

CARPET INSTALLATION

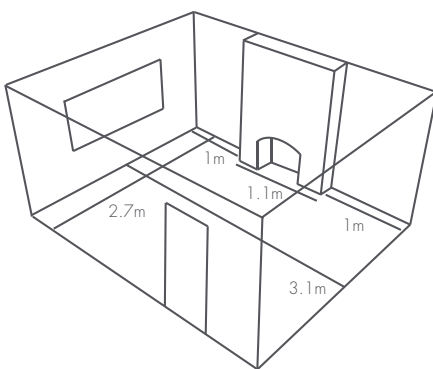
How to measure

Before you start, you will need a pencil, a tape measure and a calculator. You should always ensure that you keep the flooring running in the same direction to maintain texture, pattern and colour consistency. If you change the direction of carpet the pattern, texture and pile will reflect the light differently.

Begin by measuring your rooms width and length at their widest points, remembering to measure into alcoves, doorways etc. You then need to check that the width of the room is less than your chosen flooring for example if your room is 4.3m and the product is only available 4m wide, you may need to order twice the amount and use the second piece as a filler with a join. This is not ideal and joins should never be considered in areas of heavy wear.

Once you have your measurements, you need to add 10cm for waste on all sides. Our example measures 2.7m x 3.1m. With 10cm added on all sides for waste, the overall measurement is 2.9m x 3.3m.

Most carpets are available 4m wide with some available 5m wide. This example will require 4m wide x 2.9m in length.



Tools for the job

Felt backed carpet - Sharp utility knife, double sided carpet tape or spray adhesive
 Woven backed carpet - Sharp utility knife, gripper, bolster chisel, knee kicker and underlay

Installation

Fitting a new carpet is a skill. Unless you are competent to carry out the fitting yourself we recommend you employ the services of a professional carpet fitter. For the competent DIY'er, the following guidelines can be used.

Felt backed carpets do not require a separate underlay, however for added luxury, underlay can be used. Ensuring any old floorcovering is removed, the subfloor should be clean, dry flat and smooth. Lay the underlay and secure to the subfloor with spray adhesive or staples, following the manufacturer's instructions. The carpet can then be laid onto the underlay and secured using double sided carpet tape or spray adhesive around the perimeter of the room. If fitting the carpet without underlay simply secure directly to the subfloor with double sided carpet tape around the perimeter of the room.

Woven backed carpets should be fitted with a separate underlay using a gripper method. Carpet gripper is secured to the perimeter of the room approximately 8mm from the skirting. This can be nailed to timber subfloors or by using hardened steel pins or adhesive if the subfloor is solid, i.e. concrete. See carpet gripper manufacturers recommendations for the correct type of adhesive. The underlay is then secured to the subfloor with spray adhesive or staples, following the manufacturer's instructions. The carpet can then be laid by starting at one edge of the room using a bolster chisel to secure the carpet to the gripper. Once the carpet is firmly secured a knee kicker can be used to stretch the carpet onto the remaining gripper, and any excess material can be trimmed using a sharp knife.

CARE GUIDE

Regular vacuum cleaning will help maintain the appearance of your carpet by removing harmful pieces of grit and other debris. Depending on the amount of use, the carpet can be vacuumed as often as necessary. Cut pile carpets should be vacuumed using an upright type vacuum cleaner whilst loop pile carpets such as berbers should be vacuumed using a suction type vacuum only as upright vacuums can distort the pile.

Pile shedding - shortly after your carpet is fitted you may notice a small amount of pile shedding. These are the loose short fibres which are created during production when the yarn is cut for tuft formation and is quite normal.

Stains and spillages - treat stains as soon as possible to avoid them penetrating the carpet using a proprietary cleaner. Follow the manufacturer's instructions according to the type of spillage involved. Always work towards the centre of the stain to avoid spreading and never rub the carpet. From time to time, you may consider a thorough clean using a professional cleaning body, although this will depend on the amount of wear and soiling it receives.