

# FlexLok Adhesive Tabs for Carpet Tile

## INSTALLATION

UltraSet® ICT  
UltraSet® NXT  
UltraSet® Matrix

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800.833.6954  
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This information, offered as a customer service, is based on Mohawk's engineering tests and field experience. It is intended for installers with professional experience to be used at their discretion and risk. Mohawk does not guarantee results and assumes no liability in connection with these installation instructions

## Site Conditions

### Moisture Testing

Newly poured concrete floors generally will take 30 days to cure.

#### *UltraSet ICT*

- Moisture should be below 80% relative humidity (RH) as determined by current version of ASTM F2170. (Consult CRI 104 part 6.2 for standard test method for determining relative humidity in concrete floor slabs using In-Situ Probes.)
- If reading is between 80% and 90% RH, OptiSeal is required.
- If reading exceeds 90% RH, consult Mohawk Tech Services at 800.833.6954.

#### *UltraSet NXT & UltraSet Matrix*

- No moisture testing is required, provided no signs of visual moisture are present and existing adhesive has been reduced down to a minimal residue.
- This includes complete removal of existing flooring and reducing old adhesive down to a minimal residue.
- This does not mitigate any existing moisture issues.

### Alkalinity or pH

The alkalinity or pH in a concrete slab should be determined by the current version of ASTM F710.

#### *UltraSet ICT*

- Results should be between 5 and 9

#### *UltraSet NXT & UltraSet Matrix*

- Results should be between 5 and 12

Gypcrete or substrates with excessive dust must be cleaned, and then primed with a product such as a PrimeCoat to ensure proper surface.

The floor and room temperature must be acclimated by maintaining the temperature between 65° F and 85° F, and the humidity between 30% and 65%, for at least 48 hours before and during installation. In addition, the carpet and adhesive should be stored under these conditions for at least 24 hours before installation. The installation site must be acclimated with controlled temperature and humidity.

When the installation is complete, the jobsite must be maintained at normal service temperature and humidity.

## Floor Preparation and Existing Adhesives

- Pre-existing adhesive ridges should be mechanically or hand scraped to a residue to create a smooth flat surface before installing our carpet products. Mohawk cannot be held liable for issues arising from excess adhesive left on the substrate. This includes, but is not limited to, bond failures between encapsulated/skim coated old adhesive and patching compounds used in place of removing adhesive (mechanically or hand scraped) to a smooth surface. OptiSeal must be applied to the substrate after proper removal of adhesive when UltraSet ICT carpet tiles are being used. Any cut back adhesive should be scraped smooth with only residual adhesive remaining in the pores of the substrate and sealed with OptiSeal as well.
- Mechanically remove all wax, dirt, grease and paint. DO NOT use solvents to clean the floor. DO NOT use oil based sweeping compounds. Fill cracks larger than 1/16" wide with a cement-based patching compound. The floor must be flat to within 1/8" in 10 feet. Use leveling compound when required. Patched areas may need to be primed with an approved primer such as PrimeCoat. (Consult patch manufacturer for requirements.) DO NOT install over resin or silicate based curing compounds.
- Floor tiles containing asbestos, any adhesive possibly containing asbestos, or other floor coverings containing asbestos require special preparation, handling and removal procedures. Consult the appropriate local or state authorities or the Resilient Floor Covering Institute before disturbing any suspected asbestos-containing material.
- Installation of Mohawk's carpet tiles on a floor outside the scope of the guidelines in this document will void all applicable warranties.
- Mohawk is not responsible for any product failure due to improper floor preparation and/or installation procedures. The required adhesives are Mohawk's family of adhesives.
- When installing carpet tiles over raised access floor panels, start installation by overlapping the access panel joints to prevent the seams of the tiles from lining up with the access panel joints. Additionally, all access panels should be sound, level and edges firmly secured to the raised flooring pedestals.

## Floor Priming

- **Concrete:** Prime if floor is extremely porous or has excessive dust. Terrazzo, Marble, Vinyl Tile (VAT or VCT), Linoleum and other smooth nonporous surfaces do not require priming. Damp mop only. If patching is required on these surfaces, prime the patched areas if required by patch manufacturer.

**NOTE: When non-asbestos containing cut-back or any incompatible adhesive is present, existing adhesive has evidence of plasticizer migration, or UltraSet ICT (PVC) products are being installed, the existing adhesive must be properly removed and Mohawk's OptiSeal must be applied over the adhesive residue. Chemical adhesive removers cannot be used to remove old existing adhesives.**

- **Wood substrates** are required to be structurally sound, flat, dry and securely anchored with 3/4" minimum thickness. Substrates, such as plywood, OSB or other materials must be flooring grade (APA approved) and installed according to manufacturer specifications. Irregularities, imperfections and joints must be properly patched and prepared.

