



Ultratex Felt Back Installation Guide

May 2024

Fundamentals

A few important steps to do before fitting your flooring.

1. Always check before fitting that the carpet supplied corresponds to the requested specifications (colour, width and length etc...)
2. Have a detailed fitting-plan before starting to cut the carpet.
3. Make sure that the subfloor complies to the following requirements: it must be level, dust and grease free, shock and crush proof, dry. The surface is dry when it contains a maximum of 3% moisture, as measured with a CM sensor device. If required, the surface will need to be repaired and levelled at least 24 hours in advance.
4. It is strongly recommended to let the carpet acclimatise before fitting. Before, during and after fitting, the room temperature should be at least 15°C and the relative moisture percentage must not exceed 30-60%.
5. It is recommended to completely glue the carpet using adhesives showing the EC1 label: these adhesives are environmentally friendly with a low degree of emissions and free of solvents. For more information on these topics, please contact your supplier.
6. It is essential to fit the carpet in the same direction. It is therefore very important to check the pile direction before fitting. To be absolutely sure about the pile direction, follow these simple steps:
 - Put a sheet of paper on the carpet
 - Put a pen on the sheet of paper
 - Pressurize the pen; roll it back and forth
 - The direction in which the paper will move is the pile direction.

Sub-floor preparation

Never neglect the sub-floor for the perfect installation.

A carpet with an Ultratex® felt backing needs to be installed on a subfloor that is prepared as defined in BS 5325 The Installation of textile floorcoverings. Whatever the subfloor is, before work commences the fitter should ensure that the subfloor meets the following criteria:

- a) structurally sound and level.
- b) permanently dry: prevent moisture affecting the dimensional stability of the carpet and to guard against rot.
- c) smooth: prevent any telegraphing of indentations and ridges through the surface.
- d) clean and free of all contaminants (dust, grease, oil, paint and plaster)
- e) if an underfloor heating system is present, it must operate within controlled temperatures.

Irregular subfloors can be corrected by using the appropriate smoothing compound.

Most subfloors will require priming.

The type and condition of the subfloor has a direct influence on the installation and performance of a carpet with Ultratex backing and the importance of subfloor preparation cannot be emphasised enough.

For further information you can request the subfloor preparation guide off your adhesive producer, where you will find detailed information on how to prepare the subfloor and which products should be used.

Installation Method 1

Hook tape (residential use only)

Key Words:

Seams: Cross seams should always be avoided. All construction threads are cut in the process of making cross seams. If needed, they will be visible and should be covered with a covering profile.

Fitting a carpet with Ultratex® backing on hook tape, has many advantages:

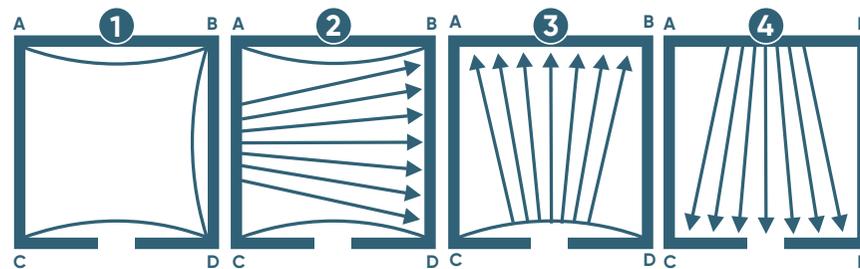
- a) it is a very environmental friendly installation method (no adhesives and no odours)
- b) it is a very easy and fast installation method – once the carpet is fitted on the hook tape, it is immediately open to traffic
- c) it is a very clean installation method
- d) while changing the carpet, the subfloor is not damaged and no carpet remains stick to the hook tape
- e) it is easy to remove - the carpet can be hooked out of the tape and simply removed
- f) the same hook tape can be reused for at least 3 new installations of carpets with Twin back backing.

