

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Strict quality control standards have been followed to provide you with an easy to install, quality product.

The following installation instructions should be followed to assure the best possible installation. Before beginning the installation please inspect the carpet to assure that it is the correct style, color, and yardage.

### I. Environmental Conditioning

The area in which the carpet is being installed should be maintained at a minimum temperature of 70 degrees, with a maximum relative humidity of 65% for forty-eight hours prior to the start of the installation, during the installation, and for seventy-two hours after the installation is completed. The HVAC system must be operational prior to the start of the installation to assure that these conditions are met.

### II. Floor Preparation

If the installation is to be over a concrete slab the concrete should have a PH reading no higher than 7, and a moisture vapor transmission rate no higher than 3 lbs of MVTR per 1000 sq. feet per 24 hours as measured by ASTM Standard F-1869-98 Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Calcium Chloride. If the PH exceeds 7 or the MVTR exceeds 3 lbs then corrective measures will be required prior to the start of the installation.

Carpet Modules must be installed over properly prepared substrates that are suitable for the specific product and installation method required. All cracks, holes, indentations, or flooring irregularities must be repaired to ensure a smooth, level, and uniform finished appearance. The floor should be level and free of depressions or projections that may telegraph through the carpet. An un-level floor may cause modular carpet tiles to misalign during the installation process. A polymer-fortified cement patch should be used to fill in any depressions, cracks, expansion joints, and saw cuts. The subfloor should be structurally sound, clean, dry, and free of paint, grease or oil, dust, dirt, or other foreign substances that may affect the adhesive bond to the floor. Any existing adhesives should be stripped. The use of a solvent based, or a citrus solvent-based adhesive remover to remove existing adhesive may create a problem with degradation of the new application of adhesive. Contamination of the slab by use or misuse of these methods of adhesive removal is not the responsibility of the adhesive or carpet manufacturer.

If cutback (asphaltic) adhesive is present it must be tested by the building owner, or general contractor to assure that it does not contain asbestos. If asbestos is present it must be abated by a licensed abatement contractor in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. If the cutback adhesive is determined not to contain asbestos then it can be safely removed from the floor by scraping and sanding as required to completely remove any trace on the concrete. It should be noted that if pressure sensitive adhesive is applied over existing cutback adhesive that it will cause a complete failure of the

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

installation and will not be covered by warranty. Carpet should not be installed over any existing asbestos containing tile.

Lightweight concrete, or underlayments such as Lauan or plywood must be sealed with an appropriate sealer. Contact the Blue Field Technical Service Department for the appropriate sealer. It should be noted that these sealers are not appropriate to resolve PH or moisture related problems.

### III. Adhesive

Blue Ridge Modular Adhesive BR 200 must be used in order for the installation to be warranted. (Follow adhesive label guidelines for releasable and permanent type installations).

### IV. Adhesive Application

Adhesive must be applied in accordance with the recommendation for carpet modules or six-foot wide vinyl back carpet. Note that these vary by product.

When installing Blue Ridge modular tile the adhesive should be applied with a 1/16<sup>th</sup> by 1/16<sup>th</sup> by 1/16<sup>th</sup> V notch trowel. The use of a paint roller or flat trowel is not acceptable. The adhesive should be allowed to dry completely prior to installing the modular carpet tile to prevent the tiles from being permanently adhered to the floor.