## Installation

- Inspect all carpet prior to cutting and contact your sales representative before installing the carpet if you discover any problems. No claims will be allowed for visible defects after the carpet has been cut and installed.
- Never cut carpet over carpet, as this can result in over penetration of the blade and severed loops on the lower carpet.
- Carpet should be protected from heavy traffic and construction dust with a non-staining building material paper. Never use plastic sheeting as it will trap moisture and prevent proper curing of the adhesive. Plastic may also leave residues that can result in rapid soiling after removal. Plywood or Masonite boards should be used when moving heavy equipment.
- If any of the above conditions are not attainable, contact Technical Services at 800.833.6954.

## Required Equipment

The following items may be purchased from a local carpet workroom supplier:

- Razor Blades
- Straight Edge
- Scissors
- Framing Square
- 75 lb. Roller or 100 lb. Roller
- Razor Knives
- Chalk Line
- Tape Measure
- Floor Scraper
- Cement-based Patching Compound

## Site Layout

1. The starting point in a modular installation must be as near to the center of the room as possible and must be positioned to utilize the largest perimeter cut module size.
2. Snap a chalk line parallel to one major wall, bisecting the starting point. It will be necessary to offset the center chalk line to assure perimeter modules will be at least half size.
3. A second chalk line must be snapped from the starting point at 90° to the first line. This can be accomplished using a 6-8-10 or larger triangle, depending on the room size. (See Illustration A) Meters or feet will be used to lay out the triangle in these proportions. A framing square can also be used.

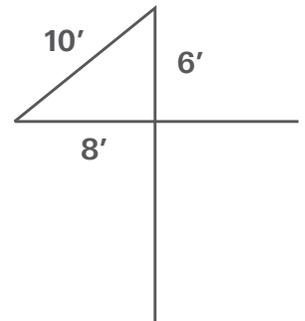


ILLUSTRATION A

## Pallet and Box Sequencing

It is very important to install carpet tiles in the order they were manufactured. This is easily accomplished by selecting pallets in sequential order.

### Application Rate

24" x 24" Tiles	Coverage (Sq. Yds./Box)
Monolithic, Quarter Turn, Multidirectional	150
Horizontal and Vertical Ashlar	100

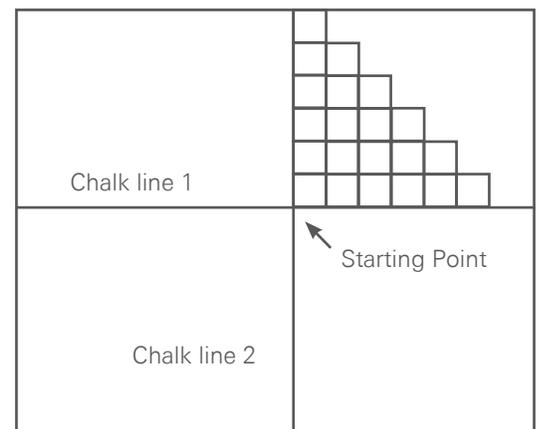
Tiles and Planks	Coverage (Sq. Yds./Box)
Monolithic Stepping, Half-Lap, Brick Ashlar, Random, Herringbone	100

12" x 36" Planks	Coverage (Sq. Yds./Box)
Monolithic	110
Ashlar, Basketweave, Herringbone	60

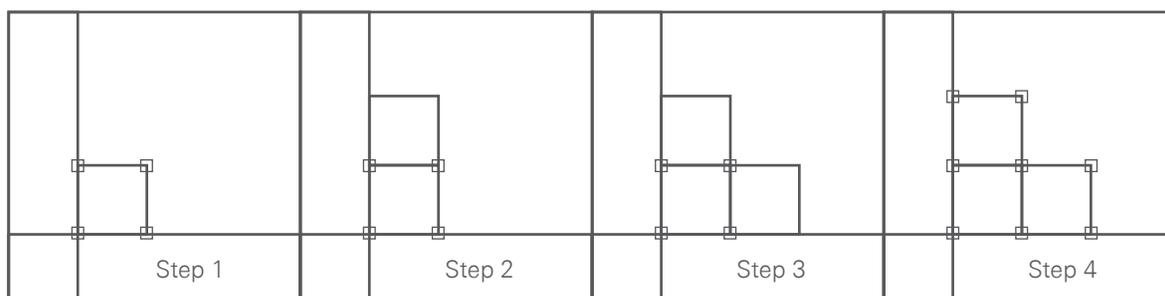
24" x 48" Planks	Coverage (Sq. Yds./Box)
All Methods	150

### Tab Installation

1. Start from the intersection point in the center of the floor with the 1st tile. Place a tab under each edge of the tile at the corners, leaving 3/4 of the tab exposed
2. Carefully insert the second tile in place then firmly press the tile into the tab.
3. Continue with the third tile, creating a stair step or pyramid pattern, starting at the center point. Check to ensure tiles are properly aligned at edges during the installation. (See figure to right.)
4. Place tabs under the edges of the second and third tile.
5. Continue with the stair step method until the entire area is completed.
6. All carpet tiles must be rolled with a 75 lb. or 100 lb. roller.

