to begin planning your installation. During your planning phase, you will be:

- Determining Your Floor Layout
- Factoring in Waste
- Estimating Installation Time
- Choosing Your Carpet Pad

**Determining Your Floor Layout**

Broadloom carpeting has a limited amount of options as you must work with large rolls of carpet. If your carpet has a pattern, install the carpet so that the pattern works well with the entryways and room décor. Try to place any carpet seams parallel to incoming light sources.

If you’re using carpet tiles you have a number of layout options. You can install the carpet square with the room or in a diagonal pattern. Or you can choose to mix and match carpet colors, styles and patterns to create a variety of designs.

**Factoring in Waste**

Non-professional installers should account for a waste factor of:

- **15%** for areas less than 1,000 square feet.
- **10%** for 1,000 square feet or larger.
- More than **15%** if your carpeting has a pattern you must match.

**NOTE:** If you're installing a patterned carpet, pay attention to the width of the pattern (the pattern repeat). Take this width into consideration when determining the layout for your installation area and the placement of seams. For example, if your seam will run directly through the pattern, you’ll probably have to cut the first piece so it ends at the edge of the pattern. Then you may have to cut the second piece so the pattern begins at the edge nearest the seam and repeats naturally between the two pieces.
During your carpet installation, this waste percentage will include the areas you trim around walls, seams and obstacles. Generally, the waste percentage will NOT compensate for installation errors, especially when working with broadloom carpet. If you cut a sheet of broadloom carpeting incorrectly and cannot use it in a smaller area, you may have to purchase additional carpeting. Be aware that your newly purchased carpet may not match your original purchase exactly if the new carpet is from a different production and dye lot run.

Be sure to factor waste into your original purchase. Since retailers continually add and discontinue the types of carpet they offer, there is no guarantee that your carpet retailer will carry your exact carpeting or dye lot in the future. And remember, you should always end up with a little extra carpet at the end of your project, especially if you are using carpet tiles. You can also use the Advanced Estimator tool on FindAnyFloor.com to help you determine how much carpet you’ll need to carpet your room.

**NOTE:** When purchasing your carpet, pay attention to the dye lot. All your carpet (both rolls and tiles) should come from the same dye lot to ensure they are the exact same color. Ending up with extra carpet tiles from the same dye lot is important. If you need to replace damaged carpet tiles and you do not have any left from your original purchase, you may have to buy additional tiles from a different dye lot. If this happens, you can replace damaged carpet tiles with those that are installed under furniture so there are no color differences in the open areas of your floor.

**Estimating Installation Time**

Installation time varies based on a number of factors:

- **Experience level:** If this is your first time installing carpet, it may take you longer than a non-professional who has already done one or more installations.

- **Room complexity:** Small rooms and simple carpet tile patterns usually take less time to complete than large rooms or complex carpet tile designs.

- **Assistance available:** If you are the only one working on the project, it will probably take longer than if you have help. If you are installing broadloom carpet, it is best to have at least one person assisting you as rolls of carpet are heavy and difficult to transport by yourself.

**TIP:** Do NOT fold rolls of carpet when you are transporting it.
• **Amount of planning:** Planning helps you identify where you might run into problems. This allows you to adjust your installation plan before you begin installing your carpet.

Rarely do home improvement projects go smoothly. Remember, even professional carpet installers have bad days or run into unexpected problems.

**Choosing Your Carpet Pad**

More is not always better when it comes to carpet padding. Carpet padding does more than simply provide a soft, cushy feeling underfoot. Your carpet pad’s main job is to support your carpet so that it will not wear, split, buckle or delaminate over time. Your padding also helps to insulate the floor from temperature changes and sound transfer between levels.

NEW padding is always recommended when recarpeting. Do NOT attempt to reuse an existing pad as it may prematurely age your new carpet as well as void your warranty. When choosing a pad, always follow your manufacturer’s recommendations. Do not choose a pad solely because it is the softest, thickest or the most expensive. Installing an incorrect pad can cause your carpet to wear prematurely, delaminate during use or void the manufacturer’s warranty.

When purchasing a carpet pad, choose the proper type of pad for your specific carpet. Also take into consideration the traffic levels in the area. High traffic areas such as living rooms, hallways and stairwells wear better with thinner pads, ¼” or 3/8”. Lower traffic areas can hold up under slightly thicker pads. Most manufacturers recommend 7/16” padding for non-Berber carpet. For Berber carpet, you should not exceed a 3/8” pad.

**Waffle Rubber**

Waffle rubber is thick because of air pockets embedded in the padding. Most installers consider waffle rubber to be an entry level material. Because waffle rubber is so soft and rated at less than 90 ounces, it’s usually not a good choice for many premium plastic-backed carpets. Additionally, the clay binders used to hold the rubber together may break down over time.

**Foam Padding**

Foam padding is one step up from waffle rubber and is a good choice for low traffic areas such as guest rooms. Foam padding is made from urethane foam and comes in a variety of densities. Foam padding is not a good choice for high traffic areas because air is trapped both above the carpet and below the padding. This allows the carpet and padding to move which, over time, will cause the carpet backing to break down.
Rebond Padding
Rebond padding is made from scraps of high density furniture foam. The scraps are bonded together to form various thicknesses and densities. Rebond foam is rated at pounds per cubic foot.

Rebond foam is a good choice for most types of carpets except Berber unless recommended by your Berber carpet manufacturer. In general for all other carpets, use a 6 pound, 3/8 inch thick rebond pad for light traffic areas. For high traffic areas, you should consider between an 8 pound and a 10 pound pad that is either 3/8” or 7/16” thick.

