

PlusFloor®

**PF**



# Carpet Tile Installation Guide

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## Important Notices

### Carpet Tiles

1. To reduce the potential impact of shading, PlusFloor items are sent out in dye batches, easily distinguishable on each product, and should not be mixed together unless explicitly specified otherwise. The contractor, or their authorized representatives, are accountable for examining the shipment for both quantity and dye batching before accepting and signing the delivery document.

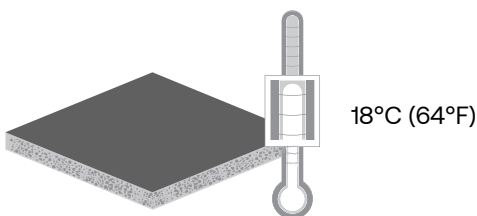
*Important Note: For all installations, a maximum benchmark area of 100m<sup>2</sup> must be thoroughly inspected by all parties with authorization. If any inconsistencies are found compared to the original specifications or manufacturing, it is crucial to notify PlusFloor before proceeding with the remaining installation.*

2. Textile floor coverings, particularly cut pile products, may be prone to temporary pressure marking, which can be caused by packing, storage, and shipment. This temporary effect is observed in all types of carpets and will disappear as the tufts regain their original appearance.
3. Deviation from the practices outlined in this guide may invalidate the guarantee provided. PlusFloor cannot be held responsible for any faults that arise due to installation methods differing from those specified in this guide. It is important to read these instructions in conjunction with the PlusFloor conditions of sale.
3. Health & Safety: Adhesives and materials used for floor preparation must be employed in accordance with the recommended procedures and safety precautions provided by the manufacturers. PlusFloor adhesive products are available on our website, but contractors who choose not to use PlusFloor adhesive should obtain the necessary products from the appropriate adhesive manufacturer.

## Preparation

### 1. Conditioning of Materials

Considering the characteristics of textile materials, it is necessary to acclimatize them to the atmospheric conditions that will exist after installation and during use. This is especially crucial for products with Bio-based backings. The products should be kept inside their boxes and allowed to condition for a minimum of 48 hours in an area where the room temperature is at least 18°C before laying them. This precaution is taken to prevent any potential problems related to the product's handling or stability.



#### INSTALLATION AND WARRANTY

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Carnforth Business Park,  
Oakwood Way, Carnforth,  
LA5 9FD  
Tel no. +44(0)1524 481 118  
Fax. +44(0)1524 481 171  
info@plusfloor.com  
www.plusfloor.com

## Preparation

### 2. Site Conditions

#### 2.1 Floor Preparation

Prior to commencing the installation of PlusFloor carpet tiles, it is essential to determine the location and depth of cables, heating elements, and water pipes in the floor screed. Additionally, any necessary preliminary tasks, such as securing floor sockets for service plugs, should be finished. The base must be solid, even, and dry, and the floors should be thoroughly cleared of debris and devoid of any defects.

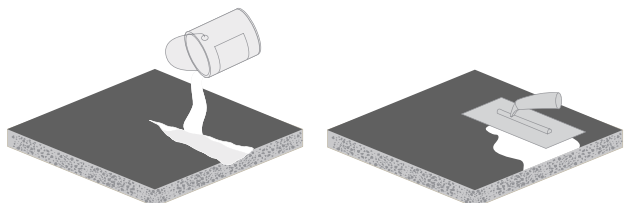


Figure 01

All required preparations should be completed well in advance to allow sufficient time for the smoothing underlayment to set and dry.

#### 2.2 Damp Proofing

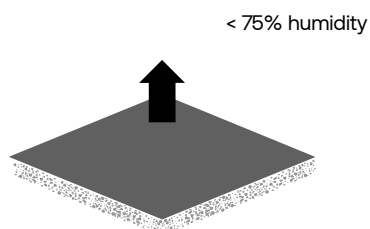
For solid floors at ground or below ground level, or in situations where moisture penetration may be a concern, it is essential to include an effective damp proof membrane in the construction process.

#### 2.3 Subfloors

Subfloors should be prepared following the applicable national and European standards. The choice of a suitable smoothing underlayment will depend on factors such as the type of subfloor and specific requirements, such as the need for high impact resistance.

