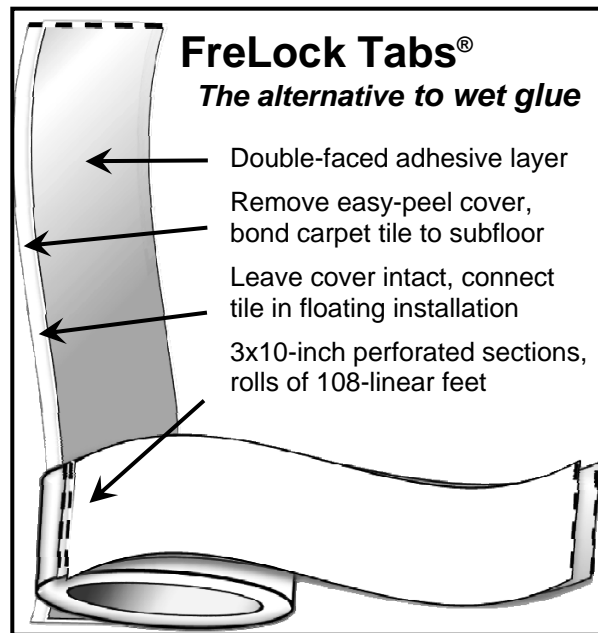


MANNINGTON COMMERCIAL

Installation FreLock Tabs® with Infinity® Modular carpet tile

Mannington's FreLock Tabs® provide an alternative to conventional pressure sensitive adhesive and wet glue without odor or the need for typical adhesive drying or set up times, both of which can be important advantages when installing in an occupied environment. FreLock Tabs are thin, double-face adhesive connectors for installing Mannington *Infinity* and *Infinity RE* carpet tile. FreLock Tabs can offer additional flexibility with two approaches to creating a stable installation of Infinity carpet tile.

- *Bonded directly to the subfloor.* In most installations with FreLock Tabs, the outer adhesive layer is exposed to provide a solid link between individual carpet tiles. The exposed or bottom adhesive layer adds further stability to the united, interlocking carpet tiles by also providing a solid bond with the subfloor.
- *Free floating.* In some end-use applications, when traffic load permits, the protective cover can be left intact on the outer adhesive layer. As the 10-inch FreLock Tabs are pulled from the roll, the inner or exposed adhesive layer can be used to join individual carpet tiles, locking them together in a unified, free floating installation without need for a bond to the subfloor surface.



Site conditions, usage. FreLock Tabs can be an ideal alternative to wet adhesives in occupied environments. In addition to the details in the Carpet and Rug Institute's Installation Standard and in Mannington's Installation Guide for Infinity carpet tile, the following must also be considered when planning an installation of Infinity carpet tile with FreLock Tabs:

- *Suitability.* FreLock Tabs are **not intended** for areas with heavy rolling traffic. FreLock Tabs are **not appropriate** for use on stairs, ramps or incline surfaces, which require a full spread of adhesive to prevent shifting. (See *Infinity Installation Guide* for more detail).
- *Clean subfloor.* The subfloor surface must be clean, free of dirt.
- *Existing Adhesives.* Must be removed or covered with appropriate cementitious skim coat then primed with Mannington's Universal Primer.
- *Dusty subfloor.* Dusting or excessively dusty subfloors will require an application of Mannington Universal Primer
- *Dry surface.* All subfloor surfaces should be dry.
- *Site conditions.* Maintain temperature at 60-85 degrees Fahrenheit with ambient humidity between 40-60 percent for 48-72 hours before, during installation and at least 48-72 hours after installation. Maintain temperature between 55-90 degrees Fahrenheit for product life.
- *Subfloor testing.* Concrete subfloors must be tested according to ASTM protocol to determine whether chemical pH and moisture emission levels are suitable.
 1. Chemical pH should be between 7- 9.
 2. Relative Humidity, ASTM-F-2170 (preferred method) should be 85 % or less.
 3. Calcium Chloride testing, ASTM-F-1869, should be 5 pounds or less.

