

Volume 2 No. 7**Outdoor Installation Guidelines**

Outdoor installations are subject to conditions unique from those encountered indoors. Both carpet and adhesive are subject to a wider range of environmental factors and use as well as surfaces which tend to be more worn and uneven or varied in height. Listed below are installation procedures for outdoor carpets constructed using unitary latex, woven polypropylene and marine back over typical outdoor surfaces (concrete, wood and asphalt).

Outdoor carpets should be allowed to acclimatize at least one hour before installation at temperatures no less than 65 degrees Fahrenheit and no more than 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Accepted relative humidity ranges are 10% to 65%. Precaution for potential weather changes should be observed since temperature and wind velocity will greatly affect adhesive tack time.

Concrete surfaces must be clean, dry, and free of alkali. New concrete must be allowed to cure for a minimum of 60 days prior to installation.

Wood surfaces must be free of all wax and other finishes. Wood and concrete surfaces painted with outdoor solvent based paints will accept solvent based outdoor adhesives; however, the adhesive bond to the surface will only be as strong as the paint. Solvents found in outdoor adhesives can blister latex paints; therefore, all outdoor surfaces painted with latex based paints should be thoroughly sanded and cleaned prior to installation. Sanded wood surfaces should be sealed with an appropriate outdoor sealer. Urethane sealers are recommended. Wood treated with natural clear penetrating stains will be receptive to both solvent based and latex based outdoor adhesives. Slotted wood surfaces should be covered with outdoor grade plywood and sealed. "Green" wood surfaced treated with copper sulfate preservatives must be pressure washed prior to installation. Wood surfaces treated with silicone based preservatives will not accept carpet adhesives and must be covered with outdoor grade plywood and sealed.

Asphalt pavings must be clean, dry, and free of grease and oil. Newly poured hot mix asphalt pavings contain surfactants that can impede upon the bonding properties of outdoor adhesives and should be cured a minimum of six (6) months. Old, craggy asphalt may require resurfacing before installing carpet. Only solvent based outdoor adhesives can be used on asphalt paving.

Unitary backed and woven polypropylene backed carpets should be installed using a 1/8 x 1/8 x 1/8" trowel with a floor adhesive spread rate of approximately 6-10 square yards to one gallon of adhesive. Marine backed carpets should be installed using a 3/32 x 3/32 x 3/32" trowel with a floor adhesive spread rate of approximately 10-15 square yards to one gallon of adhesive over smooth surfaces. Rough, porous surfaces and heavy ribbed carpets may require a trowel with deeper notches and more adhesive.

Stiff backed carpets that have a tendency to curl often require that the carpet be laid into the adhesive immediately after spreading and then laid open until sufficient adhesive tack time develops before reapplying the carpet to the floor.

Recommended adhesives for outdoor use are either solvent based or latex based. Solvent based outdoor adhesives are more water resistant, offer wider range of use, and provide a much longer installation season. Some solvent based adhesives reportedly can be used in temperatures ranging from 40-100 degrees Fahrenheit (caution should be exercised when using solvent based adhesives due to potentially flammable contents and heavy, noxious vapors). Latex based outdoor adhesives are suitable in many cases (excluding damp, humid conditions). All seam edges of outdoor carpet as well as all exposed carpet edges should be sealed with a 1/8" continuous bead of solvent based seam sealer. Outdoor carpets should be rolled after installation using a roller that does not exceed 50 lbs. for unitary back and woven polypropylene and does not exceed 20 lbs. for marine back. Quality outdoor adhesives generally provide a secure bond within a few hours; however, traffic should be restricted for a minimum of 24 hours to ensure for proper adhesive cure time.

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