##### 2.3.1 Concrete

Freshly poured concrete should undergo a complete curing process and be adequately sealed. The humidity levels should not exceed 75% as measured by a hygrometer test. Existing concrete should be smooth and level. If chemicals have been utilized to remove a previous finish or if there is visible dusting, it is advisable to reseal the concrete.



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www.plusfloor.com

## Preparation

### 2.3.2 Timber

The floor should be structurally sound, level, smooth, dry and clean. Worn or uneven floorboards should either be replaced or levelled by sanding, planing or patch filling before covering with flooring grade plywood, chipboard or hardboard (rough side facing upwards) and pinned at 100 mm centres (see Figure 2, BS 5325 & BS 8203 for further details).

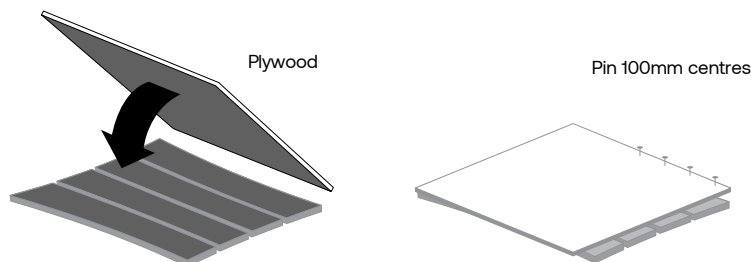


Figure 02

### 2.3.3 Wood Block Floors

If the existing subfloors are smooth, solid, level, and securely bonded, they can be covered with flooring grade plywood, chipboard, or hardboard, as mentioned previously. For ground floors with wood blocks, it is essential to incorporate an effective damp proof membrane. However, if these conditions cannot be fulfilled, it is necessary to remove the wood blocks and prepare the subfloor accordingly.

### 2.3.4 Chipboard

The chipboard used should adhere to the EN 312 standard and should not have any wax, polyurethane, or other surface sealants applied. If the floors are uneven, they should be treated following the instructions provided for timber floors.

### 2.3.5 Terrazzo, Marble Etc.

Before installation, it is important to patch any cracks and rectify irregularities in the subfloor. Additionally, any chemical finishes present should be removed. Grout lines should be filled with an appropriate leveling compound. If there are concerns about moisture penetration, it is recommended to apply a layer of floor grade asphalt followed by skimming with a 3 mm smoothing underlayment (refer to Figure 3).

### 2.3.6 Asphalt

The asphalt used should be of flooring grade and meet the requirements of BS 8204. If the asphalt is in good condition, sound, and strong, the surface should be thoroughly cleaned before applying a smoothing underlayment.

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## Preparation

### 2.3.7 Raised Access Panels

These should be smooth, level, clean and dry.

### 2.4 Underfloor Heating

PlusFloor carpet tiles are suitable for installation on internally heated floors as long as the surface temperature does not exceed 27°C (80°F). Prior to installation, the underfloor heating system must be turned off and kept inactive for a minimum of 48 hours.

## Planning

### 3.1 Tools

To facilitate the installation process, you will need the following tools: a steel measuring tape, a chalk line, a carpet knife, and a straight edge. In the case of Skinny Planks, it is recommended to have a 1-meter set square as well. These tools will assist in achieving accurate measurements and precise cutting during the installation of PlusFloor carpet tiles.

### 3.2 Measurement

To determine the center of the room and establish the starting point (or datum point) for the installation, follow standard tile-laying methods as shown in Figure 3. It is important to ensure that the resulting quadrants meet at right angles. Adjustments to the center chalk line may be necessary to ensure that the perimeter tiles are at least half-size or larger.

However, in some cases, such as when there are doorways or partitions, the starting point may not be the exact center of the room.

For Kaleido Planks, especially when installing them in a traditional herringbone pattern, precise measurements are crucial for a successful installation.

When choosing the starting point and direction for the herringbone pattern, consider the following key factors:

1. The longest dimension of the room.
2. The pattern leading towards major architectural features like the main entrance or reception desk.

For more specific advice and guidance on planning and installing Kaleido Planks, refer to page 13.

