

Stretch-In Installation Instructions

LifeGuardTM backed carpet is engineered with a revolutionary commercial grade thermoplastic backing that provides a moisture proof barrier.

LifeGuard[™] is lightweight and flexible, allowing installers to easily bend and manipulate the carpet to facilitate installation.

LifeGuardTM must be power stretched 0.5% to 1.0% in both width and length directions. It is mandatory to use a power stretcher for LifeGuardTM products. Knee kickers should only be used to move and position the carpet. Shaw Industries does not recommend the use of a stretcher hook, stinger or spike.

Floor Preparation:

The floor must be clean, dry and free of dirt and debris. Any indentions or projections in the subfloor which could telegraph through the cushion should be repaired. Missing boards or other damage to wood subfloors should be repaired or replaced. A minimum of 18" of ventilated air space is needed between the floor joists and the ground.

Existing resilient tile or sheet vinyl should be fastened securely to the floor. Any loose ceramic, terrazzo and marble tiles should be readhered. Broken or missing tiles should be replaced or filled using a Portland cement based patching compound and grout lines should be leveled. Any floating floor system, such as vinyl plank, laminate plank, etc. should be removed prior to installing LifeGuard^{TM.}

Conditioning:

LifeGuard[™] should be allowed to properly acclimate on site at a temperature between 65°F and 85°F prior to installation.

<u>Tackless Strip:</u>

When installing LifeGuardTM using old existing tackless strips, Shaw Industries recommends adding a second row of strip (double stripping). The pins on the old strip may be bent and damaged. Using an additional strip will provide adequate grip.

When installing new tackless strip, use a premium strip or architectural strip, or Tri-Tac, with three rows of pins.

For carpets with a thinner profile, it may be necessary to use a shorter pin length (J-pin) to prevent the pins from protruding up through the primary backing.

Tackless strips should be nailed into wooden subfloors. Shaw Industry recommends to reinforce the tackless strip with additional nails to ensure the tackless strip can withstand the recommended industry stretch of 0.5% to 1.0% in both width and length directions. Concrete surfaces may require that holes be drilled and anchors or screws be used to secure the strips to the floor. Non-flammable contact or epoxy adhesives can be used to glue down the strips. Do not use tackless strips across door openings or staple carpeting into the strips.

Areas over 30 feet in length or width are difficult to obtain sufficient stretch and can potentially wrinkle. In these areas, architectural strips or Tri-tack, which contain three rows of pins, should be used. Double residential tackless strips are recommended in lieu of architectural strips.

Radiant heating systems require special attention in order to avoid puncturing the buried hot water pipes in the concrete. To determine the exact location of the pipes, turn off the heat, wet mop the entire floor and then turn the heat back on. The areas over the hot water pipes will dry quickly and should be marked. Tackless strips can be nailed in if there is no danger of puncturing the pipes. If the concrete will not hold nails or if there is a possibility of puncturing the pipes, then the strips can be glued down.

Cushion:

Choose a cushion which is appropriate for the particular end use. An improper selection of cushion may result in buckling and wrinkling.

The recommended cushion thickness should be no greater than 1/2" and a minimum of 6 pound density.

Cushion seams should be installed at right angles to carpet seams or staggered at least six inches from carpet seams. The longest possible lengths of cushion should be used. When many smaller pieces are used, the cushion may slip or lift at the edges and create resistance during the positioning and stretching of the carpet.

Carpet cushion should be glued to concrete flooring using a good quality cushion adhesive. Apply adhesive using a 15° – 18° zig-zag line around the perimeter of the room, along the seams, and in the center of the cushion.





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Staples can be used to fasten the cushion to wood floors. Place the staples no more than eight inches apart around the perimeter and down the center. Stagger the staples along the seams to prevent depressed lines. With each method, the cushion should be secured after all wrinkles are eliminated. Cushion seams should be taped using 2" wide tape.

Carpet Layout and Cutting:

Carefully cut the carpet into sufficient lengths to cover the area following the seaming diagram. Examine each pattern for the size of the repeat before beginning the installation. Allow enough material to properly match patterned carpeting. Please call Shaw Technical Support for more information regarding patterned products.

Cutting Length Seams:

Berbers, loops and cut pile carpet with LifeGuardTM can be row cut from the face on both drops with the use of a Roberts 10-146 or Crane 301 cushion back cutter. It may be necessary to stretch for pattern match correction and to eliminate any fullness or gaps in the seam.

For cut pile, when row cutting is not possible, use the straight edge method.

For Berbers, when row cutting is not possible, call Shaw Technical Support for further instructions.

Cutting Cross Seams:

Cross seams should be kept to a minimum.

For cut pile, when row cutting is not possible, use the straight edge method.

For Berbers, row cutting both seam edges is the primary seam cutting method. If row cutting is not possible, the alternative seam cutting method is to straight edge from the face according to pattern.

Seam Sealing:

After the edges are trimmed, an acrylic, thermoplastic, latex (Shaw 4000) or universal (Shaw 8300) seam sealer must be applied to both edges between the primary and secondary backings. The wet seam sealers can be smoothed with the fingertip to allow quicker drying time and to avoid transfer to the face yarn and seaming iron. Edge raveling can occur if the seams are not properly sealed.

Seaming:

A premium tape with a low melting point is recommended. Six inch wide seaming tape will provide the best results for berbers and other products when peaking seams is a concern. Backrolling the seam edges and pre-stretching the carpet along the seam area will help minimize seam peaking.

An iron with a heat shield should be selected. The seaming iron should be set at approximately 3.0 - 3.5 and moved at a speed which will completely melt the thermosplastic adhesive. Construct the seam over a firm surface and run the iron in the direction of the pile lay, never against the pile direction.

Overheating the seam tape can damage the carpeting backing, and cause seam distortion. A non-heat conductive seam weight should be used to weight the seam, rather than using a metal tool box tray, which will trap heat and moisture.

Power Stretching:

The carpet must be power stretched 0.5% to 1.0% in both width and length directions according to industry standards. Ensure that the carpet is fully engaged onto the tack strip. To ensure that the stretcher pins do not penetrate all the way through the backing, it may be necessary to adjust the pin depth.

Berber / loop products may be installed with a cotton head power stretcher attachment. Ensure that the carpet is fully engaged onto the tack strip prior to trimming. This may require rubbing the carpet down over the tackless strip with a hammer or stair tool.

Trim the carpet along the walls with a wall trimmer. The trimmer should be adjusted to leave enough carpet to tuck into the gullies.

Should you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Shaw Technical Support at 800-471-7429.

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