



**Brintons**

**MAINTENANCE GUIDE**  
**COMMERCIAL WOVEN CARPETS**

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**INSTALLATION**



## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Proper installation by a qualified professional installer will protect your investment in a Brintons flooring solution.

This guide offers recommendations for the installation of Brintons woven Axminster and Wilton products. It outlines the most suitable methods of installation and how they should be carried out to achieve optimum carpet performance.

The methods described in this document are provided for guidance only; we cannot accept responsibility for poor workmanship and any problems arising from improper installation.

This installation guide must be read in conjunction with AS/NZS 2455 1:2007: Textile Floorcoverings - Installation Practice and our current Terms and Conditions of Sale.

### A PROFESSIONAL APPROACH

Each carpet type and installation site will carry its own characteristics. It is vital that each installation is carefully planned and evaluated before commencement.

All Brintons products must be installed by professionally trained and qualified floor covering contractors. Failure to comply with this may result in the cancellation of any product warranty offered to the end user.

To facilitate a successful installation it is important that all manufacturers guidelines are followed when using underlay, adhesive and all other accessories required during installation.

All Brintons carpets are manufactured to comply with all relevant performance and flammability requirements for use within commercial environments.

### STORAGE AND HANDLING

- Carpet and related materials must be stored in a climate-controlled, dry space with conditions close to those the carpet will be subjected to during use.
- Carpet must be adequately protected from frost, soil, dust, moisture and other contaminants and stored on a flat surface.
- Stacking heavy objects on top of carpet rolls or stacking more than three rolls high must be avoided.
- Carpet must be transported and handled in a manner that prevents damage and distortion.
- Bending or folding individual carpet rolls is not recommended and Brintons cannot be held responsible for any consequences of doing so. However, if bending or folding is unavoidable for delivery purposes, the carpet should be unrolled or loosened prior to removing any core pole.
- Once on site, the carpet should be unrolled and laid flat as soon as possible to allow the carpet to relax. The longer the relaxation time, the easier the carpet will be to fit and allow any creases to reduce.

## PREPARATION

It is essential that the installer checks site conditions before installation starts, to ensure they are suitable for the planned installation.

### Subfloor conditions

It is normally the responsibility of the general contractor to provide an acceptable floor condition for the specified installation. However, it is the installer's responsibility to confirm acceptability prior to installation.

Installing carpet prematurely, before other trades have completed their work, may result in problems with the overall appearance of the carpet, including visible damage, soiling, adhesive failure, delamination or dimensional stability. These conditions may not be immediately evident. The consequences of any deviations should be made clear to the client/customer before installation commences.

The moisture level in the floor should be tested according to AS/NZS 2455 1: 2007 Textile Floorcoverings - Installation Practice. Recommended moisture levels should always be adhered to.

### Temperature and humidity

It is recommended that the carpet should be installed when the indoor temperature is between 18-35°C (64.4-95°F) with a maximum air relative humidity of 65%. If ambient temperatures are outside these parameters it is recommended the installation does not begin until the heating/ventilation/air conditioning system is operational and required conditions are maintained for at least 48 hours before, during and 72 hours following installation.

### Floor preparation

Carpet must be installed over properly prepared substrates, suitable for the specific product and installation method selected. All cracks, holes and

flooring irregularities must be adequately repaired to ensure a smooth finished appearance and prevent accelerated wear.

Subfloors must be structurally sound and free from foreign substances. Existing adhesives and surface irregularities might show through the finished installation and cause premature wear. The floor must be free from contaminants that may interfere with adhesion and compromise the carpet or its installation. Patching and levelling compounds must be suitable for the use application.

