



## Installation and maintenance for Balearics flooring

### Fitting instructions

#### 1. Professional Fitting

The Unnatural Flooring Company recommends the Balearics Range is fitted by a professional, knowledgeable and experienced installer preferably trained in flat weave installations.

#### 2. Delivery, Unpacking and Checks

Delivery, is an important part of the installation. Avoid bending the carpet. Deliver in a suitable vehicle, keeping the roll flat, fully supported and avoid placing other items on top. When carrying into the property, avoid bending the roll. If unavoidable, take out any core and loosely roll. This method will reduce creasing.

Please be careful when unpacking the carpet, as sharp tools can damage the weave. Use scissors, a safety bag cutter or a hook blade knife pulling upwards. Cutting downwards through the plastic wrapper could cut into the weave.

We carry out visual checks prior to delivery, but check the carpet for defects before you cut it, as once the carpet is cut we cannot accept responsibility for any defects and manufacturing issues. Note: Check the colour and design are correct.

#### 3. Preparation

The Balearics range should be installed by double or single stick methods, (Double stick creates comfort and sound reduction underfoot). Do not stretch fit.

- The sub-floor should be dry, smooth, flat, clean (no contamination) and dust free in accordance with British Standards BS 5325. Ridges and dips will mirror through the carpet, particularly with large rooms with low light striking across the floor. Always overlay floorboards with a suitable board such as plywood, this will reduce ridges when the floorboards move and will prevent dust migration.
- The carpet is designed to be installed with the use of appropriate adhesives, see section 6 below.
- Acclimatising all materials is recommended, particularly during cold periods to allow the carpet and underlay to relax after being rolled up. Sub-floor temperature should be at or above 15 °c (as per adhesive manufacturers instructions). When installing over underfloor heating, turn the UFH down to <15 °c at least two days prior to the installation, and allow two days after the installation. before turning back up to give time for the adhesive to cure. The surface temperature must not go above 27 °c in normal usage. Never install underlay or carpet directly over heating pipes or electrical elements. Always overlay this type of heating with a suitable product. Check the moisture level of the sub-floor in accordance with British Standards, as a guide, the moisture level should not exceed 75% RH on solid floors and 16% on wood floors. The atmosphere of the room should ideally be 18 °c to 22 °c ambient and relative humidity 45% RH to 65% RH. Do not install in damp conditions!

## 4. Installation

- It is strongly recommended that The Balearics Range should be double or single stick and not stretch fitted, (carpet stretchers can damage the weave)
- Installation should meet the necessary standards set out in British Standards BS 5325. If in doubt please contact your supplier.
- Blank Gripper, (pin less gripper) is recommended and should be positioned no more than 4mm from the skirting boards and other abutments. As a guide, use a spare piece of carpet as a distance gauge from the skirting board. If you do not have any blind gripper, use standard gripper and knock down the pins so that the adhesive can be applied over the gripper. Gripper is not required for single stick installations.
- On a staircase, blank gripper should be installed on the riser and tread, to create a 9mm gap between the grippers that will trap the carpet into the crotch of the step. Method: place two thicknesses of gripper on the tread which will create a 12mm gap, and place the riser gripper on top fixing securely, remove gauge after fixing the gripper. The tread gripper also needs to be 12mm from the riser. A small gauge can be used, so that you can lift it out once the gripper is fixed. Wider gaps will not secure the carpet correctly, and the line along the crotch will not look good.
- Fully bond the underlay on the tread and riser, (Not tackifier). Cut two separate pieces of underlay, one to fit the whole tread up to the gripper and over the nose of the step (not under the nose as this will create indentations when fixing the carpet through an underlay), and the second piece to fit the whole of the riser down to the gripper. A small gap between the underlay and the stringers (sides of the steps) will help to create a small tuck finish, particularly when the steps are not parallel from front to back.
- Stairs can be dimensionally different across the width from the front to the back. With this in mind, cut the carpet width to the widest dimension. We recommend applying an edge sealer or spray, with Roberts Anti Fraying Spray R5920 along the edge (spraying onto the fibres does not normally discolour the surface, but carry out a test area to check) which will help to reduce any fraying / loss of fibres. The carpet should be fully bonded to the underlay and gripper, tailoring around and under the nose section of the step. The carpet should be secured using divergent staple or nails to the underside of the nose section.
- Bullnose steps: Prepare the step the same as the description above, but initially do not fit the riser section, this will be done once the tread carpet is fitted.
- Cut two pieces of carpet, one for the tread and one for the riser. The tread carpet should be long enough to fit from the step crotch down to approximately 50mm below the nose. Glue the tread section, tucking the crotch section into the gripper. We recommend applying Roberts Anti Fraying Spray R5920 along the crotch edge and around and under the nose section (spraying onto the fibres, does not normally discolour the surface but carry out a test area to check), which will help to reduce any fraying / loss of fibres.
- The carpet should be secured using divergent staple or nails to the underside of the nose section. Allow the excess carpet to drop down the riser, cutting off to allow around 15mm drop. When cutting the carpet around the bullnose section do not cut tight up the nose. Cut short of the nose by approximately 5mm, this will reduce any fraying and fibre loss.
- The riser section should be cut allowing an excess of 30mm. Fit the underlay up against the carpet at the top of the riser and leave a gap of 15mm at the bottom. The top and bottom of the riser carpets should be folded, allowing 15mm fold. The fold can be secured with either hot melt glue, spray adhesive, the carpet adhesive or contact adhesive. Compress the fold with a hammer. Fix and glue the carpet securing the top and bottom with divergent staples. The sides can be cut net or folded as the top and bottom.
- Open stringer stairs: Fit the gripper and underlay as per the straight stairs instructions cutting the underlay and gripper short on the open side by approximately 20mm. The carpet needs to be folded and glued back along the open side, by approximately 20mm.
- Fit the stairs as per the straight stairs instructions, securing the open side with hot melt glue or divergent staples. Hot melt glue reduces the indentations.
- Kite winder steps: Install the same as a spright stairs with the exception of the open side. The open side or exposed side should be folded and glued back securing the edge with hot melt glue or divergent staples.
- A dimensionally stable and dense double stick underlay such as Durafit, Egalsoft (built in tackifier) or Black Onyx, should be used, (soft and thick underlay >8mm underlays can cause movement, particularly if there is a seam. Castor chairs will increase indentation marks). The underlay should be glued to the sub-floor using either Tackifier or Permanent adhesive, following the adhesive manufacturer instructions and laid at 90° to the run of the carpet.