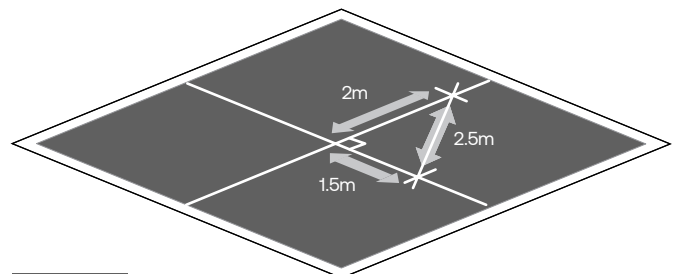


Figure 03

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## Planning

### 3.3 Method of Fixing

#### 3.3.1 TacTiles

TacTiles can be used to secure PlusFloor flooring tiles. The preparation requirements for the subfloor remain the same as those for installations using adhesives.

To apply TacTiles, refer to Figures 4, 5, and 6, paying special attention to the guide marks on each TacTile. These figures provide step-by-step instructions for the proper application of TacTiles during the installation process.

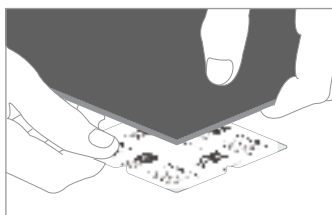


Figure 04

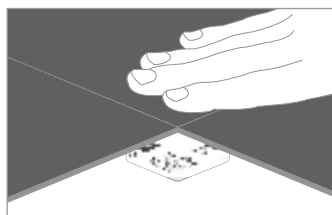


Figure 05

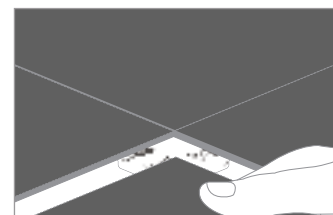


Figure 06

#### 3.3.2 TacTiles Placement

Insert the tiles according to the approved installation method specified for your project. When using TacTiles, ensure they are positioned as shown in Figures 7 and 8. These figures provide visual guidance on the correct placement of TacTiles during the tile installation process.

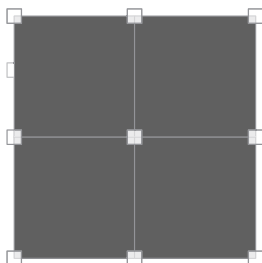


Figure 07

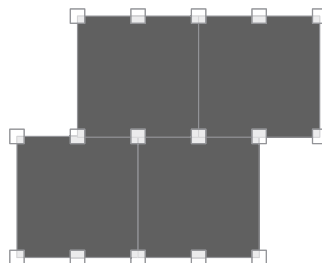


Figure 08

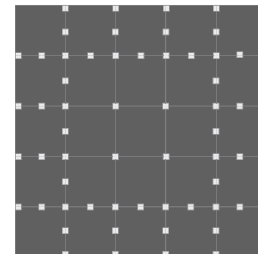


Figure 09

Begin by laying anchor rows, placing a TacTiles connector at each joint. Use a step method to install the carpet tiles in all quadrants, ensuring that a TacTiles connector is placed at every joint.

It is important to apply TacTiles at all room perimeters. Additionally, TacTiles must be used under every cut tile and any tile adjacent to a cut tile. This ensures proper adhesion and stability throughout the installation.

*ADDITIONAL NOTES: TacTiles should be employed to join the carpet tiles together. Generally, one TacTile should be used where the corners of four tiles meet across the entire carpet. However, at the perimeter of the carpet and possibly the penultimate row, it is recommended to use an increased number of TacTiles for additional reinforcement. Specifically, at each corner, it is advisable to use at least one additional TacTile along each side of the tile. This reinforcement technique provides added stability and strength to the carpet installation. Please refer to Figure 9 for a visual representation of this instruction.*

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## Planning

### 3.3.3 Tile Replacement

When removing or replacing a carpet tile, you have two options. Either lift the carpet tile and peel it away from the connector, or cut through the TacTiles that join the tiles together. Once the tile is removed, replace it with a new one.

### 3.3.4 Adhesive

PlusFloor-backed products can be installed using spray adhesive or by free-lay installation within a 2-meter stabilisation grid, as shown in Figure 10.

