



MAKING A SEAM BEFORE CARPET INSTALLATION

TOOLS YOU WILL NEED:

- A carpet seam cutter or a good utility knife with a sharp blade
- String chalk line
- Straight edge
- Seam sealant/sealer
(Use a water-based seam sealer only)
- Double-faced carpet tape or a premium multipurpose latex adhesive

STEP ONE PREPARATION

- Lay carpet pieces together with the pile going in the same direction. This is very important!
- Make sure you have at least 8"-12" of excess carpet width before making a seam.

STEP TWO CUTTING THE CARPET

- Be sure to cut the carpet as straight as possible with the carpet seam cutter or utility knife.
- For cut-pile, cut-loop or pattern style carpets, row cut the first side of the seam and trace cut the other side (see instructions below).
- For straight-loop style, such as Berber, row cut both sides.

HOW TO ROW CUT:

- Use the seam cutter to make cuts from the face side of the carpet.
- Pre-open the yarn row to be cut by sliding a pencil along the row or by using the row opening tip of the seam cutter. Two passes may be necessary (Don't cut carpet yet).
- Now, using the entire length of the cutter, slide down the pre-opened path to cut completely through the carpet and cushion (Note: the cutting blade will need to be extended all the way down to its maximum cutting depth).
- Press the cutting blade through the carpet, keeping the seam cutter straight up and down.
- Try to cut the carpet in one pass.
- Repeat the instructions if a row cut is needed for a second piece of carpet. If a trace cut is needed, see instructions below.

HOW TO TRACE CUT:

- Use a seam cutter to make cuts from the face side of the carpet.
- Place the first piece of carpet with the newly cut straight edge where the seam will be on the floor.
- Slide the carpet to be cut under the trimmed piece, face side up. The overlap should be at least 2". If installing patterned carpet, align the patterns as needed.
- Make sure there is enough carpet to reach the walls and into the doorways.
- Using the top piece of carpet as a guide, cut the bottom carpet with a seam cutter, keeping the seam cutter straight up and down and against the top carpet piece at all times. Once both pieces have been cut, proceed to the next step.





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CONTINUED.

STEP THREE CREATE THE SEAM

- Once both sides of the carpet have been trimmed, fold back one piece of carpet.
- With a marker, draw a line on the floor using the edge of the remaining carpet as a guide.
- Fold back both pieces of carpet and apply double-faced carpet tape, centering the tape over the line. Don't remove the tape's protective cover yet.
- Replace the carpet over the tape, making sure the seam is centered over the tape and butted tightly together. Match patterns as needed.
- At the start of the seam, lift an edge of the carpet and begin to remove the protective cover from the tape.
- Let the carpet fall back into place, allowing the protective cover to come up between the two pieces of carpet.
- Slowly pull the protective cover through the seam.
- Smooth the seam onto the tape as you go.
- Make sure the seam is adhered to the tape by walking down the seam.
- It is recommended to apply a latex seam sealer to the seam at this time (Follow manufacturer's instructions).
- If using adhesive, apply one trowel width of adhesive, centering it over the line on the floor, and follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions before laying the carpet down into the adhesive to complete the seam.

STEP FOUR INSTALLATION

- Continue with your carpet installation as instructed.

TIPS

- Use cuts taken from the same carpet roll and/or dye lot if possible.
- Do not use factory edges for seams.
- Allow for extra carpet if matching a pattern.
- Run seams lengthwise or parallel to the traffic patterns.
- If possible, plan major seams so that natural sunlight does not shine directly across the seam.
- If possible, avoid seams that intersect perpendicular to doorways and entrances.