1. Before starting, ensure that the subfloor is sound, smooth, permanently dry, clean and free from any contaminants or loose particles that will affect adhesion. If an existing vinyl or PVC flooring is used as subfloor, we recommend special hook tape with an acrylic adhesive coating that guard against the effects of plasticisers.
2. Textile floorcoverings are not suitable as subfloor. We would advise that any deep indentations in the subfloor should be repaired followed by a standard application of a suitable smoothing compound.
3. You can always apply a fine adhesive coat with a flat trowel on the spots where the hooktape will be installed. Once the adhesive coat is permanently dry, this represents the perfect subfloor for a permanent, long-lasting adhesion of the tape.

Installation Method 1

Hook tape (residential use only) - cont.

4. We recommend usage of 5 cm wide hook tape. Attach the tape approximately 3 cm away from the walls to get a better grip of the Twin back backing in the hook tape.
5. Cover the hook tape with adhesive tape to prevent the carpet gripping directly when unrolling. Unroll the carpet and bump it in the right position for fitting.
6. Little by little remove the adhesive tape from the hook tape and hook the carpet onto the hook tape using a knee kicker.
7. The sketch illustrates how to proceed:



8. Hook the carpet under tension onto the hook tape along side AC. Tension the carpet, starting at the middle of AC towards the opposite side and hook it onto the hook tape. Attach the carpet now under tension onto the hook tape along side AB. Finally you can also tension and hook the carpet onto the hook tape along side CD.
9. When all tensioning has been completed, surplus carpet can be trimmed off at the walls. Always use a knife with hooked blade to trim Twinback carpet.
10. For larger surfaces (exceeding 20m²) we recommend you install extra tapes across the width of the room for a better attachment.
11. If there are seams to be made, we recommend special developed hook tapes for seams. Before seaming commences, make sure that the edges butt together perfectly. Place both carpet pieces partly on top of each other and cut through both. Close the seam and check the matching and design repeats of both carpet pieces.

Installation Method 1

Hook tape (residential use only) - cont.

12. Mark with a pencil the seam line on the subfloor and open the seam
13. Stick a special seaming hook tape centrally on the seam line and leave the backing paper sticking on the special hook tape so the carpet can't hook immediately.
14. Stick on both sides of this special hook tape a normal hook tape of 5 cm. These will help to lower the pressure in the seaming area.
15. Fold the first carpet piece down and while pulling the backing paper from the hook tape, hook the carpet into it.
16. Cover the remaining part of the special hook tape with this backing paper. Fold the second carpet piece down and check first the matching and the design repeats of both carpet pieces. If everything is still OK, you can remove the backing paper and close the seam.

In this way you'll get a perfect, long-lasting and invisible closed seam. The installation of carpets with Ultratex® backing on hook tape is also possible on stairs with rectangular or open steps.

1. Stick a special hook tape on the front of the tread, going down alongside the stairnose. Stick the same hook tape on top of the riser.
2. Stick a 5cm wide hook tape on the back of the tread and on the bottom of the riser.
3. Leave the backing paper sticking on the hook tape or cover it with adhesive tape so the carpet can't hook immediately.
4. Fit the first carpet piece on the upper tread. Remove the backing paper and hook the carpet onto the hook tape.
5. Turn the carpet around the stairnose using pincers and hook it on the hook tape of the riser. Trim the carpet at the bottom of the riser.
6. Fit the Ultratex® carpet in the same way on the other steps and you will have a perfectly fitted staircase.
7. In some cases it is necessary to install an Ultratex® carpet on the whole surface with hook tape. For such an installation, we advise to use wider hook tape that is stuck side by side to cover the whole subfloor area. In this way the carpet will hook completely into the hook tape.

Installation Method 2

Release adhesive

The installation on a release adhesive is a very removal friendly installation method, that is especially suited for application in private homes. Especially for rented houses there is a great demand for easy and quick removal of carpets without damaging the subfloor. Because of this special request, we recommend to use release adhesives that are soluble in water and as such are easily to remove from the subfloor.

A release adhesive is best applied with a roller.

After the waiting time, the carpet can be laid into the adhesive and thoroughly pressed.

A release adhesive stays sticky over time. In this way changing carpets is very easy. The old carpet can be loosened and removed with no trouble at all and without leaving any carpet remains behind. The new carpet can immediately be installed, with or without the application of a new coat of release adhesive.

A release adhesive is not suited to stick seams down. For seams we recommend the use of a dispersion adhesive (or a universal tackifier).