When using the stabilisation grid, an approved tackifier release adhesive must be used. Apply the adhesive using a roller, following the manufacturer's instructions. If there are specific national building regulations pertaining to carpet tile installation, these regulations must be followed. Apply the tackifier adhesive in a 100 mm band width within a 2-meter grid and allow it to fully dry as per the manufacturer's instructions.

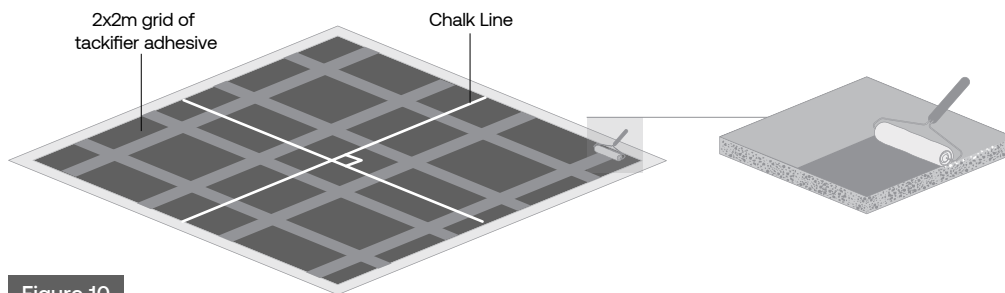


Figure 10

## Recommended Adhesives

Subfloor Type	Tackifier Grid	Vertical Surfaces
Concrete	PLF569	PLF801HT
Timber & Particle Board	PLF569	PLF801HT
Terrazzo/Marble	PLF569	PLF801HT
Raised Access Panel	PLF569	PLF801HT

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## Planning

### 3.4 Raised Access Flooring

When using tackifier adhesive, it is important to exercise special care by following these guidelines:

- Avoid over-application to prevent any penetration between panels that may result in bonding them together.
- Do not dilute the tackifier adhesive or pour it directly onto the panels.
- Apply the tackifier adhesive using a roller to achieve even coverage.
- Allow the tackifier adhesive to dry completely before proceeding with the installation of carpet tiles.

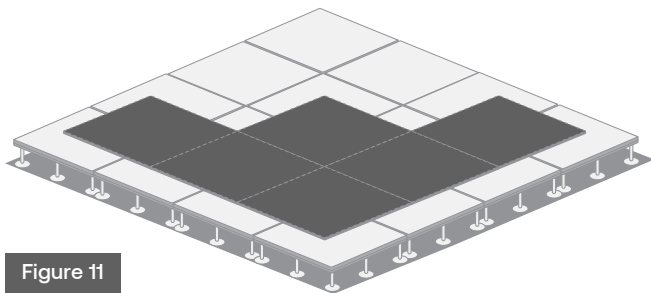


Figure 11

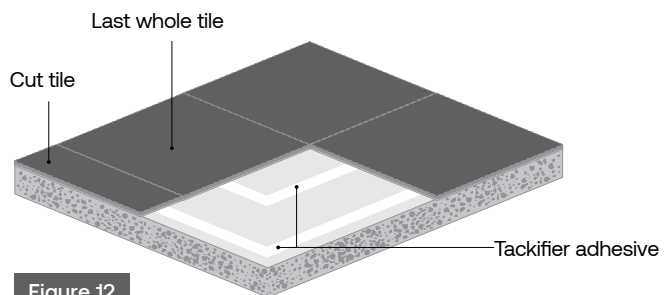


Figure 12

### 3.5 Perimeter Fixing

To ensure proper installation, it is recommended that the entire tile closest to the wall and all perimeter cuts be secured using TacTiles or laid onto tackifier adhesive or tape. This is especially important in open perimeter designs.

In open perimeter designs, it is necessary to use a fixed reducer strip that is anchored to the floor. This reducer strip helps lock the tiled area into place and provides a seamless transition between the carpet tiles and the adjacent flooring surface. Please refer to Figure 12 for visual guidance on this installation method.

## Carpet Tile Installation

### 4.1 Method

Starting from the designated starting point, proceed to install one row of tiles with precision and firmness along each of the chalk lines. This step ensures that the tiles are aligned correctly and securely in place. For visual reference and further guidance, please consult Figure 13.