### Absorbent surfaces

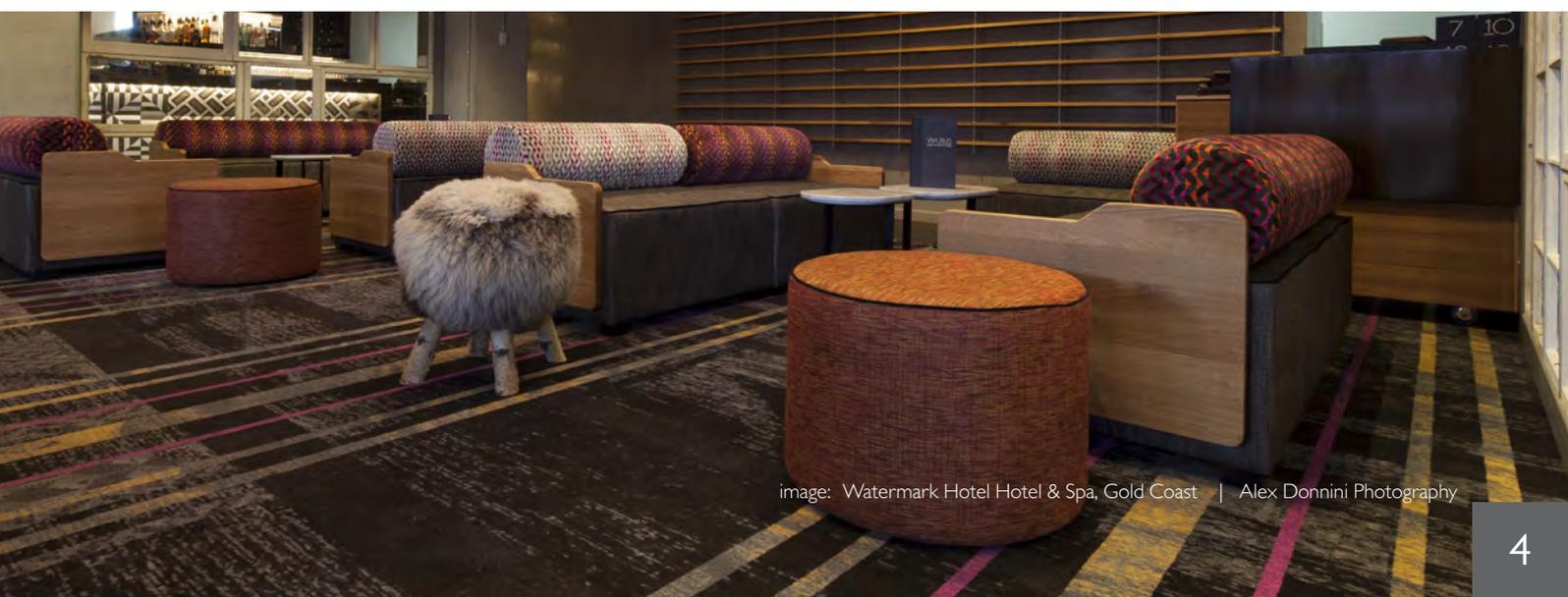
A suitable primer/sealer designed for absorbent surfaces promotes adhesion and prevents unacceptably rapid drying of adhesives and smoothing underlayments. It may also be used as a sealer for dusty subfloors e.g. in raised modular floor installations.

Floor preparation materials such as levelling compounds and primer/sealer must be used in accordance with the manufacturers specifications.

### Conditioning carpet

To minimise wrinkling and buckling, encourage recovery from residual tensions introduced by rolling or handling and to facilitate installation, it is recommended that the carpet is unrolled and allowed to relax in the installation area for a minimum of 24 hours at a temperature between 18-27°C (65-80.6°F).

Handling tensions should be given particular consideration when carpet is installed by perimeter fixing. Failure to condition the carpet can result in tension variation and the need to re-stretch when the carpet reaches equilibrium with the atmosphere of the room. The allocation of time for the relaxation period should be considered when planning the installation.





## UNDERFLOOR HEATING

When laying carpets over underfloor heating it is important that the client is made aware of the tog rating of the carpets that are chosen for the installation. Tog ratings vary between product qualities. Your local Brintons team will be able to provide this information.

If underlay is to be used for the installation, the tog rating of the quality chosen should also be known and considered. This information can be obtained from the underlay manufacturer/ supplier.

### Installation conditions

The maximum surface temperature of the subfloor must not exceed 27°C (80.6°F). An ideal surface temperature for the installation is the same as normal usage by the end user.

If the carpet is to be glued by direct stick or dual bond the surface temperature should be around 15°C (59°F).

Most adhesive manufacturers give guidance on surface temperature and their recommendations should always be followed. This temperature should be maintained for at least 24 hours prior, during and 48 hours after installation to allow the adhesive to reach full cure strength.

Always advise the end user to avoid sudden or significant changes in temperature after installation. An ideal increase is around 2°C to 3°C, to allow the installed carpet to reach equilibrium with the new temperature before increasing further.

## UNDERLAY

### Underlay selection

Underlay selection is critical to the overall performance of the carpet. Choice of underlay will depend on location and usage, however we recommend it must be at least heavy contract grade.

The underlay should be of a firm, uniform thickness. The minimum recommended thickness is 5mm, with a maximum of 10mm. In public spaces, an underlay between 5mm to 7mm is recommended.

For conventional stretch fit installation, underlay more than 10mm thick will reduce the effectiveness of pin anchorage in the smooth edge when carpet tension has been applied. An underlay thinner than standard smooth edge can cause a ridge to appear at the inside edge of the smooth edge. Note, some super grades of underlay are for luxury and not contract use.

