

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES FOR MANNINGTON'S Frē Lock MODULAR CARPET TILE (Pre- Applied Adhesive Installation System)

**MAKE SURE YOU INSPECT CARPET MODULES PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.
NO CLAIMS WILL BE HONORED IF MODULES ARE INSTALLED WITH VISIBLE DEFECTS.
READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO BEGINNING INSTALLATION.**

SITE AND MODULAR MATERIAL CONDITIONING

Floor temperatures must be a minimum of 70° for 24 hours prior to installation. Floor temperature can usually vary 5-10° lower than room temperature. Modules must be conditioned to room temperature for 24 hours prior to installation. Relative humidity must be between 12% - 65% maximum for 24 hours prior to installation. These conditions must also be maintained for 48 hours after completion of installation.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Dust, dirt, debris, and noncompatible adhesive must be removed before installation begins. Surfaces must be smooth and level with all holes and cracks filled with latex based Portland cement patching compound.

LATEX ADHESIVES

Must be removed and floors sanded or covered with a skim coat of Portland patching compound. Latex adhesive may also be covered with TRISEAL adhesive sealer (800-367-4583). **Note:** Failure to remove or seal old latex adhesive may cause installation failure, plasticizer migration, shifting, buckling or edge curling; these conditions will not be covered under warranty.

CUT BACK ADHESIVES

Must be wet scrapped and covered with TRISEAL (800-367-4583). **Note:** Failure to remove or seal old cut back adhesive may cause installation failure, plasticizer migration, shifting, buckling or edge curling; these conditions will not be covered under warranty.

MOISTURE TESTING

Subfloor surfaces must be tested for moisture content. It is the responsibility of the general contractor to perform moisture test prior to starting the installation. MANNINGTON recommends tests are performed to detect the presence of moisture. Acceptable results require that moisture content does not exceed 3lbs. Per 1,000 square feet per 24 hours when using the Calcium Chloride Test Method ASTM-F-1869. Contact Technical Services for recommendations for readings over 3 lbs. Mannington will also accept the Relative Humidity ASTM-F-2170 test method. Acceptable moisture levels are 75% maximum relative humidity. Alkalinity must have a maximum Ph level of 9 or less. Contact Technical Services for corrective measures for substrates that test over 9 Ph. **Note:** Moisture emissions in excess of the recommended levels can cause the adhesive to chemically break down and fail. This condition can result in shifting, bucking, or edge curling of the modules.

SUBFLOORS

New Concrete – New concrete must be fully cured and free of moisture. New concrete requires a curing period of approximately 90 days. Test for moisture and alkalinity must be performed. pH should register between 5 and 9.

Old Concrete – Old concrete should be checked for moisture. Dry, dusty, porous floors must be sealed with an appropriate dust sealer.

Wood – Wood floors must be smooth and level. If floor is uneven, an approved underlayment may be required. Old finishes must be tested for compatibility with adhesives or removed and porous wood sealed.

Terrazzo / Marble – Level all grout lines with a latex based Portland cement patching compound. Glossy surfaces must be sanded for adhesive bond.

Hard Surfaces – Tiles must be well secured to the floor or removed. Broken, damaged, or loose tiles must be replaced. Wax must be removed from VCT before applying adhesive. Existing sheet vinyl is not a suitable substrate for modular installation and should be removed.

OLD CARPET

Remove old carpet and check adhesive for compatibility. If unsure remove or cover adhesive with a Portland based patching compound or encapsulate with TRISEAL (800-367-4583)

FLOOR PRIMER

Prime concrete floors that are dusty or porous as well as all gypcrete floors and wood floors. Existing primers, curing agents or moisture sealers must be compatible with Mannington's Universal Primer or removed.

- Universal Primer can be applied by pouring directly on the subfloor and spreading evenly with a broom or paint roller. Primer can also be applied with a garden sprayer, an airless rig or similar spray equipment.
- pH can be retested after subfloor has fully dried (no transfer when touched). If pH is still testing above 9, a second application will be necessary.
- All patched areas must receive a full application of Universal Primer.
- Coverage is approximately 30 – 40 sq. yds. per gallon.

NOTE: After removing the wax from VCT floors, it usually creates a dust free floor and the primer would not be needed in the situation. If in doubt use Mannington's Universal Primer.

