



Installation requirements and preparation for Andes

Twinback Flooring Fundamentals

1. Always check before fitting the carpet that it corresponds with the requested specifications (colour, width...)
2. Provide for a detailed fitting-plan before starting to cut the carpet.
3. Make sure that the substrate complies to the following requirements: it must be level, dust and grease free, shock and crush proof, dry. The surface is dry when it contains a maximum of 3% moisture, as measured with a CM sensor device. If required, the surface will need to be repaired and levelled at least 24 hrs in advance.
4. It is strongly recommended to let the carpet rest before fitting. Before, during and after fitting the preferred room temperature should be at least 15° C and the relative moist percentage must not exceed 30-60%.
5. It is recommended to completely fix or glue the carpet using adhesives showing the EC1 label: these adhesives are environmentally friendly with a low degree of emissions and free of solvents.
6. It is essential to fit the carpet in the same direction. It is therefore very important to check the pile direction before fitting. To be absolutely sure about the pile direction, please proceed as follows: Put a sheet of paper on the carpet, put a pen on the sheet of paper, pressurize the pen and roll it back and forth. The direction in which the paper will move is the pile direction

Subfloor Preparation

Whatever the subfloor is, before work commences the fitter should ensure that it meets the following criteria:

- Structurally sound and level
- Free of any cracks
- Permanently dry: prevent moisture affecting the dimensional stability of the carpet and to guard against rot
- Surface has to be firm and stable
- Smooth: prevent any telegraphing of indentations and ridges through the surface
- Enough expansion joints
- On the same level as joining rooms
- Clean and free of all contaminants (dust, grease, oil, paint and plaster)
- Adequate surface temperature
- Adequate room temperature
- If an underfloor heating system is present, it must operate within controlled temperatures

Irregular subfloors can be corrected by using the appropriate smoothing compound. Most subfloors will require priming. The type and condition of the subfloor has a direct influence on the installation and performance of a carpet with Twinback and the importance of subfloor preparation cannot be emphasised too strongly.

For further information request the subfloor preparation guide of your adhesive producer where you will find detailed information on how to prepare the subfloor and which products should be used.

Installation Methods

Carpet with Twinback backing can be fitted in 3 different ways:

- Complete Adhesion
- Stretching with carpet gripper
- Installation on hook tape (residential use)

Complete Adhesion

Complete adhesion can be executed with 3 different types of adhesives:

- a) fixating glue (residential use)
- b) dispersion adhesive / universal fixation
- c) solvent-free contact adhesive (stairs)

Before starting, consult the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer and follow these conscientiously. Spread the adhesive with a roller or notched trowel evenly over the subfloor. We advise using a trowel with fine notching in order to apply a minimum of adhesive what will facilitate the removal of the carpet afterwards. After the waiting time, lay the carpet onto the adhesive and press firmly to ensure overall contact with the adhesive.

If there are seams, we advise always to stick the seams down with a dispersion adhesive. Before seaming commences, make sure that the edges are butt-joined together perfectly. Place both carpet pieces partly on top of each other and cut through both using a knife with hooked blade. Close the seam and check, before applying the adhesive.

Fold both carpet pieces back and apply the dispersion adhesive with a notched trowel evenly over the subfloor. After the recommended waiting time, lay the carpet into the adhesive and press firmly to ensure overall contact of the Twinback with the adhesive. Close the seam and trim the carpet at the walls.

Cross seams

Cross seams should be covered with a covering profile. All construction threads are cut in the process of making cross seams.

Carpets may only be fitted on staircases using a full stick down method with solvent-free contact adhesive recommended for stairs. Always consult the instructions first and follow them conscientiously. Before starting to fit a carpet on a staircase, we recommend to apply an adhesive coating on the back of the carpet with a flat trowel. Allow this coating to dry before you start sticking the carpet on the staircase. This prevents too much of the adhesive to be taken up by the carpet backing.

Measure how long the carpet should be to cover both tread and riser and cut with a hooked blade knife the carpet pieces that you need. Pile direction should be downwards.

Apply the solvent-free contact adhesive evenly over the tread and riser of the upper step with a notched trowel. If certain corners of the steps are difficult to reach with a trowel, you can also use a normal brush to apply the adhesive.

After the recommended waiting time, the carpet can be laid onto the adhesive of the upper step and firmly pressed. Stretch the carpet perfectly over the stair nose, using pincers, and press it firmly in the contact adhesive of the riser.

Finally you can trim the carpet at the bottom of the riser. Fit the carpet in the same way on the remaining steps and you will get a superb result on your staircase.

Stretching on gripper rods

To stretch carpet with Twinback-backing, position the grippers allowing a gully between the strips and the wall. This gully should be approximately three quarters the thickness of the carpet to be laid.

Fit the underlay over the whole floor area and trim the surplus underlay flush to the edge of the grippers, ensuring that the underlay does not cover it. Apply a layer of solvent contact adhesive onto the gripper rod itself.

Fit the carpet on the underlay and over the carpet gripper. Tension the carpet along the wall, hooking the carpet to the gripper using a Knee Kicker and press it into the gully using an Easy Tucker tool.