- *Roll size.* Each roll of FreLock Tabs is 108-linear feet and includes 130 adhesive tabs.
- *Approximate coverage rates.* Coverage rates for FreLock Tabs will vary depending on installation layout and a variety of other factors, which are also detailed in this guide. The following are approximate coverage rates based entirely on upon the installation layout:
 1. Monolithic, quarter-turn, or random installations would have an approximate spread rate of 50-55 square yards per roll.
 2. Horizontal Brick Ashlar and Vertical Ashlar layouts require more FreLock Tabs. Spread rate for these kinds of installation layout would be approximately 40-45 square yards per roll of FreLock Tabs.
- *Infinity Modular only.* FreLock Tabs are designed for use only with Infinity and Infinity RE carpet tile and should not be used with any other Mannington product.
- *Check style, color.* Upon receiving carpet tile, installation contractor should visually confirm all styles and colors are correct for the project.
- *Confirm layout.* Each style of Mannington carpet tile will have a recommended layout or method for installation that will be specific to that style. Whether the layout is monolithic, brick, ashlar, or quarter-turn, the recommended layout will be listed on the specification sheet or architect folder.
- *Typical layouts.* Typical installation layouts with recommended minimum placement of FreLock Tabs are illustrated on page 5 of this guide.

Installing with FreLock Tabs. When planning an installation using FreLock Tabs with Mannington's Infinity carpet tile, the following steps are essential for a successful installation with full warranty coverage:

- *Coverage.* The number and placement of FreLock Tabs depends greatly on traffic load. Some areas within the same installation may require more tape, depending upon the traffic load.
- *Placement, frequency.* Circumstances and/or site conditions may require heavier application or additional FreLock Tabs to prevent shifting. Suggested carpet tile layouts with FreLock Tabs placement are *illustrated on page 5* of this guide. As a basic minimum guideline for number and placement of adhesive connectors, FreLock Tabs should be:
 1. Applied at every intersection of four tile corners in *monolithic and quarter-turn* installations where all four tile corners meet consistently.
 2. Positioned to secure as many tile corners as possible when an installation calls for tiles to be offset or staggered as with *horizontal or vertical ashlar* and *herribone* layouts. That means roughly half of the adhesive area of a FreLock connector will secure two tile corners with the center of an adjoining tile.
 3. Placed so that adhesive area is shared in equal proportions by any abutting tile whenever possible.
 4. Used more heavily to secure *cuts* or *perimeter tiles*.
- *Start square.* Establish square layout with perpendicular chalk lines to create four quadrants and anchor rows as detailed earlier.
- *Perimeter tiles.* Perimeter tiles help lock in an installation and should be cut net to the wall or a similar termination point. However, when the wall doesn't extend fully to the subfloor surface perimeter cuts should be fully adhered with Infinity adhesive applied at the same rate detailed earlier for standard installation.
- *Roll:* Once the installation of an area is complete, use a 75-100 pound roller to assure Infinity carpet tiles are locked together and making full contact with each FreLock connector.

Adhered to subfloor. When installing Infinity Modular using FreLock Tabs, the pressure sensitive adhesive sections can be used to connect each carpet tile and then further stabilize the installation by adhering FreLock Tabs directly to the subfloor in the following manner:

- *Apply Mannington's Premium Universal Primer to enhance the adhesion of the tabs to the substrate.*
- *Tear.* Once the first tile is positioned at the center of the room, with two sides flush along perpendicular chalklines set to keep the layout square and tight, tear a perforated, 10-inch FreLock Tab from the roll to begin securing tile to subfloor in standard stair-step fashion.
- *Position.* Lift tile corner where four tiles corners will meet so that the FreLock Tab can be positioned to provide equal coverage for all four tiles.
- *Stick.* The exposed adhesive layer (rolled inward for protection on each roll of FreLock Tabs) is applied directly onto the clean, dry subfloor.
- *Peel.* Peel away FreLock's top protective cover, which prevents dust from affecting the adhesive's grab strength and is ¼-inch wider than the adhesive strip to allow easy removal.
- *Stick.* Place Infinity carpet tile corner onto the exposed FreLock Tabs adhesive surface to secure the tile layout to the subfloor.

