Installation & Floor Preparation Instructions

Powerbond® Cushion RS

General Notes

- These installation instructions are general and are not intended to be applicable for all sub-floor conditions. If you have any specific questions concerning the proper installation (or use) of any Tarkett products, please contact Tarkett at 800-241-4902 and follow the prompts for Technical Support. Always confirm that you are using the most current Installation and Maintenance documents by visiting www.tarkett.com.
- Products should be inspected for dye lot, style, color, size, quality and shipping damage ***prior*** to installation.
- Products should ***not*** be installed if any irregularities are observed.
- It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to insure that the sub-floor is properly prepared prior to installation.
- Be certain to read and adhere to the shelf-life and freeze-thaw stability information that is printed on the label of the installation materials.
- Tarkett is not responsible for product failures of any kind if these installation instructions, including floor preparation requirements, are not strictly followed.
- ***Only*** Tarkett approved installation materials are to be used when installing Powerbond Cushion products.

Instructional Videos

Click on the links below to view instructional videos

Powerbond® Hybrid Carpet Installation
https://youtu.be/VLWmmGgB3EA?si=-rHMoj3Z-PcB5ZiY

Powerbond® Pattern Match & Seaming Methods
https://youtu.be/OCIMg0NFHXY?si=XsxvaMQNI9AbBN18

Installer Certification

- Tarkett requires certified Powerbond installers to install Powerbond Cushion products on commercial or residential jobsites. Contact your local Tarkett Account Executive for more information on installer certification.

Storage

- Powerbond Cushion rolls **must** be stored by standing each roll on its end, ***or*** lying side by side.
- Do **not** stack Powerbond Cushion rolls on top of one another.
- Powerbond Cushion roll goods **must** be stored in a controlled climate environment at an ambient temperature between 65°-85°F, and an ambient relative humidity of below 65%.

Site Requirements

- Tarkett Powerbond Cushion products are intended for indoor installations on dry, properly prepared sub-floors. Do not install the Powerbond Cushion product outdoors.
- The Powerbond Cushion product is not intended for installation on walls, ramps, or on wet surfaces.
- The ambient temperature of the interior environment at the site of installation, including the sub floor, must be no lower than 65°F and no higher than 85°F for a period at least 72 hours prior to installation, during installation, and after the installation has been completed. Ambient Relative humidity must not exceed 65%. Do ***not*** install the Powerbond Cushion product outside of these parameters.

Moisture Testing

- Powerbond Cushion products installed using #54 Seam Weld, C-XL Water Based Seam Sealer or Power-Weld, do ***not*** require that Calcium Chloride nor In-situ Relative humidity (RH) testing be done prior to installation of the product, provided that no free liquids are present on the surface of the substrate and no moisture stained concrete is evident.
- In the event that free liquids and/or moisture stained concrete are observed, a full assessment of the concrete substrate is required. This assessment includes MVER testing per ASTM F-1869-04 (Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Emission Rate of Concrete) and In-Situ RH testing per ASTM F-2170-02 (Standard Test Method for Measuring Relative Humidity in Concrete).

NOTE: *Calcium Chloride (Moisture Vapor Emission Rates), In-situ Relative humidity, and pH testing measure the moisture and pH levels of a concrete substrate during the period of time in which the testing is conducted. It is important to note that moisture vapor can move dynamically through a concrete substrate, and that MVER, RH, and pH can both increase and decrease over time. Tarkett is not responsible for any product failures as a direct result of, or associated with, changes in substrate conditions, including increases in moisture and pH levels after the Powerbond Cushion has been installed.*

pH Testing

- pH testing ***is*** required prior to the installation of Powerbond Cushion products.
- The required pH range is from 7.0 - 9.0 as tested according to ASTM F-710-05.
- Do not install Powerbond Cushion products over a concrete substrate with surface pH measuring above 9.0.