When choosing a rebond pad, always follow your carpet manufacturer’s recommendations. Additionally, the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) recommends not using a pad thicker than 7/16 inch as it may become difficult to secure the carpet to the tackless strip above thicker pads.

If installing rebond foam, be aware that some products contain Bht (butylated hydroxyl toluene). This antioxidant additive is found in many foods and reduces fire risks in this type of padding. However, rebond foam treated with this additive may turn yellow over time.

Slab Rubber
Slab or flat rubber is similar to waffle rubber but contains fewer air pockets. Slab rubber is an excellent choice for high traffic areas or rooms where you want your carpet to feel luxurious underfoot. A 19-22 pound density slab rubber pad is sufficient for most areas. While it is more expensive, slab rubber wears better than waffle rubber and resists furniture indentations.

Additionally, slab rubber is the only type of padding that may outlast the carpet and can be reused under a second carpet installation, if approved by the manufacturer.

Fiber Padding
Fiber padding is most often made from jute, hair mixed with jute, synthetic fiber or recycled textile fibers. Fiber padding is often used under area rugs as well as woven, commercial and Berber carpets (if recommended by the manufacturer). When choosing a fiber pad, pay attention to the padding density as this is what limits the movement of your carpeting. If you’re using synthetic fiber, choose at least a 7.5 pound per cubic foot pad. For jute or jute and hair pads, choose a 12 pound density. For either pad, look for a thickness of between 3/8 inch and 7/16 inch with a total weight of 40 ounces per square yard.

Berber Padding
Berber carpeting usually requires a specialized pad. Larger loop Berbers should have firmer padding to ensure the carpet wears evenly. Do not use rebond foam under any Berber carpet unless specifically approved by your carpet manufacturer.
Frothed Foam

Frothed foam is the best padding on the market. Frothed foam is an extremely dense urethane foam. This type of padding can generally be used under any type of carpet and usually extends the life of your carpeting. Frothed foam also resists furniture indentations and has very low VOCs (off gassing). Frothed foam is also a good choice when installing carpet over a radiant heating system.

✔️ **TIP:** Froth foam is usually one of the more expensive carpet pads on the market. However, the price of froth foam may decrease as the price of rebond foam increases (due to limited availability). Keep your eyes open for these trends or other type of padding sales when you’re in the market for new padding.
PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION

You’ve got your carpet installation planned out, now it’s time to start preparing the installation area. During this phase, you will be:

- Moisture Testing Your Subfloor
- Inspecting and Leveling Your Subfloor
- Removing Molding and Doors
- Installing Safely

**Moisture Testing Your Subfloor**

Your subfloor must be completely dry before installing your carpeting. All concrete subfloors must be sealed with an appropriate sealer. Excessive moisture under the carpeting or padding will cause the materials to breakdown prematurely. Additionally, mold could form under the carpeting or padding which may cause health problems.

If you are installing stretched-in carpet or carpet tiles and are concerned about the moisture content of your subfloor, purchase a moisture meter and take readings from various areas. In general, subfloor moisture levels should not exceed 5.5%. However, always refer to your manufacturer’s specific guidelines for your type of carpet as moisture content ranges may vary.

**Glue Down Moisture Considerations**

If you are using the glue down method to install your carpet in a commercial setting, you should perform more detailed moisture tests to ensure the subfloor and adhesive will bond correctly. For concrete subfloors, you should perform:

- **Calcium Chloride Test:** The subfloor must have a reading of less than 5 pounds per 1,000 sq feet in 24 hours.
- **pH Alkalinity Test:** The pH must be above 9.

**Inspecting and Leveling Your Subfloor**

Before you install your carpet, you should ensure your subfloor is relatively smooth, flat, level and clean. If you are replacing existing carpet, sweeping and/or vacuuming the subfloor is sufficient. For most installations, small paint splatters or dips can be left alone as they will not be seen below your pad and carpet. However, if you have large craters or hills, you should level these before beginning your installation.
**Removing Molding and Doors**

For most carpet installations, you’ll remove all quarter round molding but leave the existing baseboard in place. If you are installing new baseboard, install and paint the molding before you begin your carpet installation. It’s also a good idea to remove and set aside all doors especially if you are working with rolls of carpet.

✔ **TIP:** You may still have to do some touch-up to the baseboard you left in place to remove any marks made during installation.

**Installing Safely**

During your carpet installation, follow these guidelines to ensure a safe working environment.

- Read and follow all the manufacturer’s guidelines when installing your carpeting.
- Wear the proper clothing and tennis shoes or work boots.
- Wear OSHA approved safety goggles and/or hearing protection, when necessary.
- Wear other personal protective equipment such as knee pads, shin guards, gloves and/or respirators, when necessary.
- Do not work under the influence of alcohol, drugs or other medications which can impair your decision making ability.
- Keep your work area clean. Clutter and debris are not only tripping hazards but could damage your new carpet.
- Make sure the room has proper ventilation and lighting.
- Make sure the electrical power to the area can support all of your tools.
- Have a first aid kit on hand or know where one is located.
- Use all tools and machinery as intended by the manufacturer with safety guards in place.
INSTALLING STRETCH-IN CARPET

Installation day has arrived! Installing stretch-in carpet is the way most homeowners install broadloom carpeting. Prior to beginning your carpet installation, keep the installation area at a constant, comfortable temperature (anything above 65 degrees).

