

FixTabs™ Pressure Sensitive Tab System for:
AFFIX™ Carpet Tile
AFIRMA II™ Carpet Tile
NexStep® Cushion Tile

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Basics

FixTabs are a double-sided, pressure sensitive, releasable tab system. Bentley Mills has adopted the Carpet and Rug Institute’s (CRI) 104 Carpet Installation Standard for Commercial Carpet as a basic minimum industry guideline for the installation of both broadloom and modular carpet. Please note: the installation instructions for some specific styles may exceed the basic minimum requirements set forth in the CRI 104. When consulting CRI 104 please make certain it is the most recent edition and contains the latest updates; copies may be obtained on the CRI website <https://carpet-rug.org>

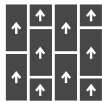
Layout

Carpet tile seams will never be invisible and are usually most visible on the day of installation. Seams become increasingly less visible with routine vacuuming and foot traffic. Bentley goes to great lengths to determine how a particular style should be installed to help maximize its appearance in all standard color combinations. The variety of styles and tile sizes make it extremely important for the installer to know whether the preferred installation layout for a particular style is monolithic, brick, ashlar, quarter-turn, herringbone or other.

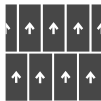
Some styles allow for a variety of installation layouts; others have only one or two recommended layout methods that would assure an aesthetically pleasing installation for the customer. The installer should know which recommended layout is preferred by the end user prior to starting the installation. If there are questions about the recommended layout, please contact Bentley prior to starting installation of any carpet tile style.

Tile Installation Reference

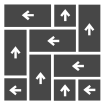
18 in x 36 in Carpet Tile:



ASHLAR



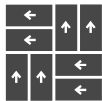
BRICK



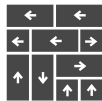
HERRINGBONE



MONOLITHIC

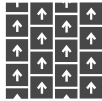


PARQUET

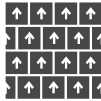


RANDOM

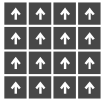
24 in x 24 in Carpet Tile:



ASHLAR



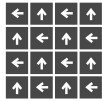
BRICK



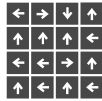
MONOLITHIC



QUARTER DROP



QUARTER TURN



RANDOM

Floor Preparation

CRI 104

CRI 104 Carpet Installation Standard for Commercial Carpet. In addition to the specific instructions detailed here, the CRI 104 must be closely followed as basic minimum requirement for floor preparation and installation on all carpet installations. CRI 104 can be downloaded from <https://carpet-rug.org/resources/installation-standards/>

Concrete Sub-Floor

All new concrete must be fully cured, clean, and dry. Old concrete must be clean, dry, level, and free of paint, dirt, old adhesive, oils, or other contaminants. Pre-existing adhesive must be 90% removed resulting in only trace amounts of old adhesive showing (10% or less of the old adhesive showing on the subfloor). Remove by either hand scraping or mechanically sanding smooth; after which, apply Taylor Zephyr encapsulate prior to the installation of Bentley Mills FixTabs. All concrete floors must comply with moisture and alkalinity requirements prior to proceeding with installation. Whenever a powdery surface is encountered such as lightweight concrete or excessive dust, the floor must be cleaned and then primed with Taylor 2025 Primer. All porous concrete floors must be primed with Taylor 2025 Primer. Non porous substrates must be damp mopped prior to installation. Failure to prime the floors under these circumstances will not be warranted as FixTabs will not adhere to the substrate and existing dust will filter through the carpet tile joints.

Level the floor to the standards outlined in the American Concrete Institute specifications for Concrete Building ACI 301 in regard to trowel finish and finishing tolerance. Leveling compounds must be Portland-based cement. Patch cracks and holes with one of the following approved patching compounds: Ardex Feather Finish, Ardex K-15, Henry's 547, Mapei Plani Patch mixed with the Mapei additive, or similar Portland-based cementitious compound. Do not exceed manufacturer's recommendation for patch thickness. Gypsum based compounds are not recommended. All gypsum based compounds must be primed with Taylor 2025 primer prior to installation. Do not use solvents to clean the floor. Do not use oil based sweeping compound. Do not install over resin or silicate based curing compounds.