MEASUREMENTS

Measure area to be carpeted to determine best starting position. Chalk two lines that intersect these positions at right angles. Proper planning should avoid trimming perimeter tiles more than ½ their width (12 inches for 24" x 24" tiles).

INSTALLATION METHODS

MANNINGTON'S CARPET TILE MAY HAVE A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDED INSTALLTION METHOD. PLEASE REFER TO THE PRODUCT SPECIFICATION SHEET OR ARCHITECT FOLDER FOR INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS. Mannington Commercial's modular carpet tile can be installed in any configuration as long as it is visually acceptable to the end user. The installation method has nothing to do with performance or warranties. Please note that all patterns and colors may not be aesthetically acceptable with certain installations methods. A mock up area is recommended to allow all parties to review modules in various configurations i.e.; monolithic, quarter turn, random, ashlar etc. Mannington evaluates each product and recommends the installation method for the best aesthetics other methods would be at the owner's discretion.

TILE PLACEMENT

Starting in the corner of one quadrant, install tiles in a pyramid fashion. Install by butting edges together evenly, being careful not to compress modules (this can cause peaked edges). Arrows are embossed or printed on the module backing to show pile direction. To ensure proper alignment, check spacing every ten modules. Measure ten 24-inch modules for a total of 240 inches; proper spacing should be within 3/8 inch. Continue to check spacing every ten modules throughout the entire installation.

PACKAGEING

Mannington's 24 x 24 Frē Lock tiles are packaged 14 per container or 6.22 sq. yds. Tiles have an acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive pre-applied to the backing in an offset pattern; this allows the tiles to be packaged back to back without using release paper.

PALLET AND BOX SEQUENCING

It is very important to install MANNINGTON Modular tiles in the order they were manufactured; this is easily accomplished by selecting pallets in sequential order and following the numbers located on each carton of tiles. Typically an installation will begin with the lowest carton numbers and progress through the highest numbers until project is complete. Installing MANNINGTON Modular tiles by carton sequence will assure the most even uniform look possible.

CUTTING / TRIMMING

Carpet modules will require cutting at perimeters, floor electrical outlets, and door openings. Loop pile modules may require some trimming or clipping of tufts. This is typical of this type construction and is not a manufacturing problem. Small pieces of carpet tile may require extra glue applied to the backing to help hold them in place.

FLATWIRE CABLE / TRENCH HEADERS

Flatwire cables are easily accessible when carpet modules are used. Cable should be centered under modules.

STAIRS

Use a raised stair nosing and cut tiles to fit nosing, both step and riser.

FINISHED INSTALLATION

When heavy furniture and wheeled traffic is moved over tiles, use plywood runner to avoid tile shifting. Roll entire job with 75-100 lb roller after completion of installation.

CHAIR PADS

Chair pads are recommended for use under chairs with roller casters. Casters should be the flat round type with 5/8" to 1" width minimum. If chair pads are not used, the appearance of the modules will decrease and maintenance and/or shifting of the modules may be required more frequently.

LOOP PILE CONSTRUCTION

Carpet modules with loop pile constructions may experience yarn blossoming at the edges, which is consistent with this type of construction. Clipping or shearing the yarn edges can remedy this condition.

TILE ARRANGEMENT

Some carpet styles require more attention from the installers during installation. Due to the light row, dark row construction of these products, dark lines may appear at the edges. **This is not a manufacturing defect.** These products will require shifting tiles around to avoid dark lines at the edges.

Some carpet tile constructions are designed for random installation. This type of carpet tile installation is very installer friendly because it eliminates having to locate the directional arrow on back of the tile. There is still a possibility of having to shift the tiles around to avoid dark lines at the edges.

REPLACEMENT TILES

On occasion, it may be necessary to replace damaged or heavily soiled modules. Modules can be replaced with new MANNINGTON tiles from on-site inventory or from another area of the installation. A difference of appearance may be noticed when modules are replaced; this difference usually diminishes in a short time.

The procedures listed above are our best recommendations for installing Frē Lock (Carpet Tile). This document and other literature are available upon request. If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact our Technical Services Department at 800-241-2262 Ext. 3.