**Tools and Materials**

You will need the following tools and materials:

- Awl
- Broadloom carpet rolls
- Carpenter’s square
- Carpet or utility knife
- Carpet cutter
- Carpet pad
- Carpet roller, carpet tractor or rolling pin
- Chalk line
- Duct tape
- Hammer
- Knee kicker
- Leather work gloves
- Measuring tape
- Nails
- Power stretcher
- Safety goggles
- Seaming iron
- Seaming tape
- Stair tool
- Staple gun
- Staples
- Tackless strip
- Tackless strip cutters

**Using Specialized Carpet Tools**

When installing carpeting yourself, you’ll probably need to use a few specialized tools. These can be rented from most flooring retailers or equipment rental stores.

- **Carpet Cutter**: Carpet cutters are used to cut off the excess after the carpet has been stretched and secured into the tackless strip. Before using the carpet cutter, use a utility knife to cut an entry point into the edge of the carpet between the tackless strip and the wall. Position the carpet cutter in this entry point and move the cutter along the wall to evenly trim the excess carpet. The carpet cutter will trap the carpet along the wall as it cuts to ensure there are no gaps.

- **Carpet Roller**: A carpet roller is a hand-held tool used to blend carpet fibers together along seams. Generally, carpet rollers have only one row of rollers.

- **Carpet Tractor**: A carpet tractor is a larger version of a carpet roller with multiple rows of rollers. Once your seam is sealed, you’ll roll the carpet tractor along the seam to help blend fibers from both pieces of carpet together to hide the seam.
• **Knee Kicker:** Knee kickers are used to position carpet in large rooms and to position and stretch carpet on stairs or in other small areas. When using a knee kicker, set the teeth of the tool to a position relative to the carpet’s thickness. Place the teeth into the carpet approximately 6 inches from the wall. The head should be pointed down and at an angle to the wall. While kneeling, hold the device with one hand and place the other hand on the floor for support. Place all your weight on your support hand and kick the cushioned end of the knee kicker with your upper leg (just above your knee) to move or stretch the carpet. Once stretched or positioned, secure the carpet onto the tackless strip. For a tighter fit, kick the knee kicker again.

• **Power Stretcher:** Power stretchers are used to stretch the carpet across the room to ensure a tight fit. Power stretchers come with extendable sections so that you can adjust the length of the device to fit the room dimensions. When using a power stretcher, you’ll place one end of the stretcher against one wall (on the floor level) to brace the tool. You’ll then grab the carpet of the opposite wall with the teeth of the device. As you force the stretcher’s lever down, the device stretches the carpet so it’s taught across the floor. (You should actually see it stretch and all the ripples should disappear.) Once completely stretched, you’ll secure the edge of the carpet into the tackless strip.

✔️ **TIP:** Stretching your carpet correctly is extremely important. If it takes all your strength to push the lever down, you are overstretching the carpet. If it takes little effort to push the lever down, the carpet is not stretched enough. Reset the head of the power stretcher and re-stretch so that it takes a moderate amount of effort to push the lever down.

• **Seaming Iron:** A special iron that is applied to strips of seam tape. The heat from the iron activates the adhesive on the tape so that carpet seams can be secured together. When using a seaming iron, allow the tool to heat for at least 30 seconds (or as recommended by the manufacturer) before using.
Installing the Tackless Strip

The first step in your carpet installation is to install the tackless strip around the perimeter of the room. Tackless strips vary depending on if you have a wood or concrete subfloor. Make sure you purchase the correct type.

NOTE: Tackless strips are named such because they hold the carpet in place without separate carpet tacks. Before tackless strips gained popularity, you had to secure the carpet by nailing carpet tacks through the carpet and padding into the subfloor. Some people refer to these as “tack strips.”

1. Measure and cut tackless strips for the entire perimeter of the room. Tackless strips should be installed around all floor vents but not at doorways.

2. Position the tackless strip a ¼” to ½” away from the baseboard or wall. You can use a spacer or place your fingers between the tackless strip and the baseboard/wall instead of measuring.

   Ensure the tacks face toward the wall. At corners, butt tackless strips up against each other so there are no gaps between strips.

3. Secure the tackless strip to the subfloor every 8”-10” or as recommended by the manufacturer. Generally, you’ll use nails for wood subfloors and masonry tacks or epoxy adhesive for concrete subfloors.
**Installing the Padding**

Once your tackless strips are installed, you can install your padding. Padding is generally stapled to wood subfloors and glued to concrete subfloors.

1. Roll out the padding and trim as closely as possible to the inside edge of the tackless strip. The padding should be level with the strip.

   ✔ **TIP:** Some professionals recommend laying the padding perpendicular to the way you’ll be installing the carpet.

2. Align the strips of padding snugly but do not overlap.

3. For wood subfloors, use a staple gun to staple the padding to the subfloor every 18”-24” along tackless strips and seams.
   
   For concrete subfloors, follow the adhesive manufacturer’s recommendations.

4. Tape all seams with duct tape.

   □ **NOTE:** Some installers recommend that you cut, layout and secure any seams in your carpeting before you install your pad. This helps to keep the pad in place better as you won’t be tugging on the carpet to move it into the correct position. However, using this method is VERY labor intensive. If your pad is installed correctly, it will not shift when you install your carpet.

**Cutting the Carpet**

Now that your tackless strips and padding are installed, you are ready to cut your carpet. When cutting carpet, use a utility knife to cut along the:

- Back of cut pile carpeting.
- Face of loop pile carpeting.