Installation Method 3

Universal tackifier

Key Words:

Seams: Cross seams should always be avoided. All construction threads are cut in the process of making cross seams. If needed, they will be visible and should be covered with a covering profile.

In cases where a stronger adhesion to the subfloor is required, we recommend the use of a universal tackifier. A tackifier guarantees a solid bond of the Ultratex® backing with the subfloor, but still allows the removal of the carpet afterwards.

Before applying the tackifier to the subfloor, prepare the subfloor carefully. Subfloors must be sound, smooth, dry and free from any contaminants which will affect adhesion. We would advise that any deep indentations in the subfloor should be repaired followed by a standard application of a suitable smoothing compound.

The tackifier is best applied with a roller. For seaming we recommend to use a trowel with fine notching.

After the recommended waiting time, lay the carpet into the tackifier and press firmly to ensure overall contact with the tackifier.

A good universal tackifier is solvent free, is odourless, is low in emissions and is soluble in water.

Installation Method 4

Dispersion adhesive

A traditional full stick down method using a dispersion adhesive is only recommended in cases where a specially strong adhesion of the Ultratex®-backed carpet is required.

Subfloor preparation is a vital first consideration, to ensure that no contaminants or surface irregularities are present which could affect the appearance or stability of the installation.

Therefore take care that the subfloor is sound, smooth, permanent dry, absorbent and free from any contaminants which will affect the adhesion. If necessary apply first a suitable smoothing compound and/or a primer to the subfloor, to get the ideal conditions.

Before starting, consult the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer and follow these conscientiously.

Installation Method 4

Dispersion adhesive - cont.

1. Spread the adhesive with a notched trowel evenly over the subfloor. We advise using a trowel with fine notching in order to apply a minimum of adhesive what will facilitate the removal of the carpet afterwards.
2. After the waiting time, lay the carpet into the adhesive and press firmly to ensure overall contact with the adhesive.
3. If there are seams, we advise always to stick the seams down with a dispersion adhesive. Before seaming commences, make sure that the edges are butt-joined together perfectly. Therefore, place both carpet pieces partly on top of each other, so the designs of both correspond, and cut through both using a knife with hooked blade. Close the seam and check, before applying the adhesive, the matching and the design repeats of both carpet pieces.
4. Fold both carpet pieces back and apply the dispersion adhesive with a notched trowel evenly over the subfloor.
5. After the recommended waiting time, lay the carpet into the adhesive and press firmly to ensure overall contact of the Ultratex® backing with the adhesive.
6. Close the seam and trim the carpet at the walls.
7. Carpets may only be fitted on staircases using a full stick down method with dispersion contact adhesive.
8. Always consult first the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer in order to find out which dispersion contact adhesive to use. You can find under point 3. Recommended Products, some possible dispersion contact adhesives that can be used for this purpose.
9. Before starting to fit a carpet on a staircase, we recommend to apply an adhesive coating on the back of the carpet with a flat trowel. Allow this coating to dry before you start sticking the carpet on the staircase. This prevents too much of the adhesive to be taken up by the carpet backing.

Installation Method 4

Dispersion adhesive - cont.

10. Measure how long the carpet should be to cover both tread and riser and cut with a hooked blade knife the carpet pieces that you need.
11. Apply the contact adhesive evenly over the tread and riser of the upper step with a notched trowel.
12. If certain corners of the steps are difficult to reach with a trowel, you can also use a normal brush to apply the adhesive.
13. After the recommended waiting time, the carpet can be laid into the contact adhesive of the upper step and firmly pressed.
14. Stretch the carpet perfectly over the stairnose, using pincers, and press it firmly in the contact adhesive of the riser.
15. Finally you can trim the carpet at the bottom of the riser.
16. Fit the carpet in the same way on the remaining steps and you will get a superb result on your staircase.

Installation Method 5

Tension fitting

Carpet with Ultratex® backing is as follows tension fitted on flat areas.

