

Installing SelectRC® Carpet Tile

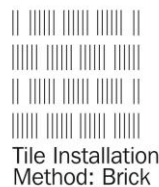
Bentley Prince Street SelectRC features a thermoplastic backing and adhesive layer for exceptional long term performance and dimensional stability. The thermoplastic adhesive layer also provides a moisture barrier to keep liquid-based spills on the surface where they may be easily cleaned. This combination of technologies provides the utmost in performance and appearance retention. SelectRC hardback tile is available in 24-inch squares as the standard for a variety of carpet styles or in 18X36-inch rectangular tiles as the standard for specific carpet styles. SelectRC is also available in 36-inch squares.

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 Prince Street 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 most important for the installer to know whether the preferred installation layout for a particular style is monolithic, brick, ashlar, quarter-turn or herringbone. Recommended installation layout is included on the identifying labels affixed to tile boxes.

Some styles allow for a variety of installation layouts. Others have only one or two recommended layout methods to assure an acceptable aesthetic for the customer. Installation layout is critical for a successful installation. 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 Prince Street prior to starting installation of any carpet tile style.

Tile Installation Reference:



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CRI 104

In addition to the specific instructions detailed here, the Carpet and Rug Institute Standard for Installation of Commercial Carpet (CRI 104) must be closely followed as basic minimum requirement for floor preparation and installation on all carpet installations.

Concrete Subfloor

New concrete shall be cured, clean and dry. It shall be free of curing or parting agents that interfere with the bonding of the adhesive. Whenever a powdery surface is encountered, a sealer compatible with the adhesive must be used to provide a suitable surface for direct glue installations. Patching of cracks and depression shall be made with a compatible latex patching compound. Do not exceed manufacturer's recommendation for patch thickness. Large patched areas must be sealed. Old concrete must be clean, dry and free of paint, dirt, adhesive, oils or other contaminants.

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. Vapor emission from concrete sub floors can destroy adhesive and cause installation failure.

Test Conditions

Accurate testing of concrete floors requires the building to be fully enclosed with the air conditioning and heating system functioning to a level similar to that expected when the space is occupied.

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Calcium Chloride

The test must be administered in strict adherence to the specifications of the ASTM F1869 test procedure. Moisture emissions must not exceed five (5) pounds or less per 1,000 square feet for 24 hours. If the test results are higher than five pounds, do not proceed with the installation until subsequent testing demonstrates the emission rate is five pounds or less. Once testing has confirmed the slab to be within five pounds of moisture as determined by the proper application of the calcium chloride test, the chemical pH of the slab must also be determined.

Relative Humidity

The test must be administered in strict adherence to the specifications of ASTM Standard F2170 and as described here. Moisture levels in the concrete subfloor must be 80-percent or less before proceeding. Once levels have been determined to be 80 percent or less, then the chemical pH of the concrete subfloor should also be tested. In the event of a discrepancy between Calcium Chloride Test results and the results from Relative Humidity testing, the decision on whether to remediate or correct excessive vapor emission should be based on results from Relative Humidity testing. Relative Humidity testing will take precedence over Calcium Chloride testing when both tests are performed on the same project.

Chemical pH

All concrete floors, old or new, should be tested for alkalinity by using an alkalinity test kit, a pH Test Probe or pH Test Meter. The slab should have an alkalinity level ranging from 7.0 to 9.0 to be suitable for installation. Chemical pH test strips should be capable of measuring a range of 0-14. The area to be tested must be enclosed and acclimated as described.

Conditioning Carpet

Let the carpet breathe prior to installation. All carpet should be rough cut and dry laid or spread out prior to installation in the area to be installed. This step is essential for many shifted graphics styles, allowing the carpet to assume the same basic moisture level likely during the installation. The amount of time necessary for conditioning will depend upon temperature extremes during storage. Carpet left on a freezing truck overnight will require

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more conditioning than carpet stored in a warm building. In humid areas of the country or during humid periods, more time may be required to allow the carpet acclimate and water-based adhesives may need more time to flash off prior to placing carpet into the adhesive to prevent growth and shrinkage. Ideally, the carpet should be allowed to condition in the space to be carpeted for 24-hours whenever possible.

Please Note: Bentley Prince Street can not be held responsible for carpet stability issues such as curl, dome, expansion or contraction when carpet is not properly conditioned prior to installation.

Full Spread Adhesive

Once the floor has been properly prepared as detailed in CRI 104, a full spread method is most important in preventing lateral shifting and ensuring the successful installation of Bentley Prince Street SelectRC modular carpet. Full spread simply means that the entire area to receive modular carpet should be covered only with Bentley Prince Street HealthBond 8700 pressure sensitive adhesive. Use a 3/4-inch paint roller or spread with the smooth or topside of a trowel. Expect a spread rate between 35-40 yards per gallon.

Centering, Squaring

Divide the room into four quadrants and snap a chalk line. Make sure quadrants meet at right angles. Take care to keep perimeter modular carpet cuts larger than half size or 9.84 inches (25 cm). SelectRC carpet tiles are printed on the back with arrows showing pile direction. For monolithic installation, make sure arrows point in the same direction throughout the installation.

Through Doorways

In order to spread adhesive throughout the room and allow for a single set up time, 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 modules 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. By establishing a line through the doorway and perpendicular to the centered chalk-line-grid in the room, adhesive can be spread in the room. The installer can spread back through the doorway and begin a square installation in the doorway without having to

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track back through the adhesive. Once the chalk lines have been established at right angles in the center of the room, install only one SelectRC carpet module. This first module should be snugly in the corner formed by the 90° angle of the chalk lines with two sides of the SelectRC module aligned along two chalk lines of one quadrant. Repeat procedure on remaining quadrants.

Tipping Modules into Place

Tip individual carpet modules into place. Please take care to prevent module corners from rolling under when tiles are positioned. Sliding modules across the adhesive will cause corners to roll under and should be avoided. Frequently check module joints for proper alignment and firm abutment. Avoid tight or overly compressed joints that can cause peaking edges or corners.

Check Tightness

Expect a slight gain as the modules 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 be slightly more than 180-inches with a gain no greater than about 1/8-inch or 3 millimeters. If gain exceeds 1/8-inch, tiles should be reinstalled and butted more tightly along backing edge. Reposition and check again. The installation should be kept square and backings snug. *Take care to avoid excessive compression.*

Roll Completed Installation

The installer should use a 75-100 lb roller and roll the installed tile in east-west and north-south directions at the end of his work day to assure full contact with the adhesive and a secure installation.

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 creates a responsibility for the installer to **STOP** the installation immediately and call Bentley Prince Street Customer Care. Bentley Prince Street will not be responsible for substandard installation.

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