1. Measure the longest wall of your room in the direction the carpet will be installed and add 6 inches.

2. Unroll your carpet pile side down. Measure out your room measurement and mark on the backside of your carpeting. (Ensure you are measuring so that the pile lays in the direction you desire when installed). Snap a chalk line between the two marks.
3. Fold the carpet at the chalk line and cut using a utility knife. Use a straight edge or carpenter’s square as a guide to help you make a straight cut.

**TIP:** Make sure you protect the flooring beneath your carpet when making cuts.

4. Layout the cut piece of carpet above the padding. You should have some excess carpeting along all walls and seams.

5. Cut the carpet around all corners so that it lays flat on the floor.

   - To trim outside corners, cut vertically from top to bottom through the carpeting at the corner. Then cut away the excess on either side of the corner.
   
   - To trim inside corners, cut a “V” shape in the corner where the carpet folds or overlaps. The bottom tip of the “V” should be at the floor level. Start with small “V’s” until you cut away enough so that the carpet lays flat in each corner.

6. If your floor will have one or more seams, cut another length of carpet to the correct dimensions. Some professional recommend positioning seams parallel to incoming light sources if possible. Avoid placing carpet seams above padding seams.

   If your floor does not have any seams, proceed to the Stretching and Securing the Carpet section on page 19.

7. Once your second piece of carpet is cut, layout both pieces next to each other so they overlap 4”-6” inches. Make sure the pile and pattern will align correctly and match the first piece when installed.

   Using a utility knife or carpet cutter, cut through BOTH pieces of carpet so the seam edges match exactly and the pattern repeats naturally. Place a piece of wood below the overlap area to ensure you do not cut through the padding.
Sealing Seams
You'll join and seal all your carpet seams before you stretch the carpet over the padding.

1. Once your seam is cut, layout both piece of carpeting above the padding. Align the pieces together to ensure they fit snugly, then roll back and temporarily secure in place.

2. Place a piece of seaming tape (adhesive side up) on the padding along the whole length of the seam.

3. Run the hot seaming iron along the whole length of the seaming tape to activate the adhesive. Do not iron the carpet!

4. Unroll one piece of carpet and press securely on one half of the seaming tape. Unroll the other piece of the carpet and position so it is snug against the other piece of carpet. Press into the seaming tape.

5. Roll the entire seam with a carpet roller, carpet tractor or rolling pin as recommended by your manufacturer.

Stretching and Securing the Carpet
Now that your carpet is cut and all seams are sealed, you're ready to stretch the carpet and secure it to the tackless strips.

1. Starting on one side of the room, use a knee kicker to stretch the carpeting over the tackless strip along the length of the wall. Make sure the carpet is held firmly in place along the entire starting wall.

2. Use the knee kicker to stretch and fasten the carpet along one adjacent wall. Begin working at the corner that is already fastened. Ensure the carpeting does not shift as you work along the wall.

3. Now, move to the opposite wall. Use the power stretcher to stretch the carpet from your starting wall. Stretch a small section and secure onto the tackless strip.

When stretching, you should have to use a moderate amount of force to push the lever down. Too much or too little force will incorrectly stretch your carpet.

NOTE: For small rooms, you may not need to use a power stretcher. Using the knee kicker may be enough to adequately stretch the entire room.

When using a power stretcher, place a scrap piece of padding or carpet between the stretcher arm and the wall for protection against scratches or dents.
4. Move to the last remaining adjacent wall and use the power stretcher to stretch the carpet. Secure the carpet to the tackless strip.

**Tucking, Trimming and Finishing Up**

Once your carpet is installed, you can tuck in, trim away and finish up your carpet installation.

1. Use a stair tool to tuck the carpet in between the tackless strip and the baseboard.

2. Use a carpet trimmer or utility knife to trim the carpet along all walls. Do not trim too short or you will see a gap between the tackless strip and the baseboard. Trim any fibers that extend above the carpet height. Cut; DO NOT pull.

3. Along doorways, trim the carpet so that it extends halfway through the doorway. Install the appropriate transition piece to hide any edges or join seams to other carpeted areas as needed.

4. Vacuum the whole room to clean up stray fibers.

5. You can now begin using your newly carpeted room!
INSTALLING GLUE DOWN CARPET

Glue down installations can be used for carpeting that is:

- Exposed to excessive humidity (such as indoor/outdoor carpet on boat ramps or patios).
- On ramps or inclines.
- In offices where there is heavy foot traffic and/or modular office furniture.

While the glue-down method does make the carpeting more durable, glued-down carpet is extremely difficult to remove. Additionally, regular glue down carpeting does not allow for any padding. If you wish to install padding, you must use the double-glue down installation method, where the padding is glued to the subfloor and the carpet is glued to the padding.

Prior to your glue-down installation, keep the floor and room temperature between 65°F and 95°F with a relative humidity of between 10%-65%. Unroll the carpet in the installation area to allow it to acclimatize for 24 hours.

**Tools and Materials**

You will need the following tools and materials:

- Adhesive
- Carpenter’s square
- Carpet cutter
- Carpet knife or utility knife
- Carpet pad
- Carpet roller, carpet tractor or rolling pin
- Carpet rolls/tiles
- Chalk line
- Hammer
- Leather work gloves
- Measuring tape
- Nails
- Notched trowel
- Push broom
- Safety goggles
- Seam sealer kit

**Installing the Padding**

If you are installing with the double-glue down method, you’ll glue the padding to the subfloor before you glue the carpet. Follow all the manufacturer’s recommendations for trowel size, spread rate and open working time.