In commercial installations all underlay must be secured to the subfloor and the joints taped to prevent movement. It is recommended that the joints are laid at right angles to the run of the carpet.

### Underlay installation

In commercial installations all underlay must be secured to the subfloor and the joints taped to prevent movement. It is recommended that the joints are laid at right angles to the run of the carpet.

Underlay seams must be butted together without compression or gaps. All joints or accidental cuts should be taped to prevent movement and dust migration from the subfloor. Underlay should ideally be fitted at right angles to the run of the carpet or offset by 150mm (6") to carpet joins.



## PLANNING

### Planning seams

Seams should be kept to a minimum and must be positioned so that where possible:

- Seams and cross joins are placed away from areas subject to heavy use and twisting near doorways, lift entrances, stair noses and areas of narrow access.
- Seams run the length of the area.
- Main traffic flow is along rather than across the seam.
- Natural light does not strike across the seam.
- Seams are not perpendicular to doorway openings.

### Seaming

Carpets should be joined using a heat seam or conductive tape. It is good practice to use seaming adhesive to reinforce carpet that has been manufactured without a selvedge to reduce fibre loss in heavy wear areas.

### Trimming and sealing edges

Before seaming, both edges of the carpet should be inspected and, depending on the carpet and installation, the selvedge may need trimming to ensure a tight join.

Whenever edges are trimmed (for this or any other reason) the edges of the carpet to be seamed or joined together must be sealed with a suitable seam sealer. The sealer must be applied in a manner that encapsulates all of the backing materials. This will prevent fibre loss and consequent seam failure.



## DUAL (DOUBLE) BOND INSTALLATION

For optimum performance we strongly recommend the dual (double) bond installation method for all commercial public areas in excess of 26m<sup>2</sup>. In areas such as hotel corridors and public spaces where heavy foot fall and wheeled traffic is expected a dual bond installation system must be used.

Please note. If this recommendation is not followed we will not recognise any warranty claims for carpet bubbling / rucking.

### Underlay selection

Underlay selection is critical to the overall performance of the carpet. The underlay should be of a firm, uniform thickness. The minimum recommended thickness is 5mm, with a maximum of 10mm. The choice of underlay will vary by location. In public spaces, an underlay between 5mm to 7mm is recommended.

### Adhesive

The adhesive coverage between underlay and subfloor is dependent on usage. The adhesive manufacturer's recommendations should always be followed. All pressure sensitive adhesives must be applied with V1 notch trowel in accordance with adhesive manufacturers guidelines and accepted industry best practice.

Always allow the release adhesive to dry to a clear tacky state. Placing underlay onto wet adhesive will result in permanent adhesion. Once the adhesive has dried lay the underlay into position securing to the subfloor using a glider or similar instrument (heavy rollers tend to move and stretch the underlay). For added strength, lay the underlay at right angles to the length of the carpet. It is also good practice to allow a 5-6mm gap between the underlay and perimeter edge to allow the carpet to be tucked to give a smooth rolled finish similar to a stretch fit installation.

### Gripper strips/smooth edge

Gripper strips/ smooth edge can enhance a dual bond installation - providing the underlay used

is thicker than the smooth edge. It aids tension and can help hold carpet in place when matching multiple seams together with pattern alignment. The carpet can then be cut in using standard trim and tuck techniques.

### Carpet positioning

It is essential to refer to the installation plans to ensure correct carpet position. It is good practice to mark out position datum lines on the installed underlay. This will help position all lengths of carpet before adhesive is applied. During this process ensure that the carpet is in match and the design is straight. All seams and cross-joints must be joined using an appropriate double stick heat tape in accordance with AS/NZS 2455 1: 2007 Textile Floorcoverings - Installation Practice Section 3.7 Item (H).

Once positioned roll/fold back the carpet and apply adhesive to the underlay using a notch size as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. The adhesive must be applied evenly and tight up against the walls to prevent bubbling against the walls.

After allowing the appropriate open time of the adhesive, place the carpet onto the adhesive smoothing out any air bubbles or creases with a glider (or similar). Heavy rollers should not be used as they may temporarily stretch the carpet which will then return to normal, leaving gaps after final cutting. Always glide the width before the length to minimise stretching the carpet. Ensure the edges are pressed firmly onto the adhesive during the open time of the adhesive. Once the adhesive has grabbed the carpet sufficiently cut the edges allowing 5-6mm to tuck into the gap.

### Important

It is strongly recommended that traffic is restricted or eliminated for a minimum of 24-48 hours following installation to allow the adhesive to reach its full cure strength. Premature trafficking can cause installation failure.