Free floating installation. The FreLock Tabs can also be flipped to create a *free floating installation* when a direct bond with the subfloor is not possible or practical. When a free floating installation is appropriate, the following are two important variations on earlier installation details:

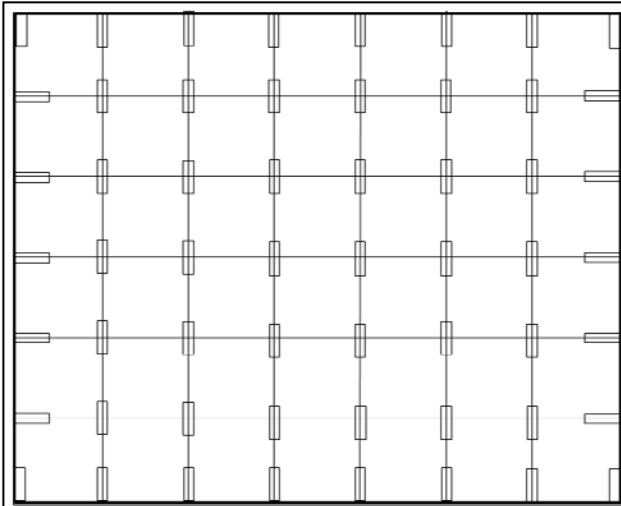
- *Protective covering intact.* The easy-peel cover, which protects the adhesive layer on the outside of each roll, must be left intact and facing downward to prevent the adhesive connector from bonding with the subfloor.
- *Exposed adhesive layer.* By flipping FreLock Tabs with the easy-peel protective covering subfloor-side down, the inner adhesive layer, exposed as each connector is pulled from the roll, is positioned adhesive up to form a bond with each tile backing and form a laterally stable installation.

Protect installation. Ideally, carpet should always be installed last in any construction or renovation project. The completed installation should be protected as finish trades complete the project, during customer move-in, or when heavy rolling carts are used.

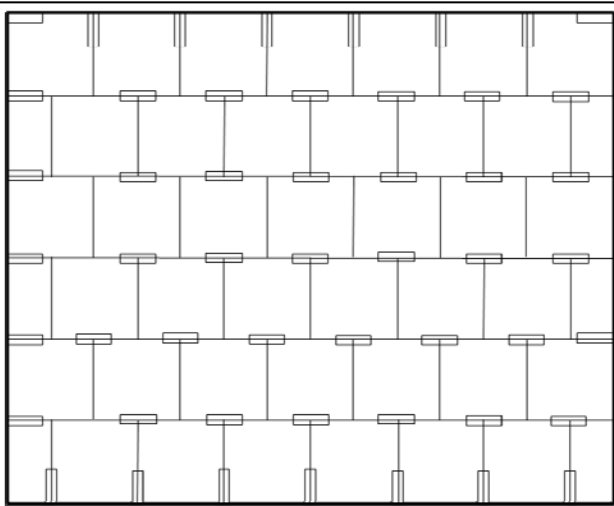
- *Craft paper.* Bonded-craft paper will protect the completed installation from construction dirt and spills while allowing floor covering primers, sealers or adhesives to cure properly.
- *Avoid plastic sheeting.* Never use plastic sheeting to protect any installation.
- *Avoid sticky coverings.* Protective coverings with pre-applied adhesive or tackifiers can leave a sticky residue on the carpet face, cause rapid soiling, and should not be used.
- *Heavy rolling carts.* Masonite or plywood should be used in traffic lanes to prevent tile from shifting any time furniture is being moved or when heavy rolling carts are being used on the completed installation.
- **After installation.** As the customer begins to enjoy their new installation of Mannington carpet tile, please also note the following:
- *Chair pads.* Recommended for use under chairs with rolling casters and required for full warranty coverage on Infinity RE. Chair pads can prevent premature wear even when carpet casters are used. Use only carpet-friendly casters a minimum of 5/8-to-1-inch wide.
- *Blossoming.* When loop pile carpet is cut into tile, some loops on tile edges will be cut in half. Vacuuming and routine use will expose those cut yarns that remained compressed and hidden during manufacturing or installation. This blossoming is easily remedied by clipping stray fiber exposed along tile edges.