1. Roll out the padding and trim as closely as possible to the wall. Some professionals recommend laying the padding perpendicular to the way you’ll be installing the carpet.

2. Align the strips of padding up against each other but do not overlap.
3. Roll back each section of padding and temporarily secure. Apply the adhesive to the subfloor according to the adhesive manufacturer’s recommendations.

4. Unroll the padding into the adhesive. Press down and/or roll according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

5. Repeat Steps 2 through 4 until all padding is secured to the subfloor.

6. Let the adhesive set and cure completely per the manufacturer’s recommendations.

**Cutting the Carpet**

When cutting carpet, use a utility knife to cut along the:

- Back of cut pile carpeting.
- Face of loop pile carpeting.

1. Measure the longest wall of your room in the direction the carpet will be installed and add 6 inches.

2. Unroll your carpet pile side down. Measure out your room measurement and mark on the backside of your carpeting. (Ensure you are measuring so that the pile and patterns match the first piece when installed). Snap a chalk line between the two marks.

3. Cut the carpet using a utility knife. Use a straight edge or carpenter’s square as a guide to help you make a straight cut.

   ✔ **TIP:** Make sure you protect the flooring beneath your carpet when making cuts.

4. Layout the cut piece of carpet above the padding. Adjust it so you have some excess carpeting along all walls and seams.
5. Trim the carpet so it is flush with all walls. Cut the carpet around all corners so that it lays flat on the floor.

   - To trim outside corners, cut vertically from top to bottom through the carpeting at the corner. Then cut away the excess on either side of the corner.
   - To trim inside corners, cut a “V” shape in the corner where the carpet folds or overlaps. The bottom tip of the “V” should be at the floor level. Start with small “V’s” until you cut away enough so that the carpet lays flat in each corner.

6. If your floor will have one or more seams, cut each length of carpet to the correct dimensions. Some professionals recommend positioning seams parallel to incoming light sources, if possible. Try to avoid placing carpet seams above padding seams (if using the double-glue down method).

   If your floor does not have any seams, proceed to the Gluing the Carpet section on page 24.

7. Once your second piece of carpet is cut, layout both pieces next to each other so they overlap 4”-6” inches. Make sure the pile and pattern will match and repeat correctly with your first piece when installed. Using a utility knife or carpet cutter, cut through BOTH piece of carpet so the seam edges match exactly.

8. Layout the carpet as it will be installed. Match up the carpet seams then weight down or nail temporarily to ensure the carpet does not move.
Gluing the Carpet

Now that your carpet is cut, you’re ready to glue the carpet to the subfloor or padding (for the double-glue down method).

1. Layout the carpet as it will be installed. Starting on one side of the room, roll back half of the carpet and temporarily secure in place.

   ✔ TIP: Some manufacturers recommend temporarily nailing the center of the carpet in place to ensure it does not shift while you are unrolling it. Instead of nailing, you could weight down the area with buckets of glue or paint.

2. Trowel out the adhesive according to the manufacturer’s instructions for your installation method (glue vs. double-glue). Follow all guidelines for trowel size, spread rate and open working time.

3. Unroll half the carpet in the adhesive. Press the carpeting firmly into the adhesive.

   ✔ TIP: Unrolling works best with at least three people. Have one person hold each edge of the carpet so it is taught. Have the center person walk out the carpet first (forming a wedge). The two end people follow more slowly until the entire piece is installed.

4. Sweep the carpeting to push out any air bubbles. Roll the carpeting with a 75-100 pound roller (or 30-35 lb roller for double-glue), if recommended by the manufacturer. When rolling, roll lengthwise and widthwise.

5. Repeat these steps for the other half of the carpet. If your carpet has seams, seal the seams as you glue down each section of carpet.
Sealing the Seams

When you reach a seam in your carpet, you'll seal the seam before gluing down the next section of carpeting.

NOTE: You can glue down the first half of the second sheet of carpet before you seal the seam. But, seam sealer tends to dry more quickly than floor adhesive. If you work quickly, you can adhere the second sheet of carpet then roll back the seam edge slightly to seal.

1. Along the edge of the glued down piece of carpet, apply the seam sealer according to the manufacturer’s instructions. The bead of sealer should be the same height as the carpet backing.

2. Quickly place the other piece of carpeting into the sealer before it begins to dry. Make sure the two seams match and fit together exactly.

3. Roll the entire seam with a carpet roller, carpet tractor or rolling pin as recommended by your manufacturer.

4. Trim any fibers that extend above the carpet height. Cut; DO NOT pull.

Finishing Up and Letting the Floor Set

Once your carpet is installed and all the seams are sealed, it’s time to complete the job.

1. Remove any weights or nails that temporarily held the carpet in place.

2. Allow the adhesive to dry and set completely as recommended by the manufacturer (usually 24-48 hours).

3. Trim any fibers that extend above the carpet height. Cut; DO NOT pull.

4. Once dry, vacuum thoroughly and you’re ready to begin using your newly carpeted room!
INSTALLING CARPET TILES

Carpet tiles are installed similarly to vinyl tiles. Carpet tiles are adhered to the subfloor with glue or double-sided tape (depending on your manufacturer’s recommendations). Prior to installation, follow your manufacturer’s recommendations for acclimatization and storage. Some carpet tiles need to acclimatize for 24-48 hours before installation.