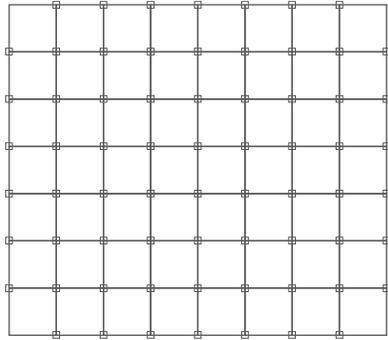


**NOTE: Before pressing tile into the adhesive tab, fit the tiles together, being careful not to trap face yarns between or under the edges of the tile and/or crease the tab under the tile.**

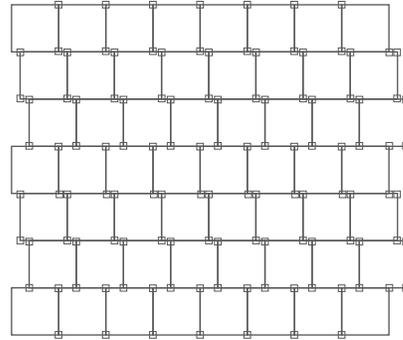


## Tab Placement

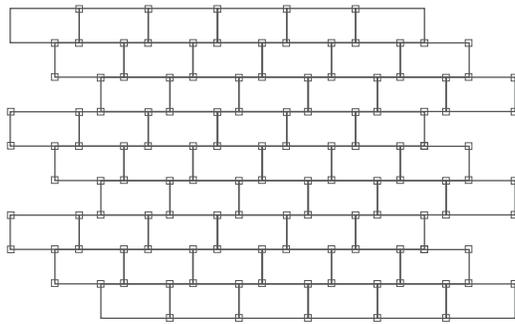
Tabs must be placed on every corner of the tile or the plank. A tab is also required at any seam next to the wall or transition. 24x48 planks require an additional tab in the middle along the 48" side. See Below.



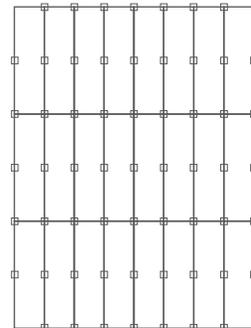
MONOLITHIC, QUARTER-TURN &  
MULTIDIRECTIONAL (24" X 24" TILES)



BRICK & VERTICAL ASHLAR  
(24" X 24" TILES)



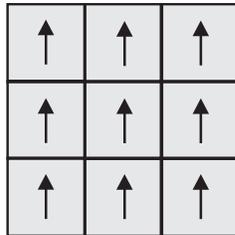
12" X 36" PLANKS



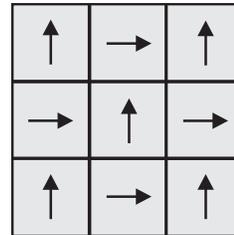
24" X 48" PLANKS

## Tile Installation Methods

Before you begin the installation, consult product specifications to determine which installation formats are approved. Shown below are some common installation formats.

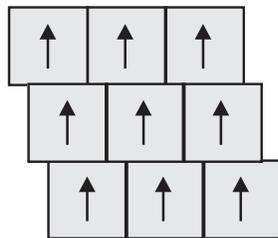


MONOLITHIC

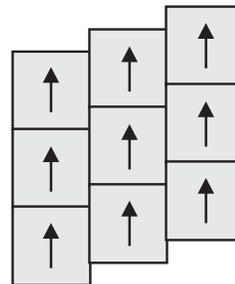


QUARTER TURN

## Ashlar Formats



BRICK ASHLAR,  
3-STEP 8" OFFSET



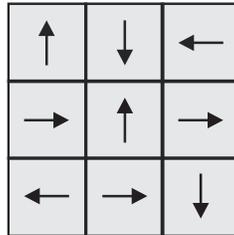
VERTICAL ASHLAR  
3-STEP 8" OFFSET

In the **Ashlar** installation formats, each row of carpet tiles is shifted 8 inches, either in a brick format or vertically (see diagrams above). This is a three-step process, i.e. each successive row of tiles must be offset one-third the length of the tile. It is **not acceptable** to shift the tiles only one-half the length of the tiles (two-step process). This installation method maintains the random appearance of the carpet tiles, eliminating line-on-line or dark-on-dark effects that can create a skewed look in the finished installation.