## STRETCH FIT (CONVENTIONAL) INSTALLATION

For installations no greater than two widths wide

### Gripper strips/smooth edge

There are various qualities of smooth edge or gripper strips available. The standard 25mm width (1" single) is most commonly used in domestic installations with areas no longer than 6 metres in length. When installing carpets in excess of 6 metres in length and width it is recommended to use architectural smooth edge with three rows of pins or two rows of single smooth edge to give added strength and achieve good tension.

Gripper strips/ smooth edge must be secured by either mechanical fixings such as serrated (ring shank) nails, screws with additional fixings by divergent staples or adhesive such as mastic (or similar). When fixing with adhesive, smooth edge must be cut into lengths of a maximum of 150mm (6"). It should be fixed so that it should not lift during the life of the carpet.

Smooth edge must be positioned leaving a consistent gap approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  the thickness of the carpet with a maximum of 7mm against all fixed objects such as skirting boards, door profiles and stairs. Nothing should obstruct the void formed.

- Do not fix gripper/smooth edge across open aspects such as doorways as this could create premature wear from foot traffic.
- Do not use mechanical fixings where underfloor heating is installed.
- When using gripper/smooth edge, carpets should always be installed under tension.

When installing heavy contract carpets, particularly in large areas, three pin architectural smooth edge or two rows of single gripper strips should be used. This must be securely fixed to the

subfloor around all fixed objects such as walls and door jams. A suitable underlay, which provides sufficient support must be used.

All joins must be secured to the subfloor and taped to prevent movement during installation and use.

### Stretch and tension

Ensure the carpet is acclimatised to the room and usage conditions prior to stretching to avoid possible re-stretches.

The carpet must be installed using a power stretcher under tension both in the width and length. Failure to do this can result in premature stretching of the carpet.

Care must be taken when stretching and cutting around pillars and protruding walls as this can reduce the effectiveness of the stretch/tension.

All types of carpet should be stretched in such a manner to create even tension across the whole of the installation.

Check tension by grasping fibres between your thumb and finger and lift. If there is sufficient tension the carpet should pull away from your grasp before any significant height is achieved. Another check is to shuffle your feet along and across the carpet. If a ripple is seen in front of your feet there is not enough tension.

It is essential that stretching takes place in both directions. The carpet should not lift when it is fixed and in use under tension. Failure to apply these recommendations may result in dimensional changes and rucking or bubbling of the carpet.

## DIRECT STICK INSTALLATION

Direct stick is installed in the same way as dual bond - but without underlay. This method generally reduces the carpets overall performance and is usually carried out to reduce installation costs.

Accurate cutting is required as there is no space to tuck or finish the edges. Any exposed edges will require a profile to be fitted to prevent edge damage and fibre loss.

### Important

As with dual bond installations, it is strongly recommended that traffic over a newly adhered

installation is restricted or eliminated for a minimum of 24-48 hours to allow the adhesive to reach its full cure strength. Premature trafficking can cause installation failure.

Do not expose carpet to water for at least 30 days. Premature wet cleaning can also cause adhesive failure.

**We strongly recommend the end user considers the potential effects on the performance of the carpet if a direct stick method of installation is selected.**

## COMPLETION

Following installation, the whole working area should be cleared of tools and waste and left clean and tidy.

- The carpet should be carefully inspected to ensure it is totally flat and free from blemishes.
- Any loose fibres should be removed, using sharp napping scissors if required.
- It is good practice to vacuum the carpet to remove any debris and lift the pile.
- It is recommended to inspect areas surrounding the installation to ensure no accidental damage has been caused during the works.

We strongly recommend that newly installed carpet is protected against any damage which may be caused by other trades.

However, we do not recommend covering the installed carpet with impermeable materials such as sticky back plastic sheeting or proprietary carpet protection materials. Moisture in the adhesive or carpet pile will become trapped under the impermeable layer and may severely affect the carpet's appearance or performance in use. If covering protection is required use breathable materials and remove as soon as possible.

## ONGOING SUPPORT

We are committed to providing you with excellent ongoing service.

We are always available to provide you with the information and support you need to ensure your carpet keeps its good looks and performs to specification.

Please contact your local Brintons team if you would like further information or to discuss specific details about your installation project.

