

# Retailer fitting guide



Boho Collection Hamilton Tea Rose

Installation of woven carpets is a specialised skill and requires the expertise of a fitter with skills and experience in installing woven carpets.

Based on BS 5325:2001, our own experience and those of master fitters we have worked with, we have put together a quick summary of general advice we offer.

This guide is only a recommendation and advice on best practice. We are aware that other practices may also achieve good results.

## **Room conditions**

- The sub floor should be clean and preferably vacuumed prior to installation.
- The carpet should be as close to room temperature as possible before fitting. In winter especially, cold carpets can be stiff and harder to work with.

## **Grippers**

- We recommend that new grippers are used for a new carpet. We often find that older grippers can be damaged, loose or incorrectly spaced.
- The separation between the grippers and the wall should be two thirds the thickness of the carpet.
- Grippers need to be securely fixed in place for the life of the installation using an appropriate fixing method.
- On a run of stairs the distance between the gripper on the riser and the tread should be twice the thickness of the carpet. Where two pieces meet (e.g. bottom stair to hallway or top stair to landing) the gap should be 1.5 times the thickness of the carpet.

## **Underlay**

- Ulster recommends the use of a good quality underlay. Preferably a felt and crumb rubber underlay as it grips the woven back, reduces movement and minimises any rucking issues.
- Good quality underlay gives better support and is excellent for sound and heat insulation. This underlay also gives better support in higher traffic areas and will be less likely to collapse and aid in pile recovery.
- On stairs, run the underlay from gripper to gripper on the tread and riser to prevent premature heel and toe wear. A good combination underlay will prevent premature wear as it goes over the stair nosing better.
- All joins in underlay should be taped using a suitable single sided tape.
- When fitting on suspended floors we would advise lining paper to avoid air blowing up through the gaps and causing dust marks.

## Fitting

- In rooms, ideally start from the furthest point away from the door or a fireplace.
- Always work away from your start point with the kicker head at a 10 degree angle from the skirting.
- Always stretch the length before the width and try to stretch into a door bar.
- Use latex or an adhesive to seal cut edges where necessary e.g. doorbars and seams.
- A power stretcher is also recommended for any carpet over 5m in length.
- Do not cut anything until the carpet is properly stretched out.
- Use either a straight or concave blade to cut in.
- Use a tucking tool when tucking in as a stair bolster can damage the gripper or skirting.
- Stairs should be fitted starting at the bottom up using a knee kicker to achieve the correct tension and allow for patterns to be straightened correctly.

