

---

# INSTALLATION OF BURMATEX SHEET AND TILE CARPETS

---

## GENERAL PREPARATIONS

### When should burmatex<sup>®</sup> floor-coverings be installed?

burmatex<sup>®</sup> products should not be installed until all other work, such as decorating and especially overhead trades, has been completed.

### What are the general regulations and ideal conditions to meet before installation commences of carpet tiles and sheet carpet

The area of installation must be clean, fully enclosed, weather tight and heated to a minimum temperature of 18°C (64.5°F) for 72 hours prior to installation, with an ambient humidity level of between 50% and 65% RH during installation (since) as large changes in humidity may affect both the floor covering and the adhesive being used. There should (also) be adequate lighting at all times. (Ideally) All carpet tiles should be removed from their packaging and allowed to acclimatise in the rooms where they are to be installed for at least 48 hours before installation commences. When installing sheet carpet which has to be fully adhered to the sub floor, porous sub floors should be primed in accordance with the adhesive manufacturers recommendations.

## AREAS MUST BE WELL VENTILATED WHEN USING ADHESIVES

### Overall condition of the sub floor

All sub floor surfaces should be dry (max 5.5% moisture using concrete protimeter and hygrometer tests which should show a maximum of 75% relative humidity). If this is not the case an appropriate damp proof membrane followed by a 2mm to 3mm latex screed must be installed before any sheet or tile floor covering is installed. Dusty, porous and uneven solid surfaces must be sealed using a thin latex screed. Any undulations in solid floors must be patched using a self levelling compound and feather edged to the surrounding area.

Uneven or worn wooden floors and floorboards should be replaced or patch levelled then covered with flooring grade hardboard (rough side up) or plywood sheets. The plywood used for this purpose must be flooring grade plywood sheeting manufactured to EN314-2:1993, EN636-2003 and EN635-2:1995 and have minimum thickness of 6mm and should also have a minimum panel size of 1220mm x 2440mm. The boards should be positioned with the joints staggered and nailed at 100-150mm (4-6") centre's. All hardboard and plywood should be sealed using a diluted mix of F Balls P131Stopgap primer or equivalent before installing any floor covering to ensure good adhesive transfer and prevent the adhesive being absorbed into the sub floor.

In buildings where a chipboard sub floor has been installed this must always be sealed using a diluted mix of F Balls P 131 Stopgap primer or equivalent before the installation of either sheet or tiled carpet installation is commenced.

The laying of textile floor coverings over bases of wood blocks frequently results in problems often several months after installation is completed. These problems arise from a number of factors, the most common being dampness from the ground as wood block floors do not have a damp proof membrane between the sub floor and the wood blocks, and by covering up the blocks with either sheet carpet or carpet tile the moisture in the wood blocks becomes trapped, causing them to expand leading to areas of the installation becoming uneven. ( Because of these issues) **burmatex®** advise that the woodblocks be removed and the floor level is brought back to the original level before the removal of the wood blocks. If this is not possible, it must be recognised that a trouble free installation cannot be guaranteed and **burmatex®** will not accept liability for any issues arising with the installation (appertaining to the sub floor.)

**burmatex®** products can be installed successfully over ceramic or terrazzo tiled sub floors provided any polish or other contaminates are first removed. Heavily glazed surfaces should be mechanically prepared by shot blasting, or grinding with a coarse abrasive to aid adhesion before priming. F. Balls P131 Stopgap primer or equivalent should be applied neat and allowed to dry before skimming the subfloor with a minimum of a 3mm smoothing underlayment. Once this has dried the installation of the floor covering can commence

### Installation over heated screeds

All **burmatex®** products can be installed on top of heated screeds providing the following precautions are taken.

- 1) The correct thermal resistance product should be chosen so that the correct thermal transmission is guaranteed.
- 2) The under floor heating must be switched off for 48 hours prior to the commencement of installation.
- 3) As most adhesives used for floor coverings do not achieve maximum bond strength immediately, the heating should not be turned back on until 48 hours after installation.
- 4) When turning the heating back on the temperature must be brought back up to the normal operating temperature over a 7 day period gradually increasing the temperature on a daily basis.
- 5) Failure to adhere to these recommendations may result in the floor covering failing and not performing as specified.

## **What about unusual conditions or defective materials?**

It is the responsibility of the installation company to contact the manufacturer for specific advice and to advise the customer of any adverse conditions.

**burmatex®** cannot be held responsible for workmanship problems or incorrect installation but will endeavour to offer free advice for particular installations.

## **Can burmatex® tiles and sheet carpet be laid over old carpet or acoustic underlays**

No. Old carpet, such as fibre bonded needle felt carpet, felt-backed vinyl or other soft floor coverings are not suitable surfaces on which to install new carpet or tiles. These must be removed along with all traces of previous adhesives before installation commences. If acoustic underlays are to be used this would have to be over-boarded using the same method as used for carrying out installation on uneven wooden floors.