Questions? If there are any questions or doubts about performing a successful installation of Mannington's Infinity Modular or Infinity RE carpet tile with FreLock Tabs or Mannington's adhesives, please stop immediately and call *Technical Services* at 800-241-2262, Ext. 3.

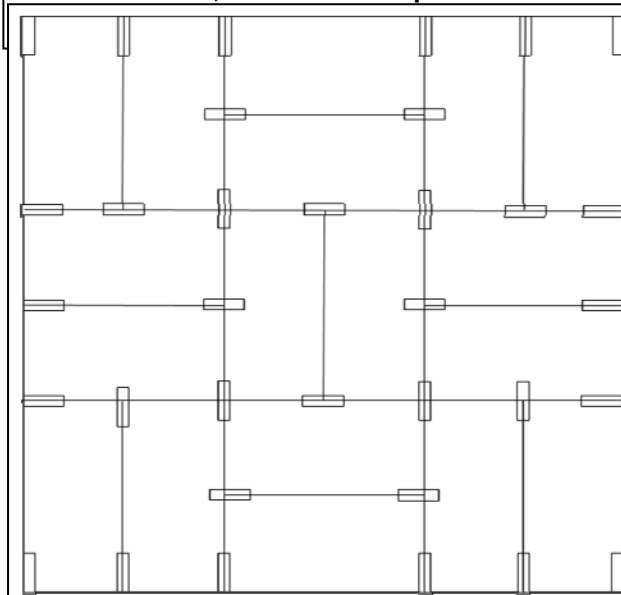
FreLock Tabs placement. The following diagrams illustrate typical, minimum FreLock Tabs placement with the various installation layouts of 24x24-inch or 18x36-inch Infinity carpet tile. *Make sure to always use the installation layout recommended for specific carpet style being installed.* Additional FreLock Tabs may necessary if traffic causes lifting or shifting of carpet tiles.



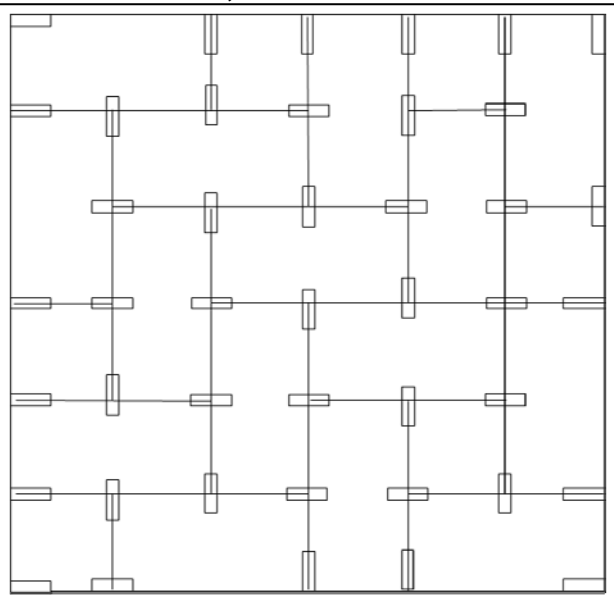
24x24-inch, monolithic or quarter turn



24x24-inch, horizontal brick ashlar



18x36-inch, box weave



18x36-inch, herringbone