

Installation of Carpet with the Advantage System

The Advantage System is designed to make carpet installation easier. It uses no adhesives other than seam sealer and long open times with carpet adhesives are avoided.

These instructions are important; if you have questions, please contact Shaw Field Technical Services Department at 1-800-471-7429.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Advantage System consists of four components. Substitution of any component voids the Advantage System warranty and may result in failure of the installation.

This carpet has an attached cushion of high density urethane with a polyester fleece mesh material. The mesh is supplied in rolls of 40" x 150' (55 ½ sq. yds.), and has a yellow plastic release liner. A 3" wide hot melt seaming tape, Orcon K-80 (with releasable paper carrier) or Roberts #325.

Cove base is recommended with this system to help secure the edges of the carpet. If cove base is not used, a 5-inch wide double face pressure sensitive tape is used to secure the edges of the carpet along the walls. This tape should be applied directly to the floor and not over the mesh. The 5" double face tape was used previously at seams but this use has been discontinued.

ACCEPTABLE FLOORING SURFACES

The Advantage System may be used over concrete (both conventional and lightweight), VCT, VAT, marble, terrazzo, inlaid or sheet vinyl, as well as wood surfaces.

The Advantage System may also be used over existing glued down level loop or textured loop carpets. The carpet must be secured well to the floor and should be tested at numerous areas throughout the installation. The bond between the floor and carpet can be tested by forcing an awl through the face of the carpet, under the carpet backing, then lifting. The Advantage System cannot be used over existing glued down carpet with attached cushion backs, nor over stretch-in carpet installations.

Shaw accepts no responsibility if the original glued down carpet releases from the floor as a result of failure of the adhesive bond between the carpet and the floor, or if removal of the Advantage System installation causes release of the original glued down carpet from the floor. The architect or specifier must determine applicable flammability requirements when carpet is installed over existing carpet.

SITE CONDITIONS

The temperature of the installation site, carpet, and Advantage System components should be maintained at a minimum temperature of 70°F and maximum relative humidity of 65% for 48 hours prior to during, and after installation. The initial bond of the mesh and double face tape will be weaker below 60°F but will improve when conditioned to 70°F. The bond strength is no adversely affected by changes in temperature or relative humidity after initial installation.

When using the Advantage System on new concrete slabs or existing slabs on or below grade, the slab should be tested for moisture and alkalinity prior to beginning installation.

Concrete with pH levels of 9 or above must be rinsed with a solution of one part muriatic acid and ten parts water to reduce the pH level to 9 or below. The floor should be wet mopped with tap water after acid rinsing, allowed to dry completely, then sealed with a compatible sealing compound.

The concrete should be checked for moisture at several locations using anhydrous calcium chloride test kits. The moisture transmission rate should not exceed 5.0 pounds per 1000 square feet per 24 hours. If moisture is present the general contractor or building owner should be advised and a decision made if the installation is to proceed.

FLOOR PREPARATION

Floor preparation requirements depend on the surface over which the Advantage System is being installed. The floor should be free of dust, dirt, oil, paint, wax, moisture or any debris that could impair adhesion of the mesh to the floor.

It is not necessary to remove existing adhesives from the floor but adhesive ridges should be scraped flat. The floor must be level and smooth, depressions, cracks should be filled with cement-based patching compound with a liquid latex additive. Protrusions should be sanded down.

When installing over existing glued down carpet, the carpet must be dry and thoroughly vacuumed so that it is free of dust, dirt or other loose debris that could possibly impair adhesive of the components. Areas which are contaminated with oil or grease or any substance which will prevent adhesion of the components should be cut out and leveled with a liquid latex additive patching compound, or with scrap carpeting of comparable height and density, glued directly to the floor. The same procedure can be used to repair grayed or raveled seams.

In areas where there is a transition between existing carpet and adjoining hard surface flooring the following procedure should be followed: Cut the carpet back approximately 2 to 3 feet from the point of transition with the hard surface flooring. Remove the carpet in that area from the floor, being sure not to leave any of the carpet

backing on the floor. Use a patching compound with a liquid latex additive to create a gradual transition slope between the edge of the carpet and the hard surface flooring which it will adjoin.

None of the Advantage System components will bond to wet or uncured patching compound and movement may occur during the installation process.

Installation using the Advantage System over finished wood flooring, plywood, or particle board requires that the wood surface be stripped of any wax and primed with a latex milk primer such as Parachem #M-283 or Advanced Adhesive Technology #AAT-570.

When installing over concrete, vacuuming or wet mopping should remove any dust or loose particles which could impair adhesion. Sweeping compounds must not be used, as they may leave a deposit of oil behind. If the concrete slab is powdering, it is necessary to seal the floor. The following floor sealers are recommended: Con Seal Plus 1000 Concrete Treatment, Spartan Cote Cure Seal Hardener, Sonneborn Kure-N-Seal 0800.

When installing over marble, terrazzo, VCT, VAT, inlaid or sheet vinyl, all waxes or polishes must be chemically stripped and the floor mopped to remove any residue of the stripper.