**Please note:** Carpet tile products installed in the Ashlar format will not have the same finished appearance as the same product in a broadloom (12' width).

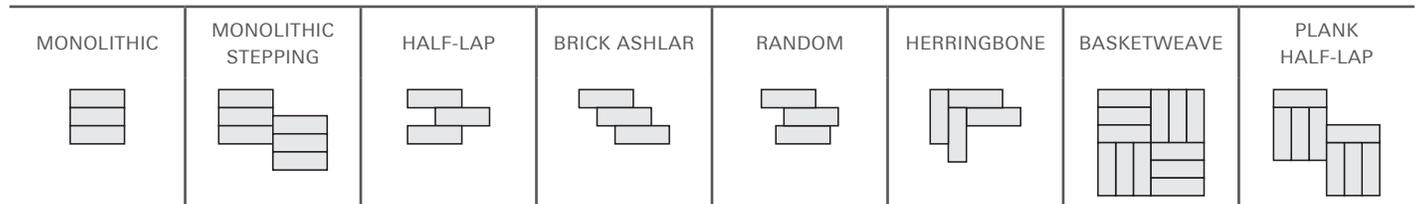
### Multi-Directional Format (Follow No Order)

Tiles are to be placed without concern for the arrow direction (random). Mixing tiles from various boxes during installation will further blend color and design elements. This process is essential for achieving optimal aesthetics.

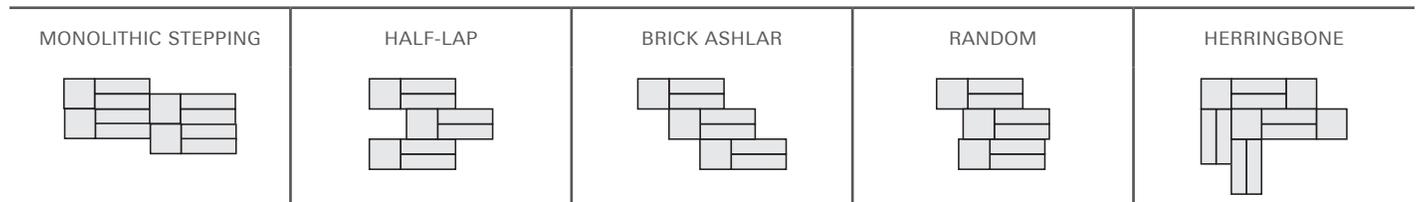


### Plank Tile Installation Methods

#### 12 x 36



#### 12 x 36 + 24 x 24



### Cutting Border Tiles

Cuts are made from the back. Install border tiles by placing the tile face down exactly on top of the last row of field tiles, keeping the arrows pointed in the same directions. This will be your cut tile. Using another tile, butt it against the wall, allowing it to lie on top of the tile that is to be cut. Using this tile as a reference tile, score a line on the back of the tile that is to be cut. Cut the tile along the reference line, being careful not to cut through the installed tile below. Install the cut tile with the cut edge along the wall. Use this same technique at doorways and around other objects. The UltraSet NXT & UltraSet Matrix tile must have the backing cut slightly shorter by cutting the backing at a slight angle. A transition strip must be used to protect any exposed edges. Tiles can also be cut by measuring and cutting with a straight edge and knife or by running them up the wall and cutting them with a knife or wall trimmer.

## **Stairs**

FlexLok is NOT recommended for stairs.

## **Ramps and Inclines**

FlexLok is NOT recommended for ramps, inclines or under heavy rolling loads. Mohawk Pressure Sensitive Adhesives must be used in these areas.

## **Carpet Over Carpet**

FlexLok is NOT recommended for carpet over carpet installations.

## **Chair Pads**

Chair pads are recommended for use under chairs with roller casters. Casters must be the flat round type with 5/8" to 1" width minimum. If chair pads are not used, the appearance of the carpet tile will decrease. Maintenance and/or shifting of the modular tiles will be required more frequently when pads are not used.

## **Replacement Tiles**

Occasionally, it will be necessary to replace damaged or heavily soiled tiles. Tiles can be replaced with on-site inventory or from another area of the installation. A difference of appearance will be noticed when the tile is replaced. However, this difference usually diminishes in a short time. When replacing tiles, a new tab must be used.