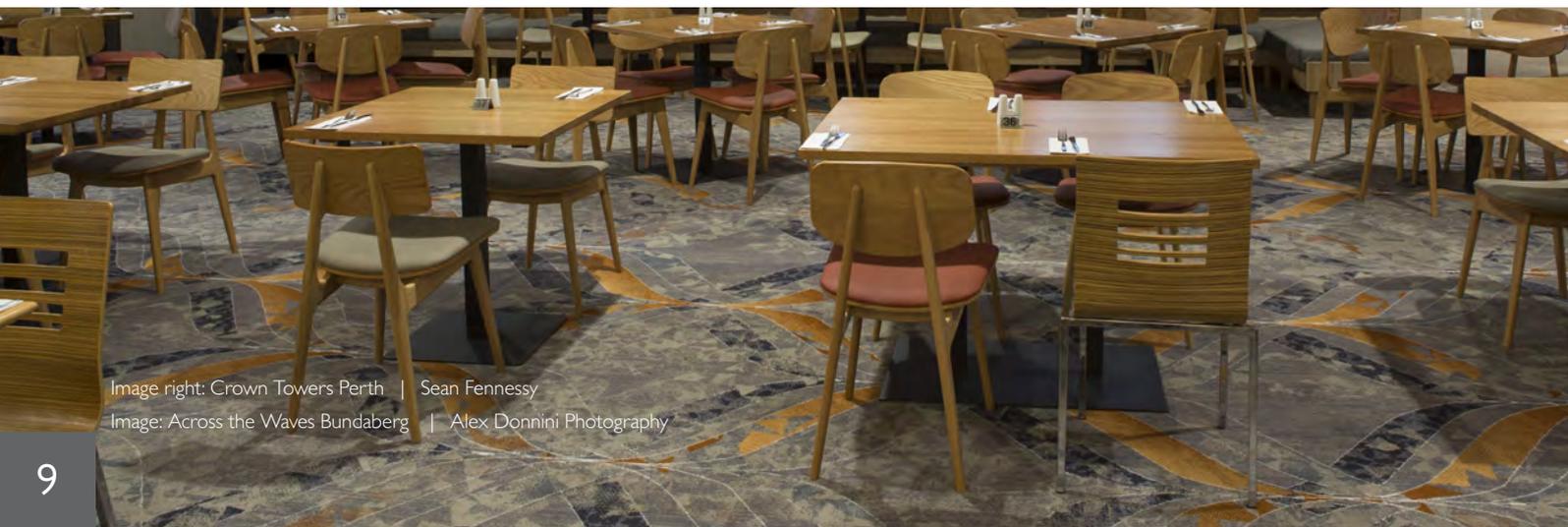


Image right: Crown Towers Perth | Sean Fennessy

Image: Across the Waves Bundaberg | Alex Donnini Photography



# CARE & MAINTENANCE



## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Proper care and maintenance of your flooring is important in maintaining the longevity of your carpet.

We recommend you invest in a comprehensive care and maintenance programme to ensure your carpet looks good for longer and contributes to a healthy indoor environment.

Neglecting ongoing care and maintenance may affect the overall performance and longevity of your carpet and may lead to increased costs.

To get the best out of your investment, we offer these guidelines on the care and maintenance methods suitable for your Brintons carpet.

This guide should be read in conjunction with AS/NZS 3733:2018 : Textile floorcoverings - Cleaning maintenance of residential and commercial carpeting.

## FIT FOR PURPOSE SOLUTION

To maximise the useful life of your carpet it is essential to choose a product that is fit for purpose. Specification, yarn type, colour, design and installation all have major parts to play in the ongoing performance of your carpet.

Your Brintons team will be able to recommend the best solution to meet the needs of your project.

## PLANNED CARE PROGRAMME

We recommend a regular, ongoing care and maintenance programme is put in place immediately after the carpet has been installed.

The programme will need to be tailored to the amount of traffic and type of soiling for each area. A schedule showing cleaning frequencies for all areas should be prepared to record actual

work done and by whom. This record provides a reference should any maintenance issues arise.

Qualified professionals with experience in the use of cleaning machines will be able to assess and recommend the required level of care for specific areas. As a guide:

Soiling level	Maintenance required	Spot removal	Vacuuming of high traffic areas	Full vacuum	Interim maintenance	Intensive cleaning
Light	Light	Daily	Daily	Weekly	6-9 months	12-24 months
Medium	Medium	Daily	Daily	2-3 days	4-6 months	9-15 months
Heavy	Intense	Daily	Daily	Daily	3-4 months	6-9 months
Very heavy	Very intense	Daily	At least once daily	Daily	As required	As required

## A FIVE POINT APPROACH

A comprehensive care programme consists of five elements.

All five elements are essential in minimising and removing discolouring grime and to refresh the pile.

1. Prevention
2. Spot removal
3. Vacuuming
4. Interim maintenance
5. Intensive cleaning

### 1. PREVENTION

One of the most significant aspects of a care programme is preventing soil from entering a building.

