



# UNIVERSAL

## TEXTILE TECHNOLOGIES

### **Shimming Procedures Attached Cushion Carpets**

On occasion attached cushion carpets will have variation at the seams where one side of the carpet is slightly higher than the other side. This condition may be highlighted by a short pile constructed carpet or when natural daylight is coming across the seam. If this condition occurs, the following procedure will help improve the seam appearance.

- Prepare seams by using a cushion back cutter and trim at least 1" off the first carpet edge for seaming. Open a row with a screw driver or pen. Using the cushion back cutter, cut between the rows holding the trimmer at a slight 5-10° angle toward the main body of carpet.
- Using the trimmed edge as a guide, now slide the second seam edge at least 1" under the first edge. Trace cut the second carpet with the cushion back cutter being sure to hold the cutter straight up and down.
- Examine the seam to insure the height of the carpet along the seam is equal. If the seam appears acceptable, continue to install the carpet with floor adhesive and put the seam together with seam adhesive.
- However, if after examining the seam, one side feels higher than the other side, try trimming off additional carpet from the problem edge to improve the seams appearance. The height variation may be intermittent along the seam or down the entire length of the seam.
- If trimming off additional carpet from the problem edge does not improve the seam appearance, the carpet identified as the low side will require shimming to improve the overall appearance of the seam. This in no way affects the carpets performance, but will improve the seam's cosmetics.
- Dry lay the carpet and make-up the seam using a knee kicker to form a tight fitting seam. Determine the low side and where shimming should take place to improve seam levelness.
- Use shimming material such as 15 lb. non-saturated roofing felt or Armstrong scribing felt. Measure the lengths required for the shim areas and cut accordingly. The width of the shim material should be 3-4" wide with the edge toward the body of the carpet cut in serpentine fashion or torn so the eye does not pick up a straight line of shim material under the carpet. Align the straight edge side of the felt along the seam edge of the low side and check seam levelness.
- Once the seam appears to be level on both sides of the carpet, fold both carpet edges back at seam, remove shim material, and spread recommended premium multi-purpose adhesive to the floor and allow tack time.
- Reposition first carpet edge (unshimmed side) back into the adhesive. Position the shim material in the adhesive and along the carpet edge for leveling appropriate low areas. Apply adhesive over the shim material and allow the adhesive to tack.

- Before repositioning the shimmed side carpet, apply a 1/8" bead of seam adhesive along the trimmed edge of the first carpet where the yarn enters the primary backing. Be careful not to get the seam adhesive on the face yarns.
- If seam needs to be adjusted to form a tight fitting seam, use a knee kicker and make your adjustments using the first installed carpet (unshimmed side).
- Roll the installed carpet with a 75# roller.
- The seam should be level with an acceptable appearance.

For additional information:

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