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Axminster Installation Guidelines

We cannot overemphasize the extent to which the use of proper installation procedures, tools and accessories impacts upon the success of an Axminster carpet installation. It is important to stay informed and educated about the latest installation practices. Only experienced installers, familiar with patterned and woven carpet should be entrusted with the installation of Couristan Axminster Carpet.

Installation Guidelines

Carpet Storage:

Storage facilities should be clean, dry and climate controlled. Flat bins should be used to store the carpet and rolls should not be stacked more than three high. The carpet should be protected so as not to be damaged in storage or handling.

Installer Qualifications:

Couristan strongly recommends that installers working with our products should have a minimum of 5 years experience working with woven patterned carpet, the highest skill levels and be master certified or installation journeymen. This will result in an installation that satisfies the end user and also protects the integrity of the carpet and the installation.

Inspect the Carpet:

All carpet should be inspected before cutting and installing. Installation of carpet with visible defects becomes the installer's responsibility. Report any concerns to Couristan immediately.

Environment:

The space in which the carpet is to be installed should be acclimated with the HVAC system fully operational for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. If it's comfortable for people, it's comfortable for the carpet.

Substrate Conditions:

The substrate should be clean and dry and free of contaminants such as paint, oil, grease and any compromising conditions. It should also be tested for moisture and alkalinity, curing compounds, additives, fly ash content and any other compromising condition before installation per industry recommended procedures. Cracks 1/8 inch or more must be filled.

Installation Space:

The installer should have unencumbered access to the floor to be carpeted, which should also be free of all other trades and activities. There should be room to lay the carpet out to acclimate and dry fit before installation. In large open spaces all carpet sections must be loose-laid on the floor to assess pattern match prior to commencement of installation. Commencing with full installation of only a section of the space can result in an inability to achieve a pattern match in subsequent areas of the space.

Edge Preparation:

99% of Couristan Axminster carpets are supplied with 2 spare tufts on both side-edges which are to be cut off prior to seaming. (Note: We cannot add these additional tufts if we are supplying carpet which needs to be installed alongside attic stock from a previous weaving which was made without these spare tufts). All trimmed carpet edges must be properly sealed with seam sealer not only along the cut edge but also about one inch onto the backing from the cut edge. This is skilled work requiring only the most skilled, experienced journeyman or master installers. Proper cutting tools must be used with sharp blades.

Seaming Materials/Tools:

Heat-taped seams are recommended for all stretch-in installations over padding. Seaming tape must be of the highest quality, such as AAT Urabond, Orcon CT 11 or Orcon Super 3, and an iron such as the Seam Master Kool Glide should also be employed. It is also recommended that the "Seamer Down Now" be used when making seams to insure the highest quality seam construction.



Project: JW Marriott San Antonio | Design Firm: Forrest Perkins
Program: Custom Woven Electronic Jacquard Axminster Carpet

Installation Tools/Equipment:

Along with the above-mentioned seaming tapes and iron, the installation will require the use of installation tools such as power stretcher(s), dead man, mini-stretchers, knee kickers (for positioning only), stay nails, stair tool and architectural tack strip. Couristan recommends either Couristan Foundations Plus Series or Healthier Choice cushion for stretch in installations.

Direct Glue Down Installation Method:

This method is not recommended by Couristan as it can compromise the appearance, performance and integrity of the carpet. If this method is used a high quality adhesive, such as AAT 275 or equal should be used. The adhesive should be applied with a 1/8 x 1/8 x 1/8 "V" notched trowel or size recommended by the adhesive manufacturer for woven backed carpet. The trowel should be re-notched intermittently or notch blade changed to insure adequate and uniform adhesive application. Adhesive should not be allowed to set up too long. Adhesion should be checked randomly to insure appropriate transfer of adhesive to carpet backing and adhesion to the substrate. The carpet should be rolled with a 35 pound roller after installation.

Double Stick Installation:

This system utilizes a separate cushion onto which the carpet is glued. Couristan recommends Couristan Foundations Plus series or Healthier Choice cushion for use with this method. AAT #275 adhesive or equal should be used to install the cushion to the substrate using a 1/16 x 1/16 x 1/16 "U" or square notched trowel. The carpet should be glued to the cushion using AAT #275 or equal adhesive applied with a 1/8 x 1/8 x 1/16 "U" notched trowel. Hot-melt seaming tape should be used to fabricate seams on all double-stick installations involving our carpet. The seaming tape must not have a silicone backing, as this will not adhere to the cushion. Rebond cushion should not be used to install Couristan carpet. All traffic should be kept off the carpet for at least 24 hours to allow the adhesive to set up and to prevent compromising the installation. The carpet should be protected with Masonite or plywood when moving furnishings to prevent compromising the installation.

Pattern Matching:

The patterned carpet should be dry laid first to allow for pattern adjustment and alignment. It should be installed using the appropriate installation tools by craftsmen skilled in installing patterned carpet. (See additional information in The Installer Qualifications and Stretch in Installation Headers. Master installers will be familiar with the installation techniques to be used to address any bow, skew or pattern run-off which may be present in a woven Axminster product.

Note - it is typical for Axminster carpet rolls to weave to slightly different finished lengths and/or have slightly different pattern dimensions within individual rolls in a common roll sequence. In such cases it is critical to dry-lay all rolls where a contiguous design match is required across multiple rolls, and be certain to identify the individual roll which is either the longest roll itself, and/or exhibits the longest pattern-match dimensions within an individual roll. This "long" roll then becomes the "key" roll which is installed first, and which all other rolls are stretched to align with, and pattern-matched to. The "long" roll may be anywhere in the roll sequence within a contiguous space, which emphasizes the need for all rolls to be laid out and assessed before any gluing of carpet commences. Should a "short" roll be installed first and longer rolls subsequently be identified, then a satisfactory final installation will be impossible, as shrinking the longer rolls will not be achievable.

Carpet Protection:

It is necessary to protect the carpet from soiling and damage after installation if construction activities are still on-going. The carpet should be protected with a permeable Kraft paper type product or, in the case of double stick, Masonite or plywood type sections of protection to prevent damage from wheeled traffic or furniture move in. Couristan does not recommend the use of self-adhesive or impermeable types of carpet protection materials under any circumstances as their use can permanently damage the carpet and alter its appearance. As a result, the use of adhesive and/or impermeable protective films voids Couristan's standard manufacturing warranty.



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