Note: Incompatible adhesives, solvent-based materials, cut back adhesives and other contaminants should be removed and encapsulated with Taylor Zephyr prior to installation of carpet. Contact Bentley for further information at 800.423.4709.

Concrete Moisture

Concrete floors, even with adequate curing time, can present an unacceptable moisture condition by allowing excessive amounts of moisture vapor to pass through to the surface. FixTabs can be used on installations up to 100% RH. No RH or pH testing required. No intact moisture vapor retarder required.

Note: Hydrostatic pressure is not an acceptable condition of the substrate. Hydrostatic pressure is the occurrence of the concrete slab being hydrated from below or water under the slab pushing up through the surface. This is visually seeing effervescence or alkaline salts carried with water on the surface of concrete and occurs with "on grade" or "below grade concrete. Hydrostatic floor conditions must be corrected prior to the installation.

Asbestos

Floor coverings containing asbestos and any adhesive potentially containing asbestos, require special preparation, handling, and removal procedures. Please consult the appropriate local or state authorities or the Resilient Floor Covering Institute before disturbing any suspected asbestos-containing material.

Access Panels

When installing carpet tiles over raised access floor panels, it's suggested to start the installation by overlapping the access panel joints to prevent the seams of the tiles from lining up with the access panel joints. All access panels must be sound, level and edges firmly secured to the raised flooring pedestals. Access panels must be damp mopped or primed with Taylor 2025 Primer to remove dust prior to FixTabs installation.

Bentley Mills is not responsible for any product failure due to improper floor preparation and/or installation procedures.

Test Conditions

Moisture and Alkalinity testing is not required when using the FixTabs system. No RH testing, no pH testing, no intact moisture vapor retarder required.

Installation Instructions

Conditioning Carpet

The floor and room temperature must be acclimated by maintaining the temperature at 65°F and 85°F, and the relative humidity between 30% and 65%, for at least 48 hours before and during installation. In addition, the carpet and FixTabs should be stored under these conditions for at least 24 hours prior to installation. The installation site must be acclimated with HVAC in operation and maintained at normal service temperature and humidity after installation is completed.

Note: Bentley Mills cannot be held responsible for carpet stability issues such as curl, dome, expansion, or contraction when carpet is not properly conditioned prior to installation and maintained thereafter.

Centering/Squaring

Divide the room into four quadrants and snap a chalk line bisecting the starting point. Make sure quadrants meet at right angles. A second chalk line is snapped 90 degrees to the first line. This can be performed using the 3-4-5 method or larger triangle best suited for the room size. Take care to keep perimeter carpet tile cuts larger than half size. Carpet tiles are printed on the back with arrows for consistent installation direction.

Suggest following pallet sequencing for installation based on manufacturing.

FixTabs Double-sided Pressure Sensitive Tab System

Substrates must be clean and free of debris, including old adhesives, prior to the installation of the carpet. FixTabs are to be used on flat surfaces only. The FixTabs System does not use any grid or perimeter tape/adhesive. The pressure sensitive tabs are 4-inch x 4-inch square, with an aggressive adhesive on the top layer that joins the carpet tiles together. There also is a bottom layer of adhesive which sticks to the floor. The bottom layer adhesive is much like a sticky note and 100% releasable. The FixTabs system locks all tiles in place to prevent lateral movement.