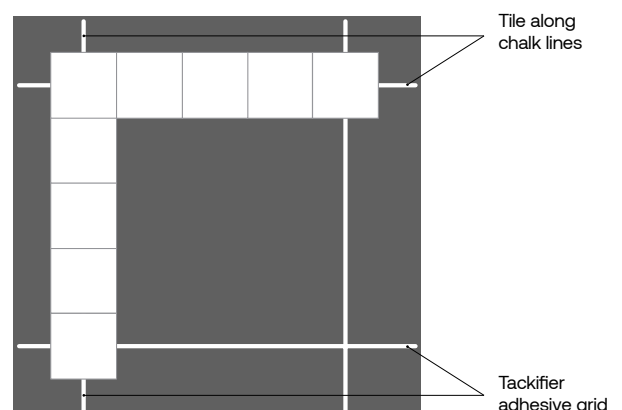


Figure 13

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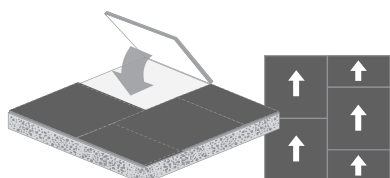
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## Carpet Tile Installation

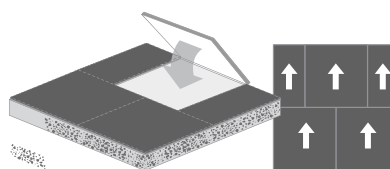
### 4.2 Pile Direction

The back of all PlusFloor products features arrows that indicate the pile direction, which is significant during installation. There are several methods of tile installation that can be employed:

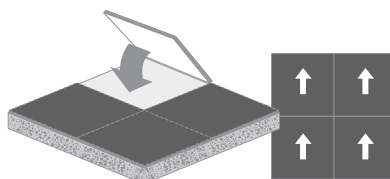
50CM X 50CM TILES



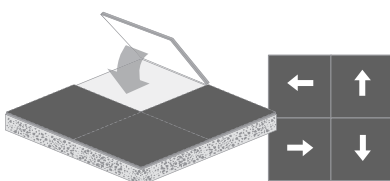
**Ashlar:** This method involves installing tiles in an irregular pattern, creating a visually textured and natural look.



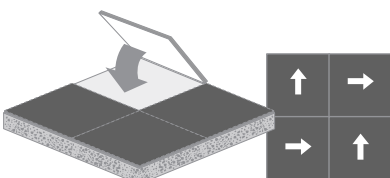
**Brick:** Tiles are installed in a staggered pattern, similar to the arrangement of bricks in a wall.



**Monolithic:** In this method, all the tiles are installed in the same pile direction, creating a uniform appearance across the floor.



**Non-Directional:** This method involves installing the tiles without following a specific pile direction, resulting in a random pattern.



**Quarter-turn:** Tiles are installed with a 90-degree rotation from one another, creating a checkerboard or diagonal pattern.

These various methods of tile installation offer different aesthetic effects, and the choice depends on the desired design outcome for your PlusFloor installation.

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## Carpet Tile Installation

### 4.3 Alignment

As you butt the tiles against each other during installation, it is important to regularly check the joints using your fingers. This tactile inspection allows you to ensure that the joints are properly aligned, providing a seamless and uniform appearance. By running your fingers along the joints, you can detect any unevenness or misalignment and make adjustments as necessary to achieve a precise and professional result.

### 4.4 Tightness

During the entire installation process, it is crucial to exercise great care to ensure that the tiles are tightly butted together, with the backing of adjacent tiles in contact with each other. Pay attention to the following steps:

1. Brush back the face pile of each tile before placing it on the floor.
2. Pull the tile in towards the adjoining tiles, ensuring that the backing touches the backing of the neighboring tiles.
3. Take caution to prevent any pile from getting caught in the joint between tiles (refer to Figure 14 for visual guidance).

Maintaining tight joints is essential to prevent movement and ensure optimal performance of the floor. Avoid applying excessive pressure on the adjoining tiles, as this can cause them to peak or buckle. Striking the right balance is crucial for achieving a visually pleasing and long-lasting flooring installation.

