



burmatex 
fitting and caring for your carpets

why burmatex?

It's simple things. Like sending you a sample as soon as you ask for it. Making sure every order arrives promptly. And like putting your needs first when we develop our ranges. You want new, interesting products, and we're keen to supply them. That also means giving you the best advice possible regarding fitting and maintaining your carpet and carpet tiles.

We stick to what we know, and we do it well. We're carpet people.

at your service

Good service is about giving you what you need when you need it, making your life as easy as possible. It's also about doing what we say we'll do.

technical support

Whether you need advice on choosing the right carpet, or guidance on installation or maintenance, our team of experts are always happy to help.

our environment

We work hard to minimise our impact on the environment – recently our products were awarded 'A' ratings by BREEAM.

new, interesting – and better

There's a lot said about 'innovation' these days, but at burmatex we've always encouraged new ideas. We've built innovative thinking into our day-to-day lives.

value for money

As a Yorkshire company, burmatex has always believed in the time honoured tradition of value for money!

extensive choice

Whatever budget you're working within, wherever the application, our product range offers many choices.

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thanks

Thanks for choosing burmatex.

We hope you're very happy with your carpets. To ensure they keep looking good and wearing well for as long as possible, we've put together this short guide on fitting and maintenance.

Over the next few pages, you'll find tips on how, where and when to fit carpets and carpet tiles, and the best adhesives to use. We've also included some pointers on minimising wear and tear, and how to keep your carpets clean.

This guide covers all the information you need to keep your burmatex carpets in good condition. But if you want to know anything else, please call our technical department on 01924 262525 or email technical@burmatex.co.uk

Our team of experts are always happy to help.



fitting

Following our instructions and using professional carpet fitters will ensure that you get the best out of your carpet and carpet tiles.



before you fit your carpet

There's a time and a place for everything, and fitting carpet is no exception. Wait until any building, refurbishment or decorating is complete, then make sure the conditions are right.

comply with British Standards

According to British Standards Code of Practice – BS CP 102, BS 5325 and supplementary specifications, your working area must be clean, fully enclosed, weather-tight and heated to 18°C (64.5°F) for 72 hours before fitting any floor coverings. You also need to make sure the room is well ventilated when you're using adhesives.

prepare the floor surface

Check the surface is dry. A concrete protimeter should give a maximum moisture reading of 5.5%, and hygrometer tests should show a maximum relative humidity of 75%. If you don't get these readings, primers, sealers and adhesives may take longer to dry – or not dry properly at all. The excess moisture could mean you need to install a suitable damp proof membrane.

If the surface is dusty or porous, you'll need to seal it.

If it's an uneven or worn wooden floor, replace or patch level any floorboards as necessary, then cover with flooring grade hardboard (rough side up) or plywood. Position the sheets with staggered joints, and nail them at 100-150mm (4-6") intervals. Prime them, and make sure the surface is now smooth, flat, firm and free from all contaminants. If you need more detailed information on this, please see the CFA Manual for Installation of Textile Floorcoverings.

If you're laying carpet over a base of wood blocks, you need to be very careful. Dampness from the ground, and loose, uneven or unsound blocks can cause problems. If you have any doubts about these issues, you'll need to replace the blocks – or better still, remove them and repair the base. Some people try to create a level surface with fabricated underlays, but hammering staples or nails into the blocks often fractures them, so we don't recommend this.

don't lay over old floor coverings

All kinds of carpet, vinyl and other soft floor coverings are totally unsuitable surfaces for laying new carpet or carpet tiles. You'll need to take them up, and prepare the surface as described above.

get advice on unusual conditions

It may simply be impossible to achieve the conditions we've described so far – or there may be something unusual about the site where you need to fit carpet. If so, it's really important you talk to us before you go ahead. Call our technical department on 01924 262525 or email technical@burmatex.co.uk We'll give you any advice we can, but we can't take responsibility for any problems you may have where the conditions are not ideal.

carpet tiles

first, a few things to check

Ensure all the tiles are from the same batch by checking the batch or dye numbers.

Unpack the tiles and condition them for at least 48 hours in the room where you'll be fitting them.

Check you have the right adhesive. In busy areas, such as around photocopiers and coffee machines, or where there are castor chairs or filing cabinets, you'll need to use a suitable release or permanent bond adhesive (see back pages).

In areas where spillages may occur, it's best to use burmatex barrier tiles.

Switch off any underfloor heating at least 48 hours before and after you apply the adhesive.

Don't lay carpet tiles over any underfloor heating where the temperature exceeds 27°C, or on concrete treated with oil-based chemicals.

then fit the tiles

Plan the installation carefully. Draw a chalk line down the centre of the area or from a doorway.