Using walk-off mats is one of the most effective ways to reduce the amount of soil carried into a building by foot traffic. Mats of at least six footsteps (approximately five metres) from an entrance will trap around 80% of soil before it transfers onto carpet. It is also important to

use soil control matting in areas such as service entrances, high spillage areas, stairwells, foyers and hallways.

Proper, routine maintenance of soil control matting is just as important as carpet maintenance. Mats should be cleaned as frequently as required to prevent soil accumulating on them and being carried through to carpeted areas.

### 2. SPOT REMOVAL

Well trained, alert facilities staff and a well-stocked stain removal kit are important to a good carpet maintenance programme.

Identification and immediate action will maximise the effectiveness of spot and spill removal. The longer a stain or spill has to 'set', the more difficult it can be to remove. If left without treatment for too long, it might react with the carpet dyes and cause permanent discolouration.

It is recommended to:

- Absorb wet spills as quickly as possible using white paper or cloth towels.
- Use a blotting action to absorb spills or remove stains.

- Avoid rubbing or scrubbing the carpet pile abrasively as this may create a fuzzy texture.
- Not use high pH cleaning agents (above 8.0) on wool or wool blends.
- Not let any carpet stay wet for over 24 hours.

For wool-rich carpets we recommend the use of cleaning chemicals which have been approved by the WoolSafe® Organisation. Visit [www.wool-safe.org](http://www.wool-safe.org) for further information.

If there is doubt, please contact your local Brintons team who will be happy to offer further guidance.





### 3. VACUUMING

Vacuuming has a major role to play in the maintenance and visual appearance of your Brintons carpet.

Vacuums are designed to remove dry soil. Walking on soiled carpet over time causes soil particles to penetrate deep into the pile of the carpet, making it more difficult to remove. This is why frequent vacuuming is important – particularly in high traffic areas.

Track-off areas at building or kitchen entrances should be vacuumed several times daily. An

upright heavy-duty commercial vacuum with power driven brushes and dual motors must be used. Brushes are usually more effective than beater bars in commercial installations.

A more powerful pile lifter vacuum may also be used before and/or after periodic cleaning for optimum pile agitation and restoration.

Proper vacuuming requires three to five slow passes over the same area. It is essential that brushes are cleaned frequently and replaced when worn.

### 4. INTERIM MAINTENANCE

While vacuuming is an effective way to remove dry soil, soil tracked into a building can also be oily. Grease, present in smoke or other air pollutants, settles on the carpet. Without regular maintenance and cleaning, this greasy soil can cause pile yarns to become gummy and stick to each other. This can cause the pile to flatten in use. This matting of pile yarns can make the carpet look worn out, even if there is no real pile loss.

When choosing a cleaning system, it is important to consider a method that:

- Cleans the carpet effectively.
- Does not damage the pile or texture of the carpet.
- Does not leave excess residue from cleaning products as this can attract further soiling.

#### Absorbent powder compound

This is a very effective dry carpet cleaning system. The compound is made from a mixture of processed organic fibres moistened with a water-detergent-solvent emulsion. Its purpose is to break down and absorb particles of soil from the carpet pile.

The absorbent powder compound is sprinkled evenly over the carpet and brushed in using a special counter rotating brush machine. The brushes help to lift the pile and restore surface appearance as well as clean the fibres. After the powder has dried (approximately 30 minutes) it should be completely removed using a powerful upright vacuum cleaner. The amount of cleaning compound should be used in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

A slight misting of traffic lane cleaner before applying the powder can improve performance in heavily soiled areas. After the compound has dried, a commercial quality vacuum cleaner with a good brushing action should be used to completely remove the compound from the carpet pile.

Failure to follow these application guidelines may result in an unwanted build up of compound in the carpet pile, which can become difficult to remove and eventually may affect the overall colour of the carpet.

Absorbent powder is not suitable for use in areas where the carpet is already wet or likely to get wet during the cleaning operation.

**Crystallising shampoo/dry foam**

A relatively easy interim cleaning method, which involves a low foam soil crystallising shampoo solution being brushed into the carpet using cylindrically rotating brushes. As well as cleaning the carpet pile, the brushing action helps to lift the pile and restore surface appearance.

The foam dries quickly but the dried crystals need to be thoroughly removed from the carpet pile using a powerful vacuum cleaner. Shampoo residues can build up in the carpet pile, so hot water extraction is recommended at regular intervals.

**5. INTENSIVE CLEANING**

No matter how carefully vacuuming, spot cleaning and interim cleaning methods are carried out, overall deep cleaning is still necessary. Hot water extraction is one of the best deep cleaning methods available as it effectively flushes soil, grit and other debris from the pile of the carpet.