Surplus carpet can be trimmed off at the appropriate walls, leaving ca. 1 cm extra for turning down into the gripper gully for a neat, tightly fitting, non-fray edge.

If there are seams in an area where you would like to fit a Twinback carpet with underlay and carpet gripper, we would advise you to use the Floorworks system to achieve a seamless finish. Before seaming commences, make sure that the edges are butt-joined together perfectly.

Place both carpet pieces partly on top of each other and cut through both using a knife with hooked blade. Close the seam and check, before applying the adhesive. Place a Floorworks seaming tape under the seam and bump the two carpet pieces together so the cut edges of the carpet butt together exactly.

Set the seaming iron at the end of the tape and tuck the seam edges under the rear metal edge guide so they will line up and guide along the welding head. Move the iron along at a steady speed. Always seam in the direction of the pile. If you run the iron against the pile, shading along the seam may occur. The adhesive will be pumped up from the tape and through the welding head at the rear of the iron, fusing and sealing the seam edges permanently together. Use a seam roller on the carpet at the rear of the iron to ensure a good penetration of hot melt adhesive into the carpet backing. Brush the face yarn up so it will not cool in a down position. After the seam has cooled, the carpet can be trimmed.

Prior to fitting on stairs, the stairs must be clean and dust free. Ensure that the stairs are firm and any tacks or nails are removed. Cut the gripper to fit across the width of the stairs and fit to the tread and riser with the pins pointing toward the crotch of the stairs. Fit the underlay across the width of the stairs from the back edge of the gripper on the tread to the back edge of the gripper on the riser in one piece. Staple to hold in place. Trim the surplus underlay so that the gripper is not covered. Fit the carpet on the staircase starting at the bottom of the riser (pile direction downwards), gently stretching the carpet over the gripper using a knee kicker and press the carpet into the gully using the easy tucker. Note that the combination of standard gripper pins and hook tape on the gripper allows you to bolster the Twinback carpet into the stair crotch without the tape grabbing prematurely. Once the carpet is sufficiently bolstered, tension the carpet onto the gripper tape using a knee kicker. Roll the carpet up onto the next tread and repeat the procedure for the remaining stairs.

Installation on hook tape (residential use)

Fitting a carpet with Twinback backing on hook tape, has many advantages:

- It is a very environmental friendly installation method (no adhesives, no odours)
- It is a very easy and fast installation method - once the carpet is fitted on the hook tape, it is immediately open to traffic
- It is a very clean installation method - while changing the carpet, the subfloor is not damaged and no carpet remains are on the hook tape
- It is a very removal friendly installation method - the carpet can be hooked out of the tape and can be removed
- The same hook tape can be reused for at least 3 new installations of carpets with Twinback backing

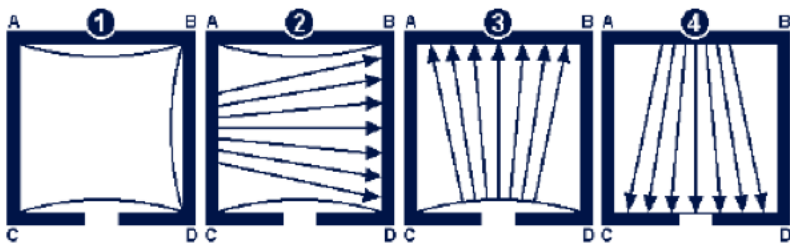
Before starting, ensure that the subfloor is sound, smooth, permanently dry, clean and free from any contaminants or loose particles that will affect adhesion. If an existing vinyl or PVC flooring is used as subfloor, we recommend special hook tape with an acrylic adhesive coating that guard against the effects of plasticisers.

Textile floorcoverings are not suitable as subfloor. We would advise that any deep indentations in the subfloor should be repaired followed by a standard application of a suitable smoothing compound. You can always apply a fine adhesive coat with a flat trowel on the spots where the hooktape will be installed. Once the adhesive coat is permanently dry, this represents the perfect subfloor for a permanent, long-lasting adhesion of the tape.

We recommend usage of 5 cm wide hook tape. Attach the tape approximately 3cm away from the walls to get a better grip of the Twinback backing in the hook tape.

Cover the hook tape with adhesive tape to prevent the carpet gripping directly when unrolling. Unroll the carpet and bump it in the right position for fitting.

Little by little remove the adhesive tape from the hook tape and tension and hook the carpet onto the hook tape using a knee kicker. The sketches illustrate how to proceed:



1. Hook the carpet under tension onto the hook tape alongside A/C.
2. Tension the carpet, starting at the middle of A/C towards the opposite side and hook it onto the hook tape.
3. Attach the carpet now under tension onto the hook tape alongside A/B.
4. Finally you can also tension and hook the carpet onto the hook tape alongside C/D.

When all tensioning has been completed, surplus carpet can be trimmed off at the walls. Always use a knife with hooked blade to trim Twinback carpet.

For larger surfaces (exceeding 20m²) we recommend to install extra tapes across the width of the room for a better attachment.

If there are seams or stairs, we advise to install carpet with full adhesion or stretching on gripper rods.