Installation procedures for KRAUS MODULAR Carpet Tile

Make sure you inspect carpet modules prior to installation.
No claims will be honored if modules are installed with visible defects.
Read all instructions prior to beginning installation.
Also refer to CRI-104 installation standard for additional information.

Site and MODULAR material conditioning

Floor temperatures must be a minimum of 65° for 24 hours prior to installation. Floor temperature can usually vary 5-10° lower than room temperature. Modules must be conditioned to room temperature for 24 hours prior to installation. Relative humidity must be between 10% - 65% maximum for 24 hours prior to installation. These conditions must remain constant and be maintained for 48 hours after completion of installation.

Surface preparation

Dust, dirt, debris, and noncompatible adhesive must be removed before installation begins. Surfaces must be smooth and level with all holes and cracks filled with latex based Portland cement patching compound.

Latex adhesives

Must be removed and floors sanded or covered with a skim coat of Portland patching compound. Latex adhesive may also be covered with the adhesive manufacturer's approved adhesive sealer. **Note:** Failure to remove or seal old latex adhesive may cause installation failure, plasticizer migration, shifting, buckling or edge curling; these conditions will not be covered under warranty.

Cut back adhesives

Must be wet scraped and covered with the adhesive manufacturer's approved adhesive sealer. **Note:** Failure to remove or seal old cut back adhesive may cause installation failure, plasticizer migration, shifting, buckling or edge curling; these conditions will not be covered under warranty.

Moisture testing

Subfloor surfaces must be tested for moisture content. It is the responsibility of the general contractor and/or installer to perform moisture tests prior to starting the installation. KRAUS recommends that calcium chloride tests be performed to detect the presence of moisture. Acceptable results require that moisture content does not exceed 3lbs. per 1,000 square feet per 24 hours. Modules will not resolve moisture problem. Substrate must have a maximum Ph level of 9. **Note:** Moisture emissions in excess of the recommended levels can cause the adhesive to chemically break down and fail. This condition can result in shifting, buckling, or edge curling of the modules.

Subfloors

New Concrete – New concrete must be fully cured and free of moisture. New concrete requires a curing period of approximately 90 days. Tests for moisture and alkalinity must be performed as detailed under moisture testing.

Old Concrete – Old concrete should be checked for moisture. Dry, dusty, porous floors must be sealed. **Sealers will not correct a moisture problem.**

Wood – Wood floors must be smooth and level. If floor is uneven, an appropriate underlayment may be required. Old finishes must be tested for compatibility with adhesives or removed and porous wood sealed.

Terrazzo / Marble – Level all grout lines with a latex based Portland cement patching compound. Glossy surfaces must be sanded for adhesive bond.

Hard Surfaces – Tiles must be well secured to the floor or removed. Broken, damaged, or loose tiles must be replaced. Wax must be removed from VCT before applying adhesive. Existing sheet vinyl is not a suitable substrate for MODULAR installation and should be removed.

Old carpet

Remove old carpet and check adhesive for compatibility. If unsure remove or cover adhesive with a Portland based patching compound or appropriate sealer.

Full adhesive methods

KRAUS recommends a full spread adhesive system for the most trouble free installation. Use any premium pressure sensitive or alternate adhesive as recommended for PVC backed tiles, by the adhesive manufacturer. Modules can easily shift during the installation process or by heavy rolling traffic if not fully adhered to the substrate. Apply adhesive in accordance with adhesive manufacturer's instructions. **Note:** Inadequate amounts of adhesive can cause modules to shift and move and will not be covered under warranty. Strictly adhere to adhesive manufactures recommended trowel size and spread rates.

Measurements and Layout

To establish a layout it is important to consider the accumulated expansion that occurs when installing carpet modules. To do this dry lay 10 modules and measure the total length. Generally a 1/4 inch will be gained in every 10 modules. It is important that this expansion factor be included when doing a layout and that the spacing be checked every ten modules throughout the entire installation.

