

CARPET TILE INSTALLATION

How to measure

It is important to include an extra 10% when ordering your carpet tiles for trimming etc. and, you can easily replace individual tiles if they become damaged. Carpet tiles measure 50cm x 50cm, so for each square metre you will need 4 tiles.

Use the calculator below to help work out the quantity required (includes extra 10%)

50 x 50cm tiles		Room width				
		3m	4m	5m	6m	7m
Room length	3m	40	53	66	80	93
	4m	53	71	88	106	124
	5m	66	88	110	132	154
	6m	80	106	132	159	185
	7m	93	124	154	185	216

Carpet tiles are easy to install and no underlay is required, they can be laid using a single colour or unique designs can be made by mixing colours and laying in a chequerboard pattern or by adding contrasting colours in a random design.

Carpet tiles have a natural pile lay, this is indicated by directional arrows on the reverse of each tile. This natural pile lay can lead to very slight shade variations, particularly from one production batch to another. In order to avoid shading problems, tiles should be laid with the directional arrows pointing in alternate directions, like a chequerboard.

Tools for the job

Sharp utility knife, steel rule, double sided tape, pencil & paper

Installation

Step 1

Begin at the centre of the room, lay a row of tiles from the centre line to one of the walls. When you reach the wall, check to see if you aren't left with a narrow gap. This should be avoided as a thin strip of carpet tile at the skirting will look ugly. To avoid such a narrow gap, move the starting line back the width of half a tile.

Step 2

Repeat the laying from the start line in the opposite direction and then towards the other two walls. Adjust the start lines as necessary, until there is a reasonable gap of about half a tile around the room.

Step 3

Lay the tiles with the edges butted up tightly and squarely to the neighbouring tiles, making sure you do not trap any carpet pile between each join. Secure every fifth row of tiles with a strip of double-sided carpet tape to prevent any movement. Position all the whole tiles before filling in the gaps at the edges and tackling areas where there are fittings.

Step 4

Carpet tiles will need to be cut to fit at the skirting, doorways and around obstacles. To cut around curves or pipes, make a simple paper template to use as a guide. To fit at the skirting lift the last uncut tile nearest the skirting. Replace it with the tile to be cut. Place the last uncut tile on top of the tile to be cut, butting it up against the skirting board. Using the top tile as a template, mark the cutting line with a pencil on the bottom tile. Place a spare tile upside down under the tile to be cut to give a firm and safe surface and to protect the cutting blade. Using a sharp utility knife and a steel rule, cut the tile, carefully parting the carpet pile as you cut.

Step 5

Replace the whole tile in its original position and fit the cut tile in place against the skirting. Repeat the cutting process all the way around the edge of the floor. Secure the cut tiles with double-sided carpet tape.

CARE GUIDE

Regular vacuum cleaning will help maintain the appearance of your carpet tiles, and remove potentially harmful pieces of grit and other debris.

Shampoo the tiles occasionally, using a proprietary brand of shampoo and following the manufacturer's instructions.

Carpet tiles are manufactured using stain resistant polypropylene fibre. While the material is resistant to stains, it is impossible to make them totally stain-proof. Any spillages should be cleaned as soon as possible, ideally using a proprietary cleaner. Follow the manufacturer's instructions according to the type of spillage involved. Treat stains as soon as possible to avoid them penetrating the carpet.

Individual tiles can be taken up and treated under the cold water tap to help remove stubborn stains. Dry the tile before replacing it in its original position.