Brintons produces carpet with mixed backing materials and all pile yarns are pre-dyed for excellent colourfastness. This means wet cleaning can be used without causing shrinkage, seam splitting or fading. When using any wet cleaning method, be careful not to over-wet the carpet and allow adequate time so that the carpet is totally dry before resuming use.

All periodic intensive cleaning should be conducted in accordance with AS/NZS 3733:2018.

**Hot water extraction: spray extraction**

Hot water extraction machines work by spraying jets of water and cleaning solution into the carpet pile, which is extracted by a vacuum head which follows behind the jets.

**Hot water extraction: spray brush extraction**

Some spray extraction machines incorporate a brushing action between the spray head and vacuum. Various sizes of machines are available and single machines can be joined together in tandem to increase efficiency.

**Hot water extraction: rotary extraction**

Individual spray jets slowly rotate delivering

shampoo solution to the carpet pile which is immediately vacuumed back out again.

**Truck mounted machines**

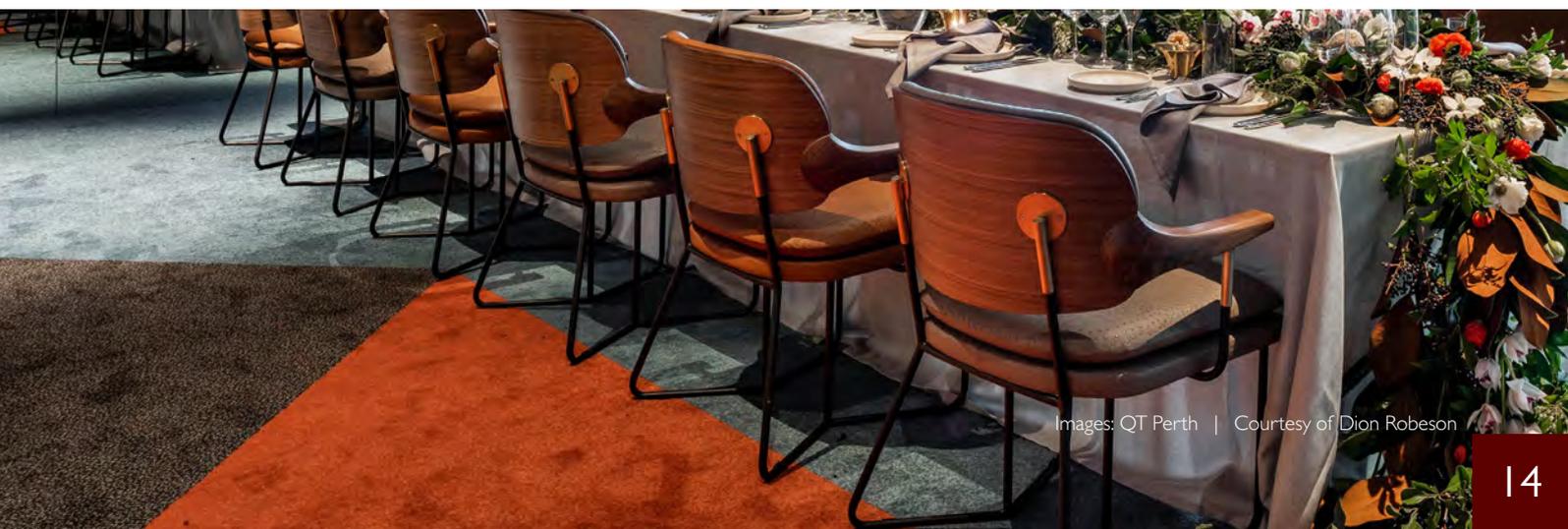
Powerful machines with long hoses run inside an installation delivering a pressurised shampoo solution, which is immediately vacuumed up again. Any type of head can be used with this system.

**Important note: Rotary shampoo and spin bonnet/absorbent pad cleaning methods are not recommended for Axminster carpets.**

The rotary action of this equipment can severely distort the pile yarn. In addition, the spin bonnet method can leave chemical residues which build up on the carpet.

Any carpet which has been wet-cleaned needs to be dried as quickly as possible. Experienced cleaners with well-maintained machines should leave the carpet in a good condition so that it dries within approximately 4 hours. However, in confined spaces such as on marine vessels, it may be necessary to use air blowers. These powerful machines create a fast and sometimes heated flow of air over the carpet to speed up the drying process.

It is important to develop a regular maintenance schedule undertaken by qualified individuals. The frequency of intensive cleaning will be determined by the degree and nature of soiling and environmental conditions. High traffic areas, such as entrances and main traffic routes, may need more intensive cleaning than low traffic areas.