**IMPORTANT:** Carpet tiles should NOT be installed above existing carpet and padding, unsealed concrete subfloors, unfinished waxed floors or vintage and hand painted floors.

**Tools and Materials**

You will need the following tools and materials:

- Carpenter’s square
- Carpet knife or utility knife with blades
- Carpet tiles
- Chalk line
- Glue adhesive or double-sided tape (if required)
- Painters tape (if desired)
- Tape measure
Installing Carpet Tiles

When installing carpet tiles, you’ll begin in the middle of your room and work towards the walls.

1. Snap a chalk line between the center points of each opposite wall. The place on the floor where the chalk lines intersect is the center of the room.

2. Find the center of one carpet tile. (Measure the tile and divide by two.) Place the center point of the carpet tile directly above the center intersection point on the floor but DO NOT remove the backing or secure to the subfloor yet. This is your starting point for the rest of the room. Weight the tile down to ensure it does not move as you layout the rest of the room.

   **TIP:** For odd shaped rooms, find a center point that will allow for the correct pattern in the narrowest part of your room.

3. Snap a chalk line between opposite walls along the width and length of the center carpet tile. Apply blue painters tape along each cross hair chalk line, if desired (for a more stable line). You’ve now created the guide line grid for the rest of the carpet tiles.

4. Layout carpet tiles in all directions following your guide lines, but DO NOT remove the backing or secure to the subfloor yet. Make sure the piles of all carpet tiles are running in the same direction, if desired. If you are creating a pattern, layout the pattern in each direction so you can see how it will be repeated across the floor.
5. Once you’re satisfied with the pattern and layout, begin removing the backing from each carpet tile or applying the adhesive/tape to each carpet tile according to the manufacturer’s recommendations. Start from the center tile and work your way towards the walls.

Fit carpet tiles snugly together but do not overlap. For cut pile carpet tiles, make sure the pile is brushed away from each seam during installation.

6. When you reach a wall, scribe fit the carpet tile.
   - Place a full carpet tile upside-down and directly on top of the one you just installed near the wall.
   - Place a second carpet tile on top of the other two butted up against the wall.
   - Use a pencil to mark the inner edge of the top carpet tile on the middle one.
   - Remove the middle (upside-down) one. Use a carpenter’s square and your utility knife to cut along the line on the back of the carpet tile. The cut carpet tile should now be the exact width you need for your installation area.
   - Install the cut tile so it fits between the wall and the installed carpet tile. If the cut or wall is uneven, you can install quarter round to hide any spaces.

**NOTE:** When scribe fitting tiles, make sure you measure and cut so the carpet pile runs in the correct direction when installed.

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**Letting the Floor Set**

Setting times vary depending on the type of adhesive used. Always follow the flooring and adhesive manufacturer’s recommendations. Once set, you can vacuum your carpet and begin carefully moving furniture back into the room.
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE INSTALLATIONS

Your carpeting is all installed, but what about those transitions and other tricky areas? In this section, we'll discuss:

- Carpet Transitions and Moldings
- Working Around Vents
- Working around Fireplaces and Brickwork
- Installing Carpet in Interior Doorways
- Installing on Carpet on Stairs

Carpet Transitions and Moldings

There are a variety of transition pieces and moldings to help you when working around doorways or between different types of flooring. These items come in a variety of colors, materials and styles to match your carpet and surrounding décor. Generally, carpet transitions vary according to the type of flooring you are transitioning to.

Generic carpet to vinyl/linoleum transitions include:

- **Metal Transitions** – The most common type of transition piece. These usually come in silver or gold. The clampdown or nap-lock part of the metal transition is screwed to wood subfloors or glued to concrete subfloors to hide the edge where the carpet meets another flooring surface (such as vinyl or linoleum).

TIP: Other types of generic carpet transitions may be available such as non-metal transitions (wood) or colored transitions. Some stores refer to generic carpet transitions as “carpet grippers” or “carpet joiners.”

When transitioning to laminate, hardwood or tile, the transition should match or accent the other type of flooring. Most often these transition pieces will already be in place. However, if you need to install them, transition pieces include:

- **Reducer Strip**: This piece is used to transition a higher profile flooring surface to a carpeted area.
- **End Molding**: This piece is used to transition a similar height flooring surface to a carpeted area. End molding also goes by the following names: Baby threshold, square nose, universal edge or end cap.
When installing molding, follow all the manufacturer's recommendations. If you need additional information, see one of the other FindAnyFlooring.com installation guides for the type of flooring you are transitioning to (such as laminate or tile). Each installation guide contains specific information for installing transitions for that flooring type. Installation procedures may differ depending on the subfloor type, type of flooring and how the other flooring was installed.

**Trim Options**

You'll install trim along all walls to give the room a finished look. The most common types of trim include:

- **Wall Base**: This molding is placed along the bottom of the wall. For carpet installations, wall base should already be in place.
- **Quarter Round**: This molding is placed along wall base above the carpet for aesthetics or to hide any gaps.

**Working Around Vents**

Working around floor vents can be tricky. Stretch and secure the carpeting to all perimeter walls before addressing floor vents. Place an “X” over all vent areas using masking tape to help you keep track of where they are; however, be aware that as you stretch your carpet, your original vent position may move.

Use a utility knife to cut a small “X” in the center of the vent opening. Peel back the corners and cut a larger “X” if necessary so you can see and work with the tackless strip. Use a knee kicker to stretch and secure the carpeting around the vent opening. Then trim the carpeting along the inside of the vent and replace all vent covers.

