



**WORLD FLOOR COVERING
ASSOCIATION**

Planning for installation day.

So you've decided to add new carpet to your home or office. Once you've settled on the perfect style to match your decorating tastes and needs, the next big step is preparing for your carpet installation.

In most cases, your local carpet retailer will either have professional carpet installers on staff, or if not, they will recommend reputable independent installers in your area. In either case, the carpet retailer will typically begin by having a professional estimator come to your home or office to measure your floors and determine exactly how much carpet you will need. To offer consumers a competitive price, some retailers may suggest that you purchase less square feet of carpet. But keep in mind that less carpet could result in installations with more exposed carpet seams. Therefore, during the estimator's visit, it's important to ask where the seams of the carpet will be placed and find out the intended direction of the seams. If you prefer fewer seams, or want them placed in less visible areas, it may be worth ordering more carpet to get the custom look you desire.

Questions to Ask BEFORE Installation Day

Prior to installation day, it's important to ask your carpet retailer or installer about specific installation procedures and any related charges. Following are a few important questions to discuss:

Who will move heavy furniture?

In most cases, carpet installers will move furniture as needed. Most retailers will include this service as part of the installation charge, but not always. So

it's important to ask. There may also be additional charges for moving unusually heavy or cumbersome objects such as pianos or oversized furniture. Also remember that most installers are not certified electricians or plumbers. Generally, they will not be responsible for moving any appliances that involve connecting or disconnecting gas lines, water lines, or electrical wiring.

Who is responsible for removal and disposal of the old carpet and padding?

Removal of the old carpet and padding is often included in the installation fee. But again, it's always important to confirm this. Be sure to also find out if they will haul old flooring away. Some installers tack on an extra charge for this service.

What if the subfloor is damaged?

For proper installation, carpet must be installed over a structurally sound subfloor. If removal of the old flooring reveals a subfloor that has been damaged by insects, water, or other sources, in almost all cases, it is your responsibility to have the subfloor repaired or replaced prior to the carpet installation.

What if moldings or baseboards are damaged during installation?

During installation, it may be necessary for the installer to remove and then reattach moldings. If so, breakage may occur, particularly when removing fragile quarter round moldings. Scratches and nicks to baseboards are also possible. In most cases, you will be responsible for repairing any such minor damages.

What if doors won't close after installation?

The thickness of your new carpet may prevent doors from opening and closing properly. In this case, it is almost always your responsibility to have doors cut and rehung.

Preparing for Installation Day

So you have gotten all your questions resolved and scheduled your installation. Following are a few things you should do to prepare for installation day:

- Complete all remodeling projects in the room being covered, including sanding, painting, wallpapering, etc.
- Remove all breakable items such as lamps, mirrors, pictures, and collectibles and other items from tables and bookshelves.

- Remove any light furniture such as chairs or end tables.
- Disconnect any electronics in the room, including appliances, TVs, stereos, computers, etc.
- If possible, check the subfloor to ensure there is no damage that could impact installation.
- Clear a path that allows enough room for installers to unload carpet and carry it to the installation site.

On installation day be sure to:

- Open windows and doors or run a fan to provide fresh air. This will help reduce the new carpet smell.
- Vacuum old carpet to reduce airborne dust and dirt when carpet is removed.
- After carpet and cushion removal, vacuum subfloor to remove any debris.
- Inspect new carpet to ensure that it is the correct texture, color, and style and that there are no visible defects.
- Remind installer to place seams as previously agreed upon.
- Ensure carpet installer follows the carpet manufacturer's installation guidelines. Standard requirements include power-stretching the carpet to minimize wrinkling and rippling and sealing seam edges with an appropriate adhesive to prevent edges from unraveling.
- Vacuum newly installed carpet to remove loose fibers and normal shedding.

The proper installation is critical to the overall performance of your carpet. Ensure you are prepared for your next carpet installation by asking the right questions ahead of time. To find the best carpet for your needs or to schedule a professional carpet installation, contact your local flooring retailer.