NOTICE: If you choose to use the Advantage System over any floor covering containing asbestos, that material must be secure to the floor and undamaged. SHAW MAKES NO CLAIMS AS TO THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THIS PROCEDURE AS AN ASBESTOS CONTROL METHOD, AND ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EVENT THAT LOOSE ASBESTOS CONTAINING FLOORING ARE AFFECTED UPON REMOVAL OF AN ADVANTAGE SYSTEM INSTALLATION.

Always test for compatibility between the mesh material and floor by cutting and applying a small strip directly to the floor. A strong bond between the mesh and floor should result. The Advantage System is not recommended for use on steps or stairs.

PRESSURE SENSITIVE TAPE

The pressure sensitive tape should be placed on the floor around the walls and at transition points between different flooring surfaces.

APPLICATION OF THE DRY SHEET BONDING MESH

Full coverage of the floor with the mesh is required.

The area to be carpeted should be measured and chalk lines snapped

where the carpet seams will be placed. Place the textured or ribbed surface of the mesh to the floor and the yellow or blue plastic liner side up. The easiest way to apply the mesh is for one person to hold the ends of the roll while a second person unrolls the mesh. Both people should hold the mesh tight while lowering it to the floor. An application roller is available which makes placement of the mesh on the floor faster and easier. Information on this roller can be obtained from Shaw Field Technical Service Department.

The first area where the mesh will be applied to the floor is along the walls which run parallel to the carpet seams. Butt the mesh up to the 5" double face tape along the walls. Unroll the first breadth of mesh along the wall, trim and repeat this procedure until the entire floor has been covered. Unroll the longest length you can easily handle, cut, and then continue to repeat the same procedure throughout the installation.

If the mesh overlaps the adjacent breadth, do not try to shift the mesh, simply double cut and peel off the upper layer. Small gaps of less than 1/4" between sheets of mesh cause no problems. If necessary, the mesh can be lifted off the floor and will re-adhere as long as it is not contaminated with dust or dirt. Smooth out any ripples or bubbles so that the mesh is bonded completely before starting the next breadth. A push broom is excellent for this task.

Always butt or double cut the mesh end seams. Use a roller weighing at least 75 pounds to assure a positive bond between the mesh and floor.

If an area of the mesh wrinkles severely during installation, it can easily be corrected by patching. Small wrinkles will not project through to the face of the carpet and correction in those areas is not necessary. Never remove the yellow plastic liner until the carpet is cut and placed into position.

CUTTING AND SEAMING

Carpets with attached cushions should be cut to avoid compression of the carpet and backing at seams. For that reason the row cut/trace cutting method is suggested for all Advantage System carpet seams.

All knives or cutters should be kept sharp to assure the smoothest possible cut edge. When row cutting, the blade should be tilted slightly to undercut the attached cushion to avoid fullness at seams.

Roll one half of the carpet back and remove the yellow liner from the mesh up to the seam. Generally, the best seam quality is assured when one edge of the carpet is row cut and used as a guide to trace cut the adjoining carpet edge. It is important that the carpet be cut back approximately 8 to 10 rows on each side of the width. This is to assure even thickness of attached cushion. This can be accomplished by overlapping approximately 2" at each seam before

cutting. If the attached cushion is not level after cutting, The Shaw Technical Service Department should be contacted for further instructions.

After cutting the seams place the hot melt seaming tape under the carpet seam, directly on the mesh. When using Orcon K-80 hot melt seaming tape, remove the paper carrier from the bottom of the tape. Apply 1/8" bead of Shaw 4000 seam sealer along the cut edge just below where the yarn fibers are inserted in to the backing, being careful not to get the seam sealer on the face of the carpet. Using a hot melt iron with a maximum setting of 2 ½, melt the thermoplastic on the tape so that it makes both contact with the mesh and the back of the carpet. **CAUTION: Do not exceed a setting of 2 ½ on the hot melt iron as excessive heat may damage the carpet backing and produce an unacceptable seam.** The carpet can then be tractor along the finished seam to create a positive bond between the carpet backing and the seaming tape. The other half of the carpet should then be folded back and this procedure repeated.

If problems are encountered when attempting to move the carpet over the mesh at seams use a spray bottle with water and lightly mist the mesh, being careful not to wet the tape. This will allow ease of movement and positioning of the carpet and a positive bond can be attained by pressing the carpet firmly onto the mesh.

Use care in trimming the carpet around walls to avoid compression.

TRANSITION STRIPS

Gradus® transition strips are designed and manufactured specifically for use with the Advantage System and should be used in any areas where a transition to different flooring surfaces occurs. Information on Gradus® transition moldings and installation instructions may be obtained from:

Optimum Technologies, Inc.
574 Joe Frank Harris Parkway
PO Box 1309
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770-386-3470, 800-562-5574
Fax: 770-382-9047

After Completion of the installation the entire area should be rolled with a roller weighing at least 75 pound. The carpet is ready for use after this step, and furniture can begin immediately.

If you have questions concerning installation of the Advantage System not addressed by this installation guide, please contact the Technical Services Department at 800-441-7429.