**Working around Fireplaces and Brickwork**

Carpet is installed around fireplaces and brickwork the same way as the rest of the room. Be sure the carpeting is stretched and secured correctly to all tackless strips.
Installing Carpet in Interior Doorways

Installing carpeting in doorways between adjacent rooms can be tricky. You should never use tackless strips to secure carpeting in interior doorways. Instead many installers will place a seam in the doorway to link the two carpeted rooms together or use the proper transition piece if the carpet is meeting a different type of flooring.

1. During your installation, trim your carpet so that the edge is centered in the doorway.

2. Follow all the seam cutting and sealing procedures (if required) for your installation method. Or install the correct transition.

Installing on Carpet on Stairs

Installing carpet on stairs provides a softer, slip resistant alternative to other types of floor coverings. There are three methods for installing carpet on stairs:

- **Waterfall Method**: One piece of carpet covers all the treads and risers. This method is somewhat easier than the cap and band method. Many installers consider the waterfall method to be more modern.

- **Cap and Band Method**: Individual pieces of carpet cover each tread and riser pair. This method is considered more traditional and is good for carpets with distinct patterns since you have more control over where the pattern falls on each tread or riser.

- **Glue Down Method**: Similar to the Cap and Band method; however, you’ll glue the carpet to the padding as well as secure with tackless strips.

For each method, you’ll use tackless strips to secure the carpet to the stairs. For boxed staircases (stairs between two walls where the sides are not exposed), the edge of the carpet is usually folded under and secured. For open stair cases (stairs where the sides of one of both steps are exposed), carpet edges are usually secured under the stair nosing. You can also choose to have the edges of your carpet bound for a cleaner look; however, you’ll have to take your carpet into a professional installer to have this done.
Installing Carpet with the Waterfall Method

When installing carpeting on stairs with the waterfall method, you’ll want to figure out how much carpeting you’ll need before beginning. For some carpet styles, you may be able to purchase pre-cut runners. This allows you to simply purchase the length you need if your stairs are the correct width. For other carpet styles, you’ll need to purchase the same carpet as for your floor and cut to the correct length and width.

When cutting lengthwise, you should end up with 6 inches or so extra. (If using pre-cut runners, factor this extra into your purchase.) When cutting widthwise, measure the width of each step (between the walls) then add about 1” to your measurement. This will allow you to fold each side under ½” during your installation.

1. Prepare your stair subfloor as necessary. Make sure the stairs are secure, level and clean. Remove all the old carpeting and padding.

2. Install a tackless strip at the bottom of each riser and the back of each tread. The teeth of the strip should face toward the intersection of the stair tread and riser:
   - **Riser tack strips:** Teeth face down.
   - **Tread tack strips:** Teeth face away from you.

3. Measure and cut a piece of padding to fit over the tread and down the riser between the two tackless strips. Leave a ¼”-½” on either side of the pad between the wall for the folded over carpet edge (to ensure the fold is not higher than the carpet/pad.) The pad should be slightly loose around the stair nose. Staple the padding to the subfloor diagonally along all edges.

4. Once all the padding is installed, roll out your carpeting. The carpet pile should be leading down when installed.

5. Turn your carpet over and measure out from each side in various places the amount of carpeting you’ll be folding over once your carpet is installed (for example, ½” on either side).

6. Snap a chalk line between these lines. Then re-measure the width of your staircase to ensure the folded carpet will fit snugly.

7. Use a utility knife or awl and straight edge to score the back of the carpet along your chalk lines. Fold the carpet under and along each scored line.

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8. Starting from the bottom riser, tuck the edge of the carpet into the tackless strip. Leave a little extra carpet (an inch or so) below the tackless strip. You’ll trim and tuck in the excess once you’re finished.

9. Once the carpet is secured onto the first tackless strip, fold it up along the riser. Staple the carpet to the top of the riser under the stair nosing. Use a knee kicker to ensure the carpet is stretched correctly on the riser.

10. Next, fold the carpeting over the first stair nose and tread. Use a knee kicker to ensure the carpet is stretched correctly on the tread. Use a stair tool to wedge the carpet in and secure it to the tackless strips at the back of the tread and the bottom of the next riser.

11. Repeat Steps 8 through 10 to install carpet on the other steps until you reach the back of the last tread.

12. When you reach the last tread, stretch and secure the carpeting to the tackless strip at the back of the last tread. Trim any excess carpet at the back of the tread.

13. At the top of the stairs, cut the carpeting to fit over the edge and down the top riser. Stretch the carpet over the top nosing then staple the carpet to the riser directly under the nosing.

14. Stretch the carpeting down to the tackless strip at the bottom of the top riser. Secure in place. Trim away any excess and tuck behind the carpeting you installed on the tread.

15. Trim away any excess carpeting at the bottom of the staircase or along the walls.
Installing Carpet with the Cap and Band Method

When installing carpeting on stairs with the cap and band method, you’ll be cutting individual pieces of carpet to cover a tread and riser pair. When cutting lengthwise, your pieces should be the exact length of the riser, tread and any nosing. When cutting widthwise, measure the width of each step (between the walls) then add about 1” to your measurement. This will allow you to fold each side under ½” during your installation.

1. Prepare your stair subfloor as necessary. Make sure the stairs are secure, level and clean. Remove all the old carpeting and padding.