Measure the area to be carpeted to determine best starting positions keeping in mind that the perimeter or border tile should be at least half a tile or more. Proper planning should avoid trimming perimeter tiles more than 1/2" their width (12 inches for 24″ x 24″ tiles) Once the starting position is determined, chalk two lines that intersect these positions at right angles.

Tile placement

Starting in the corner of one quadrant, install tiles in a pyramid fashion. Install by butting edges together evenly, being careful not to compress modules (this can cause peaked edges). Arrows are embossed or printed on the module backing to show pile direction. Unless instructions are stated for quarter turn installation, always lay tile with the arrows in the same direction.

Pallet and box sequencing

It is very important to install KRAUS MODULAR tiles in the order they were manufactured; this is easily accomplished by selecting pallets in sequential order and following the numbers located on each carton of tiles. Typically an installation will begin with the lowest carton numbers and progress through the highest numbers until project is complete. Installing KRAUS MODULAR tiles by carton sequence will assure the most even and uniform look possible.

Cutting / Trimming

Carpet modules will require cutting at perimeters, floor electrical outlets, and door openings. Whenever modules are cut or trimmed, adhesive must be used. Loop pile modules may require some trimming or clipping of tufts. This is typical of this type construction and is not a manufacturing problem. Small pieces of carpet tile should also have glue applied to the backing to help hold them in place.

Flatwire cable / Trench headers

Flatwire cables are easily accessible when carpet modules are used. Cable should be centered under modules and no adhesive used unless approved by the manufacturer. Trench headers require a control grid of adhesive on either side of header panels to prevent movement.

Stairs

Use a raised stair nosing and cut tiles to fit nosing, both step and riser. Use full spread adhesive under modules.

Finished installation

When heavy furniture and wheeled traffic is moved over tiles, use plywood runner to avoid tile shifting. Roll entire job with 75-100 lbs roller after completion of installation.

Chair pads

Chair pads are recommended for use under chairs with roller casters. Casters should be the flat round type with 5/8″ to 1″ width minimum. If chair pads are not used, the appearance of the modules will decrease and maintenance and/or shifting of the modules may be required more frequently.

Loop pile construction

Carpet modules with loop pile constructions may experience yarn blossoming at the edges, which is consistent with this type of construction. Clipping or shearing the yarn edges can remedy this condition.

Tile arrangement

Some carpet styles require more attention from the installers during installation. Due to the light row, dark row construction of these products, dark or light lines may appear at the edges. **This is not a manufacturing defect.** These products will require shifting tiles around to avoid dark lines at the edges.

It is not uncommon for any carpet tile to have varying coverage along the edges. The degree of this coverage is dependent on several things. The stitching in some products may be shifted which can, in some cases, cause some voiding along the edges. Also, lighter weight, less dense products will have less coverage than heavier weight, more dense products. Additionally, the manner in which carpet tiles are randomly die cut, some yarns at rows, some in between rows, and some on opposite sides of the rows, lends to the fact that there will be areas that show voids. This is inherent in all carpet tiles manufactured, regardless of the manufacturer, **and is not a manufacturing defect.** During installation some tiles will need to be selectively used or opted for fills rather than placing them in noticeable areas.

Some carpet tile constructions are designed for random installation. This type of carpet tile installation is very installer friendly because it eliminates having to locate the directional arrow on back of the tile. There is still a possibility of having to shift the tiles around to avoid dark lines at the edges.

Replacement tiles

On occasion, it may be necessary to replace damaged or heavily soiled modules. Modules can be replaced with new KRAUS tiles from on-site inventory or from other areas of the installation. A difference of appearance may be noticed when modules are replaced; this difference usually diminishes in a short time.

The procedures listed above are our best recommendations for installing KRAUS MODULAR Carpet Tile. This document is available upon request or on our web site at www.krausflooring.com. If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact your sales representative.