NOTE: *Tarkett does not represent or make any express or implied warranties that Tarkett floor covering products will or will not affect, prevent, or cure any moisture or alkalinity related issues that may arise due to moisture and alkalinity levels found in the concrete. Tarkett expressly disclaims such express or implied representations or warranties.*

Sub-floor Preparation (Conditions and Inspection)

- The sub-floor must be structurally sound and completely dry prior to beginning the installation.
- All old existing adhesives must be ***completely*** removed from the surface of the sub-floor prior to installation of the Powerbond Cushion product. Do not use solvents or any other chemical adhesive removers to remove the adhesive or clean the surface of the sub-floor. If ***complete*** removal of old existing adhesives is not possible, encapsulation of old existing adhesive(s) using a Portland cement based product is potentially an option. **(Contact the cement manufacturer directly for all guidelines and approvals pertaining to the use of their products over the specific substrate and/or sub-floor conditions at the jobsite).**

IMPORTANT: ***IF the old existing adhesive(s) are determined to be asbestos containing, a licensed asbestos contractor in accordance with state and federal requirements should be consulted before the removal of any asbestos containing cut-back adhesive(s).***

- Any curing compounds, admixtures or, sealers, must be chemically and physically compatible with the Tarkett Powerbond Cushion product, or they must either be removed, or skim coated with a Portland cement-based product. **(Contact the cement manufacturer directly for all guidelines and approvals pertaining to the use of their products over the specific substrate and/or sub-floor conditions at the jobsite).**
- Chemically abated floors or the use of chemical adhesive removers prior to the installation of the Tarkett Powerbond Cushion product can potentially result in product and/or installation failures and are ***not*** recommended ***nor*** approved. Furthermore Tarkett does not warrant bond, and will not accept any warranty claims that might be in any way associated with unacceptable subfloor conditions, including the use of unapproved chemical treatments.
- Clean the sub-floor of all excess concrete spots, solid debris, or paint spots using suitable scraping methods. Sweep and vacuum the floor after patching and debris removal. Completely remove all wax, dirt, grease, and paints. Do not use an oil, wax, or silicone based sweeping compound. Make sure all perimeter areas are clean.
- Concrete sub-floors should be finished smooth and should conform to the standard specifications as recommended by the Portland Cement Association. Smooth, nonporous sub-floors should be damp mopped prior to installation.
- All sub-floors should be level and the sub-floor should be flat to within 1/8" in 10 feet. Cracks, holes and depressions can be filled using Portland Cement/Latex fortified patching material. Do not install over loose tile (VAT, VCT or other loose existing flooring substrates).

Use of Floor Primer (*General)*

- All new or clean porous or semi-porous concrete, cement, or plywood surfaces must be primed using Tarkett C-36E floor primer. Conduct multiple porosity tests to determine surface porosity.
- All surfaces that have been skim coated or patched using a Portland cement or gypsum based materials must be primed using Tarkett C-36E floor primer.
- Primer should be applied using a 3/8" short-nap paint roller. Allow the primer to dry completely. The C-36E primer will turn to a faint light blue tint, and will not transfer to the touch when dry.
- Surfaces that are nonporous do ***not*** require the use of C36-E floor primer. These surfaces must be cleaned as mentioned in the sub-floor preparation section which begins on Page 1.

***IMPORTANT:* Old existing adhesive(s) must be completely removed from the surface of the substrate or sub-floor. Once the adhesive(s) have been removed, conduct multiple porosity tests to determine surface porosity after all adhesive residue has been removed.**

