INSTALLATION PROCEDURES FOR MANNINGTON’S DELTA-LOC (Polyurethane) BACKINGS

OVERVIEW

MANNINGTON has developed and tested installation procedures for all products that we manufacture. Our procedures are documented throughout this bulletin and other literature that is available upon request. These installation techniques have been developed in conjunction with CRI #104, only expanding on techniques and procedures, which may be vague. We are confident the procedures documented will provide excellent results; therefore, they should be thoroughly followed by the installation contractor.

INSPECTION

• MANNINGTON requires that the carpet be inspected prior to installation for proper style, color and potential defects.
• MANNINGTON’S claims policy views installation of the carpet as acceptance of the merchandise and limits the types of claims that can be honored on installed carpet.
• Layout all carpets and allow to acclimate prior to adhering to the floor.
• Rolls should be installed by roll numbers in consecutive order.
• The carpet is to acclimatize to at least 65º Fahrenheit for 24 hours prior to installation with relative humidity of 12-65%. These conditions must be maintained throughout the installation and for 72 hours after the installation has been completed.
• MANNINGTON carpets are to be installed by professional installers who have the training, skills and tools to properly install technically advanced commercial carpets.

FLOOR PREPARATION

• MANNINGTON cannot be responsible for claims regarding sub-floor conditions.
• Floors must be cured, dry and clear of any foreign debris. Cracks should be filled with a latex based, portland cement patching compound.
• A calcium chloride test should be performed on the concrete to detect the presence of moisture. Acceptable results require that moisture content does not exceed 5 Lbs. per 1,000 square feet per 24 hours. One calcium chloride test should be performed for every 300 yards of carpet. Calcium Chloride Test must be performed in accordance with ASTM-F1869-98 testing procedures. Mannington will also accept the Relative Humidity test ASTM-F-2170. Acceptable moisture levels are 80% maximum RH.
• Alkalinity tests must also be performed. pH should register between 5 and 9. If pH exceeds 9 contact Technical Services at 800-241-2262 Ext. 3.
• Please note that calcium chloride and alkalinity tests state only the condition of the floor at the time of the test. Test results are not indicative, nor do they predict, how environmental conditions may impact moisture or alkalinity in the future.
• Tests should be documented, and results saved.
• Cut-back adhesive must be removed or covered.

For porous subfloors (concrete or wood) that has a high pH and/or needs a primer use Mannington’s Universal Primer. Porous or dusty floors may need to be sealed to prevent adhesive from tacking too quickly. If the adhesive tacks too fast, there may be no transfer of adhesive from the floor to the carpet backing; therefore, the carpet will not adhere to the substrate.

Mannington’s Universal Primer is an acrylic latex solution made to neutralize excess alkali and is also recommend as a primer to prevent over absorption of adhesive to ensure a better bond. Gypsum topped, or patched areas must receive a full application of Mannington’s Universal Floor Primer as well as any subfloor that is porous, gritty, chalky, or dusty. Porous subfloors with chemical Ph above 9 may require a second application.
DELTA LOC backings can be installed over many existing floors if they are securely bonded to the substrate. Contact MANNINGTON’s Technical Services if you have questions concerning pre-existing floors.

SEAM TRIMMING:

(Method 1)

- Measure areas to be carpeted, make cut and dry fit cuts into place. Overlap the carpet 3 inches at seams and 1 inch at walls.
- Seams are to be cut via the row/trace method with National Equipment’s #575 commercial seam cutter, also known as a "Glass Cutter". This is the primary seam cutting method. A cushion back cutter may be used, however, results are not as favorable as with the #575 cutter.
  * The #575 cutter is specifically designed to row cut the top breadth of carpet, while simultaneously trace cutting the lower breadth.
  * Simply run a screwdriver down the length of the top breadth of carpet to open a row adjust the blade to proper gauge, align the cutter and cut the seam.
  * The #575 seam cutter will produce net fitting seams without gaps or fullness. MANNINGTON strongly recommends the #575 cutter for the best results. To obtain one simply call 1-800-245-0267 for a distributor nearest you.

(Method 2)

- Run a row down the length of one breadth of carpet. Allow at least 1 ½ inches to trim off.
- Using a cushion back cutter, cut the row. It is important to hold the cushion back cutter at slight angle so that the backing is under cut or beveled. Beveling the first cut makes for a better fit at the seam.
- Overlap the row cut breadth 1 ½ inches over the opposite breadth and trace cut the seam, making sure to hold the cutter straight up and down.
- Before removing the cut piece, be sure the backing is cut-off completely.
- This method allows a slight compression fit at seams.

ADHESIVE SPREAD

- After edges have been trimmed, carefully fold back seams one-half of their width, exposing sub-floor.
- Apply Mannington’s ULTRA adhesive with a minimum 1/8" X 1/8" X 1/8" "U" notched trowel. The spread rate should be approximately 6 - 8 yards of carpet per gallon of adhesive, depending on sub-floor conditions.
- Allow adhesive to remain open long enough to develop tack but remain wet enough to ensure transfer to the backing. Temperature and humidity will affect the amount of tack time needed. Adhesive transfer must be 100%. If a 100% transfer is not achieved with a 1/8" "U" notched trowel, a deeper trowel must be used.
- Lay one breadth of the carpet adhesive and smooth out air bubbles using a two-foot section of the carpet core or the back of a push broom. Do not use a heavy roller (maximum weight 35 pounds).
- Seal the seam edges by applying a 1/8" bead of Mannington’s EdgeGuard acrylic latex seam sealer at the primary backing level. Note: Do not use solvent based “honey tone” seam sealers
- Place opposite breadth into position and work seam with slight compression ensuring seam sealer transfer.
- Clean away any excess adhesive that has wicked-up through seam.
- Continue these techniques throughout remainder of installation.
**CROSS SEAMS**

- Cut first breadth clean with a straight edge.
- Trace cut second breadth with a cushion back cutter.
- Apply adhesive and allow to become “very tacky.”
- Place breadth with pile sweeping away from seam into adhesive first and apply seam sealer.
- Position opposite breadth and work out bubbles.
- Non-flammable contact cement can be used for 6” on either side of the seam in lieu of specified adhesive if the cross seams tend to peak.

**TRANSITIONS**

All carpet products must be properly protected when transitioning to other floor covering or exposed stopping points. The use of a transition molding or protective strip covering the carpet edge at ½” is required. If a transition cannot be utilized the carpet nap must be level or slightly below the adjacent floor. The carpet edge must be fully seam sealed to protect from raveling or damage.

**PROTECT INSTALLATION**

Use Masonite or plywood during furniture move-in. If additional protection is required to prevent damage by other finish trades use bonded craft paper, which will allow adhesives to cure without risk to the new installation. Avoid using plastic sheeting to protect any installation. Coverings with pre-applied adhesive can leave sticky residue, cause rapid soiling, and should not be used to protect the installation.

**TIPS**

- Long drops will require extra manpower to avoid shifting the carpet when folding back.
- When trimming walls, note that DELTA LOC backings do not accept fullness. It is recommended that walls are trimmed net fit or slightly under net with the use of a wall trimmer.
- Minimize foot traffic for 24 hours and allow no heavy roll traffic (in excess of 35 pounds) for 72 hours.
- Chair pads are recommended under chairs for appearance retention.

The procedures listed above are our best recommendation for installing DELTA LOC Backings. This document and other literature are available upon request. If you have further question or require additional information, please contact our Technical Services Department at 800-241-2262 Ext. 3