Find the centre point and draw a line at a right angle to the first, as shown in this diagram.

Lay one row of tiles along each leg or cross.

If necessary, re-draw the chalk lines so there's at least half a tile border along each wall.

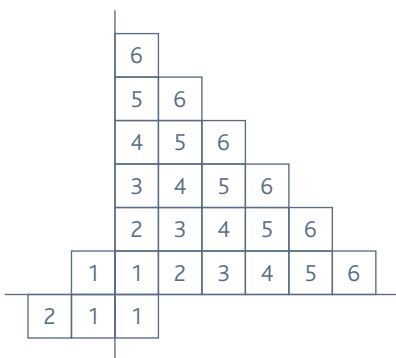
Using a v-notched trowel (1/16" x 3/16") for F3 and F44, or a brush for F41, apply the adhesive evenly over the whole area.

Let the adhesive dry for 30 minutes or longer, depending on humidity and temperature.

Working outwards from the centre of the cross, lay the tiles in position, pressing firmly to ensure they stick properly to the surface.

When fitting tiles at the edge of the room, butt one tile against the skirting, and position the tile to be cut exactly on top of the one immediately behind it, overlapping the butted-up one. Where this crosses, mark and cut the top tile. This will then fit the required space exactly. But the tiles firmly together, but be careful not to compress them against each other.

Many of our carpets can be laid tessellated at 90° to each other or broadloom. Some we recommend should only be tessellated. If unsure call our technical department on 01924 262525, email our team on technical@burmatex.co.uk or check our website www.burmatex.co.uk



sheet carpet

first, a few things to check

Ensure the rolls are from the same batch by checking the batch or dye numbers.

Check you have the right adhesive (see table on back pages).

Switch off any underfloor heating at least 48 hours before and after you apply the adhesive.

then fit the carpet

Remember to lay all carpet rolls with adjacent pieces in the same direction.

Cut the carpet to the required length plus 5cm (2").

Lay the first piece lapping up the side and end walls.

Lay the next joining edge in the same way, making sure there's an overlap of 5cm (2") on each seam. Continue this way until you've covered the whole floor.

Fold back the length of all pieces and, holding the trowel at a 60° angle, spread the adhesive evenly to within 20cm (8") of the seam over an area that can be covered within the open time.

Placing a straight edge along the centre of the overlap, cut through both pieces with a sharp knife and remove the surplus.

Lift the edges of both pieces, apply adhesive, lay the carpet and roll thoroughly with a 68Kg (150lb) roller.

need more detailed information?

Call our technical department on 01924 262525 or email our team on technical@burmatex.co.uk



caring

If you look after your carpets or carpet tiles every day – and deal promptly with spillages and stains – they'll keep looking good for longer.



regular cleaning

Carpets and tiles should be vacuumed daily, using a powerful upright cleaner with a rotary brush head or beater bar. We recommend SEBO or Nilco machines.

dealing with spillages

Remove as much of the spillage as possible immediately, then lay an absorbent material over the affected area and press down in a blotting action. This pressure will remove most of the spillage and minimise staining. Then spot clean any remaining stains with the appropriate solvent or cleaning system (see page overleaf). Take care not to use too much solvent, especially chlorinated (dry cleaning) solvent on Anchorite 'B' backed carpet tiles.

protecting areas near off-street doors

Here you'll need to use barrier carpet or tiles – such as burmatex barrier, grimebuster 50, or 7700 grimebuster carpet. For effective dirt protection, the barrier carpet should be at least 3 metres in length from the door.

minimising wear in very busy areas

On floors where there's a lot of coming and going, use a heavier duty carpet or tile – or rotate the tiles with those from other areas. It's easy to replace tiles, so keep some extra from the same batch in case any get badly soiled or damaged.

planned maintenance

In most situations, only 20-30% of the floor area has to cope with a lot of use. It's only this area that needs regular cleaning, so with planned maintenance, you can keep the carpet looking good at a relatively low cost. The way you clean the carpet, and how often, depends on the type and colour of the carpet, how much 'traffic' it gets, and the type of soiling. With planned maintenance, intensive wall-to-wall cleaning may be needed only once a year.

spot cleaning

Different stains require different treatments. Here are some tips on how to deal with the most common ones.