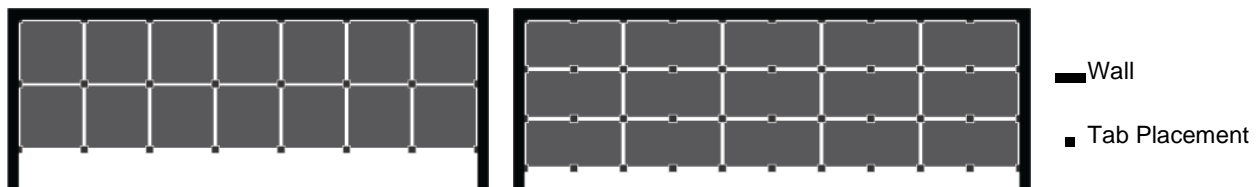
FixTabs Installation

1. Each FixTab is a 4-inch x 4-inch square that must be centered at the carpet tile intersection and at all fills near terminating walls and transitions. Care should be taken not to trap the face yarn under the tile edges.
2. Start from the established intersection point (the center of the floor) with the 1st tile, place a FixTab under each edge of the tile at the corners leaving $\frac{3}{4}$ of the FixTab exposed. Tabs marked with "THIS SIDE TO FLOOR" are adhered to the substrate. Once placed, the top layer is attached to the carpet tile backing. This process will repeat for all carpet tile corners and fill pieces. Follow recommended tab count based on tile size and installation orientation.
3. Carefully tip the 2nd tile in place and firmly press the tile into the FixTab. Carpet tiles will not slide into place; they must be tipped into place. Make sure all tiles and corners are butted tightly to avoid gaps.
4. Continue with the 3rd tile creating a stair-step pattern. Be sure the tiles are properly aligned at the edges during the installation.
5. Continue with the stair-step pattern until the entire area is completed.
6. For 18 in x 36 in carpet tiles, an additional FixTab must be placed in the middle of the long direction at the seams.
7. Abutting of cut tiles to full tiles requires a factory edge to factory edge. All wall cuts are to be made from the tile backing, not the face to prevent yarn fiber loss. Arrow direction must be maintained on wall cuts to match full tiles.
8. Roll all of the carpet tiles with a 75 lb. roller immediately as each area is completed.

Large Rooms and Long Corridors

The FixTabs System does not use any grid or perimeter tape/adhesive

FixTabs Placement Examples:



Note: Diagram displays Monolithic installations only. For other installation methods, ensure tabs are placed on all tile corners and an extra tab in the long direction of 18 in x 36 in tiles. Use full FixTabs at walls and transitions.

Doorways

An additional perpendicular line should be established and squared from the center line of the room to run through doorways. Care should be taken to measure a distance equal to an even number of carpet tiles from the room's center line to a point in the doorway. That point in the doorway will determine where the first tile is installed.

Tipping Tiles into Place

Carpet tiles will not slide into place; they must be tipped into place. Please take care to prevent tile corners from rolling under when they are positioned. Frequently check tile joints for proper alignment and firm abutment. Avoid tight or overly compressed joints that can cause peaking edges or corners. Check to verify yarn fibers are not trapped between tile joints.

Check Tightness

Expect a slight gain as the tiles are installed because of spacing at the joints. To insure a tight installation and minimize the amount of gain, measure 10 squares (in length) from the front side of the first tile to back side of the 10th tile. The measurement should have a gain no greater than 1/8 inch. If gain exceeds 1/8 inch, tiles should be reinstalled and butted more tightly along backing edge. Reposition and check again.

Ramps and Heavy Rolling Loads

Ramped areas, inclines, and heavy rolling loads such as freight elevator lobbies will require the use of Healthbond 2399 pressure sensitive adhesive. Adhesive must be applied using a 1/16 x 1/32 x 1/32 U notch trowel. FixTabs are to be used on flat surfaces only.

Stairs

FixTabs are not to be used on stairs.

Chair Pads

Chair pads are recommended for chairs with roller castors. Failure to use chair pads with roller castors may cause tile separation, increase pile crush and/or matting and may void the warranty.

Post Installation

It is recommended that carpet installations be the last trade on the job site. If Installations need to be protected from heavy traffic, construction dust, other tradesmen, use a non-staining building paper, Ram Board, or Masonite. Do not use plastic sheeting with applied adhesive tackifiers as it can leave adhesive residues that result in rapid soiling once removed.

If any of the above conditions cannot be attained, please contact Bentley Mills Technical Services at 800-423-4709, or email FieldServices@bentleymills.com.

Important Advice

These installation procedures are recommendations designed for the experienced and competent installer. Strict adherence to these procedures will result in a quality installation under most conditions. **Any situation that could alter the installation procedure or jeopardize the possibility of a satisfactory installation, such as identification of defective material or unusual installation conditions, including Hydrostatic pressure creates a responsibility for the installer to STOP the installation immediately and call Bentley Mills Technical Services at 800.423.4709.** Bentley Mills will not be responsible for substandard installation or for an installer's decision to proceed with an installation that is not resulting in a satisfactory or acceptable finished installation.

Contact Us

Bentley Mills, Inc. 14641 East Don Julian Road, City of Industry, California 91746

800.423.4709 | bentleymills.com