

Commercial Carpet Double-Glue Installation Recommendations

The double-glue installation method (more commonly referred to as the “double glue-down” and the “double stick” method) provides a viable installation option to those who intend to install a commercial carpet and who want to benefit from the improved appearance retention, underfoot comfort, warmth, sound absorption, and vacuuming efficiency carpet cushions provides without concerns for wrinkles, buckles and subsequent carpet re-stretching needs. With the exception of unitary backed carpets and carpets manufactured with attached cushion backing systems, virtually any commercial carpet can be installed using the double-glue method, which is considered to be an appropriate method of installation for most types of commercial end-uses.

Carpet cushions suitable for commercial double-glue installations are especially engineered for this purpose. They may have increased density, special surface preparation, or other features to meet the demands of commercial applications. Double glue cushions manufactured for commercial end-use are generally 10 lb. to 20-plus lb. pcf in weight density, with a thickness of 7/32 inch to ¼ inch. Examples of carpet cushion manufacturers who offer double-glue commercial carpet cushion include Healthier Choice (Foundation HT, Foundation SE, Foundation XP, and Foundation RM), and Leggett and Platt (BZ0222, BZ0075, BZ0076, and BZ0079).

Double-glue carpet installations should be performed by professional carpet installers who have displayed the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully complete a commercial carpet installation following The Carpet and Rug Institute’s CRI Carpet Installation Standard guidelines. Prior to installing carpet by the double-glue method over concrete slab, confirm that the moisture vapor emission rate does not exceed 3 lb. per every 1,000 sq. ft. and a slab alkalinity does not exceed a pH9.

Carpet cushion designed for double-glue installation can be installed using either premium grade multi-purpose latex adhesives, or by pressure sensitive adhesives. Cushion seams should be placed at right angles to carpet seams, or kept at a minimum of 6 inches from carpet seams when placed in the same direction. Cushion seams should be joined without compression and must not be gapped. Examples of pressure sensitive adhesives suitable for double-glue installations include AAT #335, Chaco SS-2, Henry #630, Parabond #5080, and XL Stix #2230.

The use of a V-notched trowel 1/8 x 1/8 x 1/16 inches is recommended to spread adhesive at a rate of 10 square yards per gallon when using premium grade multi-purpose latex adhesives to install double-glue carpet cushions. The adhesive is applied to the subfloor by folding back one half of the cushion and then laying back on the subfloor once the adhesive has formed sufficient tack (and then repeating this process on the opposite end of the cushion). If a pressure sensitive adhesive is used the state of adhesive tack can be identified as the point where the adhesive changes from its original opaque appearance to a clear state. The use of fans will facilitate adhesive tack time; however, caution is emphasized to avoid the adhesive drying to a point where it will not transfer sufficiently to the cushion. The open time required for an adhesive to obtain proper tack is critical to the success of double-glue installation. Cushion seams should be butted without leaving gaps, and without compression.

When installing carpet by the double-glue method it is necessary to pre-cut the carpet prior to installation, allowing for an additional 3”-4” of extra carpet to assure for tightly fitted seams and a square, flush fit in the room after trimming. Carpet seams should be made by trimming the carpet using a seaming board to protect the cushion. Once trimmed, the carpet edges must be sealed using a multi-purpose seam sealer, or a thermoplastic (“hot melt”) seam sealer. Double-glue carpet seams can be completed by either using low-profile, low melt seam tape appropriate for double stick installations, or by adjoining the carpet edges in the manner used for seaming carpet by the direct glue-down method.

Premium grade multi-purpose latex adhesives are required to adhere carpet to double-glue carpet cushions (the use of pressure sensitive adhesives for this purpose is not recommended). Once proper adhesive tack has developed, the carpet should be laid into the adhesive by working from the center of the cushion towards the cushion seams (it is recommended that you check the adhesive manufacturer’s tack time recommendations, which is listed on their pails. The use of a U or V-notched trowel-notch 1/8 x 1/8 x 1/8 inches at an adhesive spread rate of 8-10 square yards per gallon is recommended to install carpet on a double stick cushion (unless otherwise specified by the adhesive manufacturer).

Note: It is imperative to use premium grade adhesives that are formulated for double stick installations.

Once the carpet is placed into the adhesive, eliminate bubbles in the carpet by pressing straight down on the adhesive before it sets-up. The use of the lightest weight roller necessary to obtain adequate adhesive transfer of the carpet to the cushion is recommended. In no event should the roller weight exceed 50 lbs. The use of heavier carpet rollers, and excessive rolling can result in inadequate adhesive transfer, resulting in an installation failure.

If appropriate spray-on adhesive is used to install a carpet to a double stick cushion it is necessary to uniformly spray both the top of the carpet cushion and the carpet backing to obtain sufficient coverage of the cushion and the carpet's backing necessary to penetrate into the backing recesses.

Traffic should be avoided for at least 24 hr. – 48 hr. after completion of a double-glue installation. Pre-mature traffic can result in installation failure.

It is recommended to place tackstrip on the tread and riser when installing carpet on stairs using the double-glue installation method, and to stretch the carpet over the double-glue cushion in the same manner used for stretching carpet on stairs using the tackless installations method after the appropriate adhesive tack has been obtained.

If patterned carpet is being installed over a double-glue cushion it is essential to inspect the carpet for pattern match, bowing, skewing, and trueness of edge prior to installation. Because of the more difficult nature of trying to adjust for these carpet conditions when installing carpet by the double stick method, if pattern elongation, bowing, or skewing exists, it is important to install the carpet sequentially according to the largest to the smallest variation, and to place the carpet into the adhesive while it is still tacky and pliable enough to allow for the carpet to be adjusted during installation. Pre-stretching a carpet will help minimize what is required during installation to adjust these conditions. The use of a power stretcher, or a knee kicker, along with a dead man and stay nails may be required. Begin by matching the pattern at the center of seam. If any of these conditions exceeds our tolerance of 1 ½ inches in 12 feet contact your Beaulieu carpet dealer.

It is essential to avoid exposing a carpet to water for a minimum of 30 days after completion of a double-glue installation. This includes avoiding the use of hot water extraction cleaning, or any other wet cleaning method.

For assistance in the installation of Beaulieu commercial carpet by the double-glue method contact our Technical Services Dept. at 800-944-2840, or at www.beau.tech@beaulieugroup.com.

Written By: Mark Johnston
Technical Services Staff: Mark Johnston,
Tammy Smith, Tonya Monk, Greg Raborn
Email: tek.services@beaulieugroup.com