Powerbond Cushion RS Installation

1) Place (snap) a white chalk line in the center of the room in the lay direction. Do **NOT** use blue or red chalk.
2) Roll out the Powerbond carpet face-up with the arrows printed on the back pointing in the same direction. Lay out the carpet so seams run toward the main light sources whenever possible.
3) Lay the first breadth of carpet with the edge on the chalk line. Allow the ends and edges of carpet (as needed) to run up the wall a minimum of 2" for later trimming. Roll out the second breadth of carpet with the common edge overlapping the first breadth of carpet a minimum of 2" for either a straight or serpentine cutting method.
4) The above described procedure can be followed to dry-lay the carpet in a room or work area. Allow a 2" (straight or serpentine cut) overlap at the butt ends of all rolls and anywhere a seam is required.
5) On the first seam only, working with two breadths of carpet, fold back one-third of each breadth of carpet (lengthwise) exposing the chalk line. Start folding back from one end of the carpet to prevent shifting. This procedure is referred to a "1/3 - 1/3 start." This procedure sets up all remaining seams in either direction for the "1/3 -2/3" installation system.
6) Start at the end of the carpet breadth; remove and properly dispose of the RS protective release liner from 1/3 of the 6' roll.
7) Starting from the center of the first breadth of carpet, feed it onto the sub-floor in a continuous, rolling manner. The edge of the carpet should be the last section of material to feed onto the floor.
8) Roll the first breadth of carpet using a 100-pound roller starting from the center of the breadth and rolling straight to the seam.
9) Feed the second breadth of carpet onto the sub-floor. Make sure the overlap onto the first breadth is maintained.
10) Roll the second breadth of carpet using a 100-pound roller starting from the center of the breadth and rolling straight to the seam.
11) Adjust the Tarkett double cut knife blade to cut through both pieces of Powerbond carpet and lightly touch the sub-floor. A sharp blade is required to successfully complete this procedure.
12) Determine the pile lay direction of the carpet and cut in the "smooth" direction. Using firm pressure on the knife-body, cut through both breadths of carpet in one fluid, continuous motion. Double cut down the middle of the overlap for a straight cut 2" overlap. For a serpentine cut (2" overlap), cut the carpet in a wave pattern with an 18" – 24" repeat in the wave. Do not allow the knife to track off the top piece of carpet. Use a carpet-trimming knife to double cut up to walls and structural members.
13) Remove top and bottom strips.
14) Hold back one edge of the Powerbond and apply a bead of Tarkett #54 seam weld, C-XL seam sealer or Power-Weld (minimum of 1/8") to the backing edge where it comes in contact with the sub-floor, working no more than 10 lineal feet at a time. Weld/seam sealer is only required to be applied to one edge at each seam. Note: Seam Weld #54 and Power-Weld are fast drying sealers – use Seam Cleaner #77 for Seam Weld #54 or acetone for Power-Weld immediately to remove any weld that gets on the face of the carpet. C-XL can be easily cleaned while wet with water and a clean white towel.

NOTE: **For installations using C-XL seam sealer, rolling and/or foot traffic at or near all seams should be restricted for at least 24 hours.**

15) Make up the seam starting at the center of the seamed line. Use a sliding motion to push the second breadth of carpet into the seam and Seam Weld. Avoid pushing the carpet down into the Weld, as this may push the Weld away from the seam and result in a poor seam. Do not get any seam sealer in the face of the yarn.
16) Seams should be overlapped as specified and double cut immediately as each breadth is consecutively laid into place. Seams should never be overlapped and exposed to foot traffic if the plastic liner has been removed at the overlap. If the carpet has to remain overlapped for longer periods, a strip of the plastic release liner should be left affixed on the back of the overlap to assure that the RS adhesive does not contact the face of the adjoining breadth of carpet.
17) As needed, use a clean, white, dry absorbent cloth and Seam Cleaner #77 for #54 Seam Weld or acetone for Power-Weld to clean up any excess Seam Weld. Seam Weld must be cleaned immediately. Place the Seam Cleaner on the cloth, but **DO NOT** saturate. **DO NOT** apply seam cleaner to carpet. Blot gently to remove the excess Seam Weld. C-XL can be easily cleaned while wet with water and a clean white towel.
18) Roll the completed seam lightly using a carpet tractor.

Proper Procedures for the Installation of Patterned Carpeting

Patterned carpets, like any patterned textile product, cannot be manufactured so that patterns will match perfectly when installed in multiple breadths. Tarkett manufacturing processes are carefully controlled and will provide for an acceptable pattern match if proper installation techniques and procedures are used by the installation contractor. Proper pattern matching is the responsibility of the installer, and should be considered when preparing proposals and quotations. Minor pattern adjustments during installation are possible and should be expected.

Key points on pattern carpet installations are: (1) Never mix dye lots. (2) Roll number sequence should be considered, with pattern measurements taken from each roll. (3) Rooms with multiple breadths of carpet always require that the best possible match be achieved, regardless of roll sequence. (4) Unrolling the carpet and allowing it to condition in the areas to be installed 24 hours prior to installation will help facilitate installation and pattern adjustments.

Proper matching procedures are as follows: (1) The proper installation "direction" of the carpet should be designated prior to installation based on building design and material utilization efficiencies. (2) Always work the pattern from the center of the cut breadth of carpet towards the ends of each cut piece. (3) For longer cuts the pattern will vary more from center to end. Patterns may have to be adjusted to fit by using a butt seam. While a perfect pattern match cannot be guaranteed from the factory, exercising care and utilizing proper techniques can obtain acceptable results for a commercial patterned carpet installation.

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