1. Carpet gripper is fitted as per a normal stretch fit installation. Position the Gripper allowing a gully between the gripper and the wall. This gully should be approximately three quarters the thickness of the carpet to be laid. We recommend, for tension fitting Ultratex® backed carpets, to use carpet gripper that are covered with hook tape.
2. Fit the underlay over the whole floor area and trim the surplus underlay flush to the edge of the gripper, ensuring that the underlay does not cover the gripper.
3. Fit the carpet on the underlay and over the carpet gripper.
4. Tension the carpet along the wall, hooking the carpet to the gripper using a Knee Kicker and press it into the gully using an Easy Tucker tool.
5. Surplus carpet can be trimmed off at the appropriate walls, leaving a quarter of an inch extra for turning down into the gripper gully for a neat, tightly fitting, non-fray edge.

Installation Method 5

Tension fitting – cont.

6. If there are seams in an area where you would like to fit an Ultratex® carpet with underlay and carpet gripper, we would advise you to use the Floorworks system to achieve a seamless finish.
7. Before seaming commences, make sure that the edges are butt-joined together perfectly.
8. Place both carpet pieces partly on top of each other, so the designs of both correspond, and cut through both using a knife with hooked blade. Close the seam and check, before applying the adhesive, the matching and the design repeats of both carpet pieces.
9. Place a special Floorworks seaming tape under the seam and bump the two carpet pieces together so the cut edges of the carpet butt together exactly.
10. Set the seaming iron at the end of the tape and tuck the seam edges under the rear metal edge guide so they will line up and guide along the welding head.
11. Move the iron along at a steady speed. Always seam in the direction of the pile. If you run the iron against the pile, shading along the seam may occur.
12. The adhesive will be pumped up from the tape and through the welding head at the rear of the iron, fusing and sealing the seam edges permanently together.
13. Use a seam roller on the carpet at the rear of the iron to ensure a good penetration of hot melt adhesive into the carpet backing.
14. Brush the face yarn up so it will not cool in a down position.
15. After the seam has cooled, the carpet can be trimmed.

Installation Method 5

Tension fitting – cont.

Even on staircases a carpet with Ultratex® backing can be tension fitted with underlay and Gripper.

A special Floorworks Stair Gripper has been developed which has a combination of hook tape and standard gripper pins. We recommend this new type of Floorworks Stair Gripper for staircases.

Prior to fitting, the stairs must be clean and dust free. Ensure that the stairs are firm and any tacks or nails are removed. Cut the Floorworks Stair Gripper to fit across the width of the stairs and fit to the tread and riser with the pins pointing toward the crotch of the stairs.

Fit the underlay across the width of the stairs from the back edge of the Gripper on the tread to the back edge of the Gripper on the riser in one piece. Staple to hold in place.

Trim the surplus underlay so that the Gripper is not covered.

Fit the carpet on the staircase starting at the bottom of the riser, gently stretching the carpet over the gripper using a knee kicker and press the carpet into the gully using the easy tucker.

Note that the combination of standard Gripper pins and hook tape on the Gripper allows you to bolster the Ultratex® carpet into the stair crotch without the tape grabbing prematurely.

Once the carpet is sufficiently bolstered, tension the carpet onto the Gripper tape using a Knee Kicker. Roll the carpet up onto the next tread and repeat the procedure for the remaining stairs.

Remember to use the Floorworks System. They will give a superior fitting result and an excellent finish to any stair installation on Ultratex® backing.

Recommended products

Here you will find a list of products we recommend for all fitting methods, available easily within in the UK.

Method 1 - Hook Tape

Producer	Product	Woven	Extruded
Alfatex	alfa-grip®	X	

Method 2 - Release adhesive

Producer	Product	Soluble in water
F-Ball	Styccobond F2	X
Laybond	Laybond 79	

Method 3 - Universal tackifier

Producer	Product	Soluble in water
F-Ball	Styccobond F3	
Bostik	FIX A760 TECH FIX A320 TACK	X X

Method 4 - Dispersion adhesive

Producer	Product
F-Ball	Styccobond F40
Laybond	Laybond CV
Bostik	STIX A930 Multi Fibre Soft Floor Adhesive

Method 4 - Dispersion contact adhesive

Producer	Product
F-Ball	Styccobond F60 Styccobond F60NF Styccobond F66
Laybond	Laybond Quickstick Green
Bostik	Ecotac S70

Method 5 - Gripper

Producer	Product
Gates	Floorworks Microplast Easy Gripper