Stain	Treatment
Alcoholic drinks	Apply a lukewarm mild detergent solution.
Asphalt/Tar	Use white spirit or solvent spot remover, followed by dry foam carpet shampoo or hot water extraction.
Ballpoint ink	Begin with cold water, then use a solvent spot remover.
Blood	Apply cold water first, then if the stain persists use a strong solution of biological washing powder in cold water (the enzymes will digest most of the stain).
Butter	Scrape it off, apply a solvent spot remover, then a dry foam carpet shampoo.
Candle-wax	Scrape it off, apply a solvent spot remover, then a dry foam carpet shampoo.
Chewing gum	Apply freeze-spray chewing gum remover, scrape the residue, then wash with carpet shampoo.
Chocolate	Use cold water, followed by a dry foam carpet shampoo.
Cigarette burns	Carefully scrape off the burn, using a sharp short-bladed knife, then treat with a lukewarm mild detergent solution. With a severe burn, use a leather punch (1" diameter) to cut out the burn, and then fill the area with a circle from the carpet remnants.
Coca Cola	Apply water or a mild detergent solution.
Coffee, cocoa or drinking chocolate	Wash immediately with a cold or warm mild detergent solution, followed by solvent spot remover to remove residual fat.
Egg	Use cold water, then a solution of biological washing powder or mild detergent.
Excrement	Apply a mild detergent solution.
Fat containing foodstuffs	Use a lukewarm biological washing powder solution (1 teaspoon in ½ pint of warm water). If the stain persists after drying, try a solvent spot remover.

Stain	Treatment
Fat, oil or grease	Use a solvent spot remover, followed by a mild detergent solution.
Felt marker	Wash immediately with water, and if necessary with solvent spot remover.
Ink	First use water, then a solvent spot remover.
Jam	Apply lukewarm water, then a mild detergent solution.
Lipstick	Use a solvent spot remover, then a mild detergent solution.
Milk	Use a solvent spot remover, followed by a dry foam carpet shampoo.
Nail varnish	Apply acetone (not nail varnish remover).
Oil paint	Apply white spirit immediately – old oil paint stains are very difficult to remove.
Plasticine	Scrape it off, then use chewing gum freeze-spray; scrape again, then use a solvent spot remover.
Red wine	Apply cold water first, then a biological washing powder solution (1 teaspoon in 1 pint of cold water).
Rust	Consult a cleaning specialist.
Shoe polish	Use a solvent spot remover or white spirit.
Soot	Vacuum then treat with a dry foam carpet shampoo.
Tea	Use a lukewarm mild detergent solution.
Urine	Apply a diluted white vinegar solution (acetic acid) followed by a mild detergent solution. For old stains, consult a cleaning specialist.
Vomit	Wash with a mild detergent solution, then treat with diluted protein spot remover.
White wine	Use water, then a mild detergent if necessary.

which adhesive?

Adhesive manufacturer	Suitable burmatex products	Recommended adhesive	
		Permanent	Release system
F. Ball & Co Ltd Churnetside Business Park, Station Road, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7RS t 01538 361633 f 01538 361622	burmatex carpet rolls 3230, 4200, 4400, 5500, 7700, lateral 3230 classic tiles barrier	Styccobond F52, F3 Styccobond F52 only Styccobond F45 (F30 applied to all seams)	Not suitable Not suitable
	burmatex carpet tiles academy, artemis, axis, balance, cocktail, cordiale, grandee, infinity 24, lateral tile, loom, mission, origin, proteus, rialto, tivoli 24, tivoli on-line, grimebuster 50, barrier tile velour excel	Styccobond F3 Styccobond F44	Styccobond F41 Styccobond F41
Laybond Products Riverside, Saltney, Chester CH4 8RS t 01244 674774 f 01244 680215	burmatex carpet rolls 3230, 4200, 4400, 5500, 7700, lateral 3230 classic tiles barrier	Laybond 48/49 Laybond 48 Laybond 48HT (Seamweld applied to all seams)	Not suitable Not suitable
	burmatex carpet tiles academy, artemis, axis, balance, cocktail, cordiale, grandee, infinity 24, lateral tile, loom, mission, origin, proteus, rialto, tivoli 24, tivoli on-line, grimebuster 50, barrier tile velour excel	Laybond 77 Multibond Gold	Laybond 79 Laybond 79

solvent spot remover

You can buy a wide range of preparations from hardware shops. Their compositions can vary, so it's important to read the instructions carefully. A spot remover kit is available from Prochem Ltd. You can order one by calling 0208 974 1515.

hot water extraction

Hot water extraction is a good cleaning method, as long as the carpet or carpet tile has been properly fitted with the correct adhesive. For more information on equipment, chemicals or cleaning problems, call Prochem on 0208 974 1515.

need to know more?

We hope this guide covers everything – but if you have any questions, please call our technical department on 01924 262525 or email technical@burmatex.co.uk

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