**SHADING**



## NORMAL CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW CARPET

Your new carpet may exhibit certain visual characteristics that may be new to you, but are normal.

It is normal for some loose fibres to be present in a new cut pile carpet.

The presence of these fibres is called shedding. The number of loose fibres is small compared to the total fibre content of the carpet and does not affect its performance to specification. Regular vacuuming will remove these without harming the carpet.

## SHADING

All carpet (woven, tufted or handmade) is subject to a natural phenomenon known as shading. It is also known as pile reversal, watermarking or pooling. Its occurrence cannot be predicted or prevented and it creates a permanent change in the carpet's appearance, usually within 2-6 weeks after installation.

Permanent random shading is not a manufacturing defect and does not affect the durability of the carpet.

The appearance of shaded carpet is created by the difference in the way light reflects off the side of a yarn and the tip of a yarn as the pile yarns lay in different directions. Shaded areas will appear light from one direction and dark from another. The affected areas of carpet are usually curved in nature and will virtually disappear when observed from directly above.

Permanent random shading is not associated with foot traffic patterns. No one knows why the pile, which when installed lies in one direction, changes direction permanently. It is not considered a manufacturing fault or fault with a carpet's constituent raw materials. It is well documented that the random effects of shading can cross carpet seams, showing pooling effects that would be impossible to create with faulty materials.

We supply our carpets with a stable and uniform surface. However, we are aware that there are factors, which are outside of our control, that can influence the stability and uniformity of the carpet.

We provide the following information and advice in good faith, based on our many years of experience.

## REDUCING THE PROPENSITY OF SHADING

By evaluating carpets which have developed areas of shading, Brintons has identified the following factors that have contributed to its development:

1. Specification and design factors
2. Installation factors
3. Cleaning and maintenance



### 1. Specification and design factors

If shading occurs it will be less visible where:

- The pile yarn has lower levels of light reflectance (reduced lustre) such as in medium to dark tones.
- Designs have colour contrast and layered, all over patterns are used to 'hide' the varied pile direction's light reflectance.

### 2. Installation factors

#### Subfloor condition

The moisture level in the floor should be tested according to AS/NZS 2455 1: 2007 Textile Floorcoverings - Installation Practice. Recommended moisture levels should always be adhered to.

The subfloor should be smooth and free from ridges, indentations or high points that may affect the performance of the carpet.

#### Installation conditions

Most commercial installations are installed using a water-based adhesive, either via the dual bond method which includes an underlay/pad, or direct sticking to the subfloor.

The adhesive manufacturer's recommendations must be followed to prevent excessive or uneven application of adhesive. Sufficient curing time must be given after installation before the area is put into use. The influence this has on moisture levels within the pile can affect its resilience. The subsequent use of non-breathable protective covering increases this risk.

#### The use of protective covering

Covering the carpet, particularly with a non-breathable protective cover, may cause moisture to be trapped beneath the covering, greatly increasing the risk of unrecoverable marks on the carpet.

The use of self adhesive, sticky plastic introduces additional distortion to the top of the tufts when carpet is compressed during foot traffic. This has also been known to leave residues on the pile limiting the tuft's ability to return to a uniform direction.

Where protective covering is required a breathable material should be used. In areas where heavy items are to be left or moved across the surface, additional protective boarding is recommended to spread the load.

Carpets should not be covered for extended periods as they require regular vacuuming to prevent accelerated permanent flattening.

### 3. Cleaning and maintenance

It is essential that the correct cleaning methods, equipment and chemicals are used to avoid damage to the carpet.

Rotary bonnet or rotary brushing methods (spinning discs) and harsh chemicals have been shown to contribute to areas of distortion.

#### Brintons commitment to providing carpet with reduced risk of shading

As the conditions leading to permanent random shading are outside our control, we are unable to offer a definitive guarantee that the surface of the carpet will always remain unaffected by pile reversal.

Our continued focus on product and process engineering has included a development programme aimed at manufacturing carpet that achieves the highest standards of performance. A key element of this work has been focused on optimising the resistance to shading.

Our work has focused on:

- Evaluation and optimised usage of resilient, low lustre, wool blends.
- Consistency of pile direction alignment.
- Effective pile lay and heat setting.

These process and product attributes ensure Brintons provides carpet with the highest level of surety against the occurrence of shading.



Image left: Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney | Courtesy of Radisson Blu Hotels

Image: Brothers Leagues Club Ipswich | Courtesy of Alex Donnini Photography

For more information about installation or the ongoing care and maintenance of your Brintons carpet please get in touch

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