## INSTALLATION OF CARPET TILES

### What are the first checks to carry out?

You should check the batch/dye lot numbers, as all tiles should be from the same batch. Unpack the carpet tiles and condition them at the point of installation for at least 48 hours before fitting.

### What about areas of intense traffic or abuse such as heels, around photocopiers and coffee machines, etc?

Where there are castor chairs, filing cabinets and other areas that undergo exceptionally heavy traffic, carpet tiles can be fully adhered using a permanent bond adhesive if required.

### How should tiles actually be laid?

1. Plan the installation carefully. Draw a chalk line down the centre of the area or from a doorway.
2. Find the centre point and draw a transverse line at a right angle to the first.
3. Lay one row of tiles along each leg or cross.
4. If necessary, re-draw the chalk lines so that there is at least half a tile border along each wall. It is important that the edge tiles are cut to be as near the same size as is possible and that narrow strips are avoided since these may tend to lift (especially in lift entrances and doorways).
5. Using a 'V' – notched trowel (1/16" x 3/16") for F. Balls F3 permanent adhesive or equivalent, a roller or brush for F. Balls F41 tackifier or equivalent adhesive apply the adhesive evenly over the whole area.
6. Allow to dry for a minimum of 30 minutes or longer depending on humidity and temperature.
7. After this period the adhesive is then ready for installation to begin and tiles can be laid at any time thereafter.
8. Working outwards from the centre of the cross, lay tiles in position, pressing firmly to ensure adhesion.
9. When fitting perimeter tiles, butt one tile against the skirting, position tile to be cut exactly on top of the one immediately behind it, overlapping the first tile. Where this crosses, mark and cut, this cut tile will then fit the required space exactly.

10. **burmatex®** carpet tiles can be installed in a variety of ways depending upon the product **ALWAYS** ensure that the carpet tiles are laid in the recommended direction for the product being installed. This information is available on the specification sheet for the product.
11. It is important that the tiles in the completed installation are correctly butted together. Continual checks should be carried out during installation to ensure that the tiles are butted together with the correct firmness neither too loose as to allow gaps to appear or so tight that the edges of the tiles are compressed causing the edges of the carpet tiles to buckle and become distorted. When installing cut pile products it can be advantageous to brush the pile away from the edge of each tile as the tiles are installed to prevent the yarn on the edge of the carpet becoming trapped
12. Where carpet tiles are to be installed over a heated screed the guide lines laid out in the section **Installation Over Heated Screeds** must be adhered to

**Note:** It is advisable to use **burmatex®** barrier tiles around all areas where spillages may occur, such as coffee machines photocopiers, fax machines, etc.

## INSTALLATION SHEET CARPET

### **What are the first checks to carry out?**

Ensure that the rolls are from the same batch by checking the batch/dye numbers. Check that you have the correct adhesive (See the recommended adhesives page).

Where the material is to be installed over a heated screed, guide lines laid out in the section **Installation Over Heated Screeds** must be adhered to.

Before installation commences ensure that the sub floor is free from all residual contaminants and adhesive. If the material is to be installed on top of floorboards it is advisable to overlay with either hard board or flooring grade plywood before installing the carpet as undulations between the floorboards can transfer to the surface of the carpet affecting the finished appearance. In some cases this can also lead to the carpet wearing prematurely on (the) raised areas.

### **Should the carpet be laid in any particular direction?**

All lengths of carpet cut must be laid in the same direction to prevent shade variation. The pile direction can be easily checked by running a hand gently down the length of each section of carpet any sections laid in the opposite direction will feel different to the touch. This check is particularly important when installing cut rolls next to full rolls of carpet as the cut roll may not have been rolled in the same direction as a full roll due to cut section having been re-rolled by hand.

### **Is there a best way to lay the carpet?**

Follow these simple instructions:

1. Cut the carpet to the required length plus 5cm ("2) before spreading the adhesive.
2. Lay the first piece lapping up the side and end walls.
3. Lay the next joining edge in the same way ensuring an overlap of 5cm (2") on each seam. Proceed this way until the entire floor is covered.
4. Fold back the length of all pieces and, holding the trowel at an angle of 60°, spread the adhesive evenly to within 20cm (8") of the seam over an area that can be covered within the open time.

5. Placing a straight edge along the centre of the overlap, cut through both pieces with a sharp knife and remove the surplus.
6. Lift the edges of both pieces, apply adhesive, lay the carpet and roll thoroughly with a 68Kg (150lb) roller.
7. Cross joints in the material should be avoided at all costs but if this is inevitable the joint should be placed out of the main traffic area whenever possible.