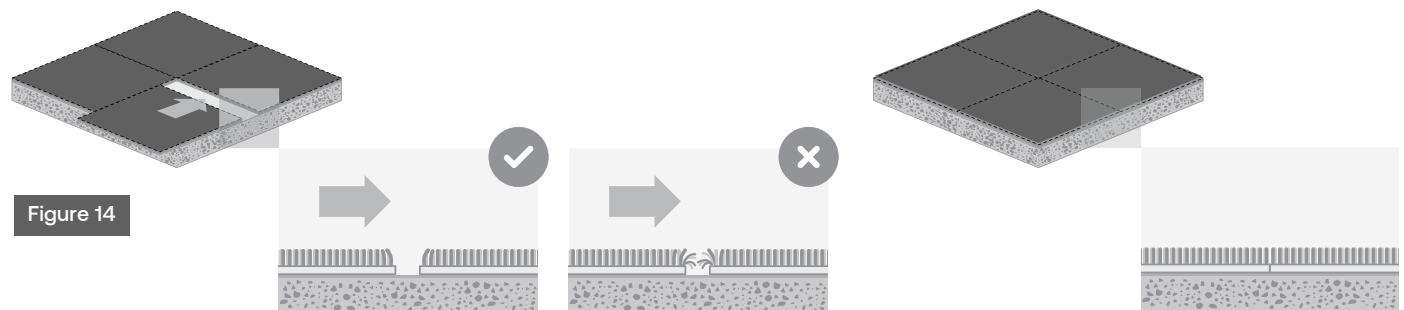


Figure 14

### 4.5 Complete Each Grid (See Figure 15)

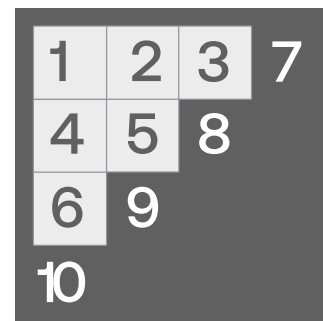


Figure 15

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## Carpet Tile Installation

### 4.6 Cutting

#### 4.6.1 At Perimeters

To accurately cut the tiles, follow these steps:

1. Place the tile face side down.
2. Measure and mark the desired cutting line on the backing of the tile (refer to Figure 16 for visual reference).
3. Using a carpet knife and a straight edge as a guide, carefully cut through the backing along the marked line.
4. Ensure a smooth and clean cut by applying steady and controlled pressure while cutting.

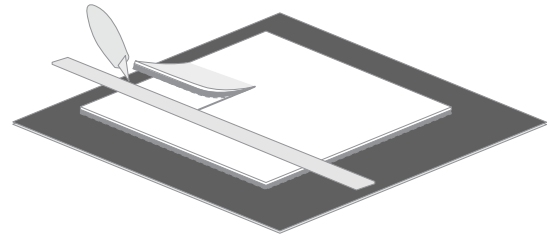


Figure 16

By cutting through the backing, you can achieve precise tile dimensions and tailor them to fit specific areas of your installation. Take care to maintain accuracy during the cutting process to ensure a professional and seamless result.

#### 4.6.2 Fit the Parameters

When fitting the perimeter cut tile, follow these steps:

1. Place the perimeter cut tile with its manufactured edge adjoining the last complete tile.
2. Align the cut edge of the perimeter tile to fit flush with the perimeter of the installation area.
3. If needed, trim the edge of the perimeter cut tile to precisely match the shape of the perimeter using a carpet knife and a straight edge.

By fitting the perimeter cut tile in this manner, you can achieve a neat and seamless transition between the tiles and the perimeter of the installation area. Make sure to cut the edge carefully and accurately to ensure a proper fit and a visually pleasing result.

### 4.7 Stairways and Vertical Surfaces

#### 4.7.1 Secure and Stylish Stairway Installation

PlusFloor carpet tiles can indeed be installed on stairways, given that a suitable nosing is fitted. The nosing, which is a specialized edging piece, helps provide a smooth transition and secure installation of the carpet tiles on the stairs. It is essential to select a nosing that is designed specifically for use with carpet tiles and that meets safety and building code requirements. By incorporating the appropriate nosing, you can achieve an attractive and functional carpeted stairway using PlusFloor carpet tiles.