### V. Layout

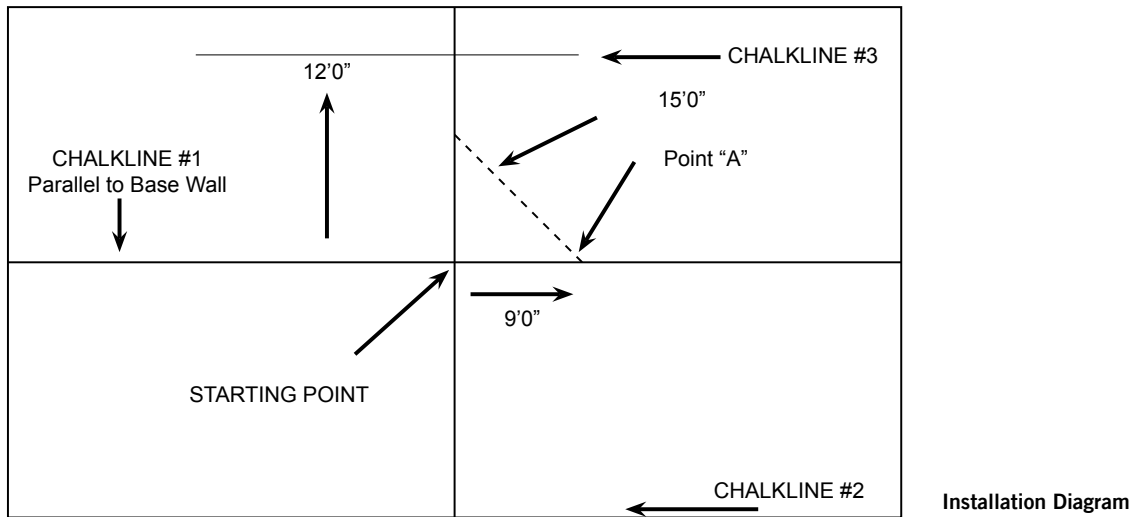
#### A. Tiles

Always start as near to center of the length of the room as possible. Always position the centerline so that the perimeter cut tiles are as close as possible to half the width of a full tile. Strike intersecting chalk lines at 90-degree angles across the start point. A laser square can be used to position the chalk lines or you can use the method shown in the diagram below.

See Diagram: Installation Layout

Spread adhesive in one quadrant and allow the adhesive to dry completely to the touch. This will insure that the adhesive does not transfer to the back of the carpet and create a permanent adhesive bond. Using the pyramid method start to install the tiles in that quadrant at the point where the two lines intersect. If the starting tile does not align on both chalk-lines then the lines are not intersecting at a 90-degree angle and should be corrected as necessary.

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



Butt the edges of the tiles together smoothly so that they are not gapped, but at the same time insuring that they are not compressed. Sliding them into place will assure that face yarn is not trapped between adjoining tiles causing unsightly seam appearance. Check every ten tiles by measuring the combined length of those tiles. The tiles should not run off more than ¼ inch per ten tiles installed. Make sure that the arrows on the back of the carpet are aligned in the direction, or directions appropriate to the installation method or design.

**Cutting The Tiles** - Tiles may be cut around the edge of the installation by measuring the distance between the last full tile and the wall. The distance between the wall and the last full tile may be closer on one end of the tile to be cut versus the other. Mark the measurement on the back of the tile to be cut at each edge of the tile (assuring that the direction of the arrow on the back of the tile will be aligned correctly when the tile is inverted). Use a straight edge aligned along the two marks on the backing and then use a carpet knife to cut cleanly through the tile from the back. The cut tile should then fit into the space between the full tile and the wall. If it does not fit properly it should be trimmed accordingly to assure an even fit without gaps or compression. Wall trimmers for carpet tile or six foot wide vinyl are also available. Creasing the carpet tile into the intersection between the wall and floor and then using a conventional carpet knife to cut the tile can create compression.

B. Clean Step Carpet Modules are installed as a walk off surface in enclosed entryways. They are not manufactured or are they intended to be installed outdoors. Clean Step Carpet Modules can be installed using BlueRidge BR 200 Modular Carpet Tile Adhesive in dry conditions where the concrete MVTR does not exceed 3 lbs, or where the tile is not excessively wet from the surface. If the MVTR of the concrete exceeds 3 lbs, but is less than 5 lbs, or if the tile will be excessively or frequently wet from the surface then a two-part epoxy or two-part urethane adhesive should be used and the tile installed in a permanent manner to prevent movement and a potential trip hazard. Specific information on acceptable two part adhesives can be obtained from the BlueRidge Technical Department.

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## General Information

It is recommended that traffic or furniture movement over new installations be restricted for 24 to 48 hours after completion. It is desirable not to expose the new installation to water from cleaning or other sources for a minimum of 30 days after installation.

It is required that the new installation be protected from soil or paint, or if additional work is ongoing after the installation by covering it with a non-staining building material paper, and taping the paper seams to assure it remains secure and in place.

If you have questions concerning the installation of any of the above products please contact the BlueRidge Field Technical Service Department at 800-241-5945.