2. Install a tackless strip at the bottom of each riser and the back of each tread. The teeth of the strip should face toward the intersection of the stair tread and riser:
   - **Riser tack strips**: Teeth face down.
   - **Tread tack strips**: Teeth face away from you.

3. Measure and cut a piece of padding to fit over the tread and down the riser between the two tackless strips. Leave a ¼”-½” on either side of the pad between the wall for the folded over carpet edge (to ensure the fold is not higher than the carpet/pad.) The pad should be slightly loose around the stair nose.
   Staple the padding to the subfloor diagonally along all edges.

4. Measure and cut your first piece of carpeting to fit over the tread and down the riser. The carpet pile should be leading down when installed.

5. Measure out how much you’ll be folding over on each side (for example, ½” on either side). Snap a chalk line, if needed. Then use an awl or utility knife to score the back of the carpet along the line. Fold the edges over along the scored line. Ensure the carpeting fits snugly between the walls.

6. Starting from the bottom riser, tuck the edge of the carpet into the tackless strip. Leave a little extra carpet (an inch or so) below the tackless strip. You’ll trim and tuck the excess in once you’re finished.

7. Once the carpet is secured into the first tackless strip, fold it up along the riser. Staple the carpet to the top of the riser under the stair nosing. Use a knee kicker to ensure the carpet is stretched correctly on the riser.
8. Next, fold the carpeting over the stair nose and the first tread. Use a knee kicker to ensure the carpet is stretched correctly on the tread. Use a stair tool to wedge the carpet in and secure it to the tackless strips at the back of the tread. Trim away any excess.

9. Repeat Steps 4 through 8 to install carpet on all other steps until you reach the back of the last tread.

10. At the top of the stairs, cut the carpeting to fit over the edge and down the top riser. Stretch the carpet over the top nosing then staple it to the riser directly under the nosing.

11. Stretch the carpeting down to the tackless strip at the bottom of the top riser. Secure in place. Trim away any excess and tuck behind the carpeting you installed on the tread.

12. Trim away any excess carpeting.

Installing Carpet with the Glue Down Method

Installing carpet on stairs with the glue down method is similar to installing carpet with the cap and band method. You'll use a tackless strip to secure the padding. Then you'll glue the carpeting directly to the padding in addition to securing it on the tackless strip.

1. Prepare your stair subfloor as necessary. Make sure the stairs are secure, level and clean. Remove all the old carpeting and padding.

2. Install a tackless strip at the bottom of each riser and the back of each tread. The teeth of the strip should face toward the intersection of the stair tread and riser:

   - **Riser tack strips:** Teeth face down.
   - **Tread tack strips:** Teeth face away from you.

3. Measure and cut a piece of padding to fit over the tread and down the riser between the two tackless strips. Leave a ¼"-½" on either side of the pad between the wall for the folded over carpet edge (to ensure the fold is not higher than the carpet/pad.) The pad should be slightly loose around the stair nose.

   Staple the padding to the subfloor diagonally along all edges.

4. Measure and cut your first piece of carpeting to fit over the tread and down the riser. The carpet pile should be leading down when installed.
5. Measure out how much you’ll be folding over on each side (for example, ½” on either side). Snap a chalk line, if needed. Then use an awl or utility knife to score the back of the carpet along the line. Fold the edges over along the scored line. Ensure the carpeting fits snugly between the walls.

6. Starting from the bottom step, spread the adhesive over the entire pad.

7. Set the carpet into the adhesive and tuck the edge into the tackless strip at the bottom of the first riser. Leave a little extra carpet (an inch or so) below the tackless strip. You’ll trim and tuck in the excess once you’re finished.

8. Once the carpet is secured into the first tackless strip, fold it up along the riser and press into the adhesive. Staple the carpet to the top of the riser under the stair nosing.

9. Next, fold the carpeting over the stair nose and the first tread then press into the adhesive. Use a stair tool to wedge the carpet in and secure it to the tackless strips at the back of the tread. Trim away any excess.

10. Repeat **Steps 4 through 9** to install carpet on all other steps until you reach the back of the last tread.

11. On the last tread, secure the carpeting to the tackless strip at the back of the last tread and press into the adhesive. Trim any excess carpet at the back of the tread.

12. At the top of the stairs, cut the carpeting to fit over the edge and down the top riser. Apply the adhesive to the entire pad then stretch the carpet over the top nosing and staple to the riser directly under the nosing.

13. Stretch the carpeting down to the tackless strip at the bottom of the top riser. Press into the adhesive and secure in place. Trim away any excess and tuck behind the carpeting you installed on the tread.

14. Trim away any excess carpeting.
FINISHING THE JOB

You’ve reached the home stretch of your installation. All we need to cover now is:

- Installing Quarter Round Trim

Installing Quarter Round Trim

Quarter round trim can be installed along your baseboard above your carpeting to help hide any spacing between the carpet and the wall or simply for aesthetics. Quarter round is generally easier to install and looks better above lower pile carpets.

1. Measure and cut the quarter round trim for your installation area.

2. Apply a thin, wavy line of adhesive (glue) down the length of the quarter round molding.

3. Gently press the quarter round molding to the bottom of the wall base molding so it fits snugly against the carpet. Nail the molding to the wall at an angle every 16”.

   ✔ TIP: Always nail the quarter round to the wall at an angle. If you nail straight into the wall, the nails may not hold well into the drywall.

4. Use white or a matching color caulk to fill any gaps between the molding and the wall.
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