

# INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

## NEEDLEPUNCH



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### GENERAL CONDITIONS

A good preparation is essential for a smooth installation. *Needlepunch* can be installed on concrete, timber, ceramic and many other sub-floors which have been suitably prepared.

The effective application of *Needlepunch* is dependent on suitable site conditions.

### SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Careful sub-floor preparation as per AS/NZS 1884 is vital for an excellent floor appearance and good installation. The sub-floor must be hard, flat, smooth, clean, dry, and free from defects, contaminants and fit for purpose.

A suitable levelling compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including smoothing and levelling compounds and any ancillary products is dependent upon the end use of the completed flooring, and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor.

Any proprietary materials used for floor preparation must be used in accordance with the manufacturers' recommended instructions.

In all cases, the sub-floor must be sufficiently dry and the RH (relative humidity) checked to ensure it is not greater than that of any proprietary materials that are being used when tested in accordance with AS/NZS 1884.

Direct-to-earth concrete and stone sub-floors must have an effective damp proof membrane (DPM). Follow manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface DPM and the use of levelling compound.

All particle board substrates require an underlay or underlayment.

The finished appearance of a *Needlepunch* floor will be as good as the quality of the base over which it is installed. Any irregularities in the sub-floor will show through the finished floor.

### ACCLIMATISATION

*Needlepunch* performs to its specifications when laid at room temperature between 18°C – 28°C. The product should be acclimatised within the room it is to be laid at least 24 hours prior to installation. A constant temperature, fluctuating no more than 3°C per day and not below the required 18°C room temperature and 15°C floor temperature, should be maintained 24 hours before, during and after installation.

It is preferable that the rolls are stored standing up on their ends, and away from vents and direct sunlight. It is recommended that you black out windows where direct sunlight streams in onto the floor to allow for continuity across the whole area to be laid.

### PRE-INSTALLATION

1. Ensure that all *Needlepunch* are from the same batch and that there is no damage to the boards or visual defects on the print layer
2. Before installation, check all panels in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour or sheen.
3. Check the edges of the *Needlepunch* for damage and straightness.
4. Ensure when installing larger areas the rolls are laid out sequentially, and are installed in the same direction.
5. The surface beneath the floor must be sufficiently prepared in advance to guarantee successful fitting of the floor covering.

### RECOMMENDED ADHESIVES

*Needlepunch* is recommended to be installed with an acrylic adhesive with a V3 trowel for normal installations. Pressure sensitive and contact adhesives are not recommended.

Extreme caution must be taken when using solvent based adhesives, thinners or mineral turps. These solvents can soften and/or dissolve the carpet backing, dramatically reducing the performance and serviceable life of the carpet.

Where adhesives containing solvents are used, it is the responsibility of the specifier/installer to ascertain their suitability from the adhesive manufacturer.

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Manufacturers' recommendations, particularly tack times, must be followed exactly to allow for solvent release prior to placement of the carpet. Signature Floors will not warrant any installation where the backing and/or fibre has been softened/dissolved due to the use of solvent based adhesives.

A list of approved adhesives can be found on our website [www.signaturefloors.com.au](http://www.signaturefloors.com.au) or by calling 1800 150 554.

#### Important!

*Floor installation should not begin until the installer has assessed and approved the sub-floor and conditions.*

### INSTALLATION

A suitably qualified installer should be contracted to install *Needlepunch* carpet. A well installed carpet will provide years of trouble free performance and durability with minimum maintenance.

**NOTE:** When laying ribbed carpet in doorways and on ramps, it must be laid at right angles to the traffic path to ensure maximum skid resistance and scrapability.

Before cutting any material, STOP and check the following:

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Style    | Is it what you ordered?   |
| Colour   | Is it the right colour?   |
| Pattern  | Is the pattern correct?   |
| Size     | Is the size correct?      |
| Dye Lots | Are the dye lots correct? |

Signature Floors must be notified immediately should any defect be present as no claims for labour or material will be accepted where faulty product has been installed without prior approval from Signature Floors.

Ensure the carpet is all laid in a continuous direction by ensuring the arrows printed on the back all point the same way. Where multiple rolls are required, it is important to lay consecutive rolls in sequence. Roll numbers are printed on the packaging alongside the batch number.

Where joining of the carpet is required it should be double cut. For this process, seams must be overlaid by approximately 60mm and both layers of carpet cut vertically with a sharp knife and straight edge - this ensures a perfect fit.

For ribbed carpets, ensure that the ribs are aligned and the cut made in the valley between the ribs of the carpet in both layers simultaneously.

Butt joining of the carpet is NOT recommended. Knee or power stretchers should only be used in a limited capacity to ensure a tight seam and not for stretching the carpet.

*Needlepunch* carpets must NOT be loose laid.

Adhesives must be evenly spread across the floor surfaces. Spread only enough adhesive for a workable area. Recommended tack times should be strictly adhered to before laying in carpet, paying particular attention to this during hot, cold or particularly humid conditions. In all cases, consult the manufacturers' instructions.

Lay carpet into wet adhesive and use heavy roller over the entire area to ensure adhesive transfer to the carpet, all installations should be rolled immediately after laying to ensure adequate adhesion is achieved. All drops should be rolled from the centre out towards the edges and joins to ensure no air is trapped under the carpet, which will cause air bubbles to show on the surface.

To assure permanent adhesion, you must achieve a good transfer of adhesive from the floor to the carpet. On colder days, after rolling in carpet, peel back carpet and let adhesive tack-off and then roll-in.

Should any air bubbles occur, you must re-roll carpet in accordance with instructions. Heavy traffic and furniture must not be permitted for a minimum period of 24 hours. This period may need to be extended in cold or poor curing conditions or with specific adhesives. The carpet should be protected from damage from other trades after installation.

### OUTDOOR RATED PRODUCTS ONLY

For selected *Needlepunch* products that are suitable for outdoor applications please ensure the use of outdoor synthetic grass adhesive. All other guidelines for outdoor applications are as previously described.

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### PROTECTION

*Needle Punch* should be protected from heavy traffic for 24 hours after installation so that the adhesive can cure and stabilise at consistent temperature between 18°C - 28°C.

For any assistance please contact Signature Floors on 1800 150 554

### WARRANTY

Further information is available in our Carpet Care Guide & Warranty document from your place of purchase and Signature Floors website [www.signaturefloors.com.au](http://www.signaturefloors.com.au)

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