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## Carpet Tile Installation

### 4.7.2 Securing Tile Installation

When installing tiles on the treads, risers, or any other vertical surfaces of stairs, it is important to secure them using an approved adhesive. Follow these guidelines:

1. Select an adhesive that is suitable for the specific application and compatible with the PlusFloor carpet tiles.
2. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for the adhesive, including any recommended surface preparation or application techniques.
3. Apply the adhesive evenly and thoroughly to the back of each tile, ensuring proper coverage.
4. Press the tile firmly against the surface, ensuring it adheres securely.
5. Make sure to remove any excess adhesive immediately to maintain a clean and professional appearance.

By using the approved adhesive and following the manufacturer's instructions, you can ensure a secure and durable installation of PlusFloor carpet tiles on stair treads, risers, and other vertical surfaces.

### 4.7.3 Neat Fit, Functional Joints: Considerations

When dealing with mat wells and expansion joints, it is crucial to ensure a neat and tight fit while also respecting the purpose of these features. Here are some important considerations:

**Mat Wells:** When fitting carpet tiles around mat wells, take care to cut the tiles accurately to fit snugly around the well's perimeter. This will create a clean and seamless transition between the tiles and the mat. Avoid overlapping or leaving gaps that could compromise the functionality or aesthetics of the mat well.

**Expansion Joints:** Expansion joints are designed to allow for natural movement and accommodate changes in temperature and humidity. It is essential not to fill these joints with screed or any other material. Instead, respect the integrity of the expansion joints by leaving them open and uninterrupted. Avoid taking the floor covering across the expansion joints, as this could hinder the required movement and potentially lead to issues such as cracking or buckling.

By carefully considering these factors, you can achieve a professional and visually pleasing installation around mat wells and expansion joints while ensuring the proper functionality and longevity of the floor covering.

*It is important to note that while PlusFloor Carpet Tiles are suitable for use beneath furniture in areas like hotel lounges and bedrooms, the described installation method may not be suitable for heavier use areas. In such cases, it is advisable to consider alternative installation methods that may involve the use of edging strips and/or double-sided tape. If you anticipate heavy use in certain areas, it is recommended to contact the PlusFloor technical department for further guidance and information on the most suitable installation method to ensure durability and performance. Additionally, it's important to be aware that installations using TacTiles are not suitable for areas where heavy rolling loads are expected. TacTiles may not provide the necessary level of adhesion and stability required for such applications.*

#### INSTALLATION AND WARRANTY

All PlusFloor floors should be installed by a skilled and competent installer who will consider the unique circumstances of each site. The PlusFloor warranty will be applicable only to floors that have been installed by a competent flooring installer conforming to the standards comparable to BS8201 in the UK or an equivalent standard worldwide.

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Plusfloor Unit 11,  
Carnforth Business Park,  
Oakwood Way, Carnforth,  
LA5 9FD  
Tel no. +44(0)1524 481 118  
Fax. +44(0)1524 481 171  
info@plusfloor.com  
www.plusfloor.com

## Carpet Tile Installation

### 5. Completion

To prevent any damage or displacement of the carpet tiles during the installation process, it is advised to avoid walking on the installed area or moving furniture until the entire area is completed and all perimeter tiles are in position. This precautionary measure ensures that the tiles are securely in place and minimizes the risk of accidental shifting.

In situations where heavy furniture or wheeled traffic needs to be moved across the installed area during the installation process, it is recommended to place sheets of plywood or hardboard over the carpet. This additional layer provides temporary protection and distributes the weight more evenly, reducing the risk of tiles being dislodged or damaged.

By following these guidelines, you can help maintain the integrity of the carpet tile installation and ensure that it remains intact and stable throughout the process of completing the area.

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Plusfloor Unit 11,  
Carnforth Business Park,  
Oakwood Way, Carnforth,  
LA5 9FD  
Tel no. +44(0)1524 481 118  
Fax. +44(0)1524 481 171  
info@plusfloor.com  
www.plusfloor.com

# PlusFloor®

**01524 481 118**  
**info@plusfloor.com**  
**plusfloor.com**

**London Showroom**  
23 Pear Tree Street,  
Clerkenwell, London,  
EC1V 3AP

**Innovation + Distribution Centre**  
11 Oakwood Way  
Carnforth Business Park  
Carnforth, LA5 9FD