- The carpet should be bonded with a suitable adhesive to the underlay, using a B1 (2mm notch depth) adhesive notched trowel to reduce / prevent bleed through after installation. Always follow the adhesive manufacturers instructions. Once the carpet is laid into the adhesive, apply weight over the whole area to ensure good transfer of adhesive to the back of the carpet. We recommend using a carpet Glider or hand roller. Weighted rollers can cause bleed through of adhesive due to their weight. If the carpet has been creased when manoeuvring into a room, you may need to place a piece of plywood or similar over the crease and weighted down until the adhesive has cured.
- A Speed Catt is an ideal tool to crease the floorcovering into position against the skirting board. Alternatively use a tucking knife (blunted) to crease the carpet against the skirting board and around architraves and small corners.
- Prior to cutting the carpet, we recommend spraying along the ends (not critical for the sides) with Roberts Anti Fraying Spray R5920 (spraying onto the fibres does not normally discolour the surface, but carry out a test area to check). This will help to prevent fraying of the weave along the ends of the weave. This spray also helps around door frames etc.
- A Trim-Master Trimmer correctly set up with a hooked blade or a Roberts carpet trimmer 10-616, is advised for cutting in. This should be set to leave a small excess amount of 5mm of carpet for tucking into the gap created by the gripper. Knives can be used, but care must be taken to avoid cutting through the loops as these will fray. Do not cut the flooring net against the skirting boards and abutments. A tucking knife, using the rounded corner to roll the flooring into the gripper gap is advisable. A Speed Catt or Bolster is not advisable, as they can cause fraying / fibre loss along the edge. A bolster is too thick for the gripper gap.
- When installing as a single stick (no underlay) cutting in against the skirting boards needs extra care, as the edges will be exposed and not tucked into the gripper gap. Prior to cutting the carpet, we recommend spraying along the ends (not critical for the sides) with Roberts Anti Fraying Spray R5920 (spraying onto the fibres does not normally discolour the surface, but carry out a test area to check). Crease the carpet against the skirting board as described above, and use a knife with a suitable sharp blade to cut the edges.
- Seams should be avoided wherever possible, but if required should be planned away from walkways, doorways and not running across incoming light. Seam edges should be cut using either heavy duty carpet shears or by knife, following the weave line.
- Do not lay lengths over each other and cut through both pieces, as this will cut into the underlay creating a weak spot that would eventually cause the seam to breakdown. This method could cause you to cut across the weave, resulting in fraying. When cutting with a knife, always place a piece of plywood or similar under the edges and use a straight blade. A straight edge will help, but place the straight edge on top of the side you intend to use as the seam edge.
- Herringbone design seams. Cut the design along the point of the herringbone, so that the pattern flows / matches.
- The seam edges can be secured by fully bonding to the underlay, or by using hot melt tapes such as Heat seam or Silvaseam tapes. Tapes will create small ridges along the join that can be visible in large areas or where low light strikes across the flooring. Seam weights with plywood underneath the join, will help to reduce the ridge. Plasterers scrim tape which can be purchased 50mm or 100mm wide is a good alternative, as they are thin and do not mirror through the carpet to the same degree. After cutting the seam, mark a line where the seam falls and apply the carpet adhesive. Place the scrim tape into the adhesive and lay the carpet on top. The adhesive will ooze through the tape, creating extra bond strength to the seam.
- Cross joins should be avoided!
- The cut edges of seams must be sealed to avoid fraying, using an edge sealer adhesive, e.g. Janser carpet seam protection, Roberts 8015-A Seam sealer, or similar product.
- If seams are required, you should ask for the flooring to colour match when ordering, as different dye lots may vary slightly.
- All carpets should be installed in the same direction. Arrows are printed on the back of the carpet for reference. If offcuts are going to be used for a seam, mark an arrow on the back before cutting off the main piece, for reference.

## 5. Floor Protection

In areas of wheeled traffic such as office chairs, we recommend you use a protective mat, such as The Unnatural Flooring Woven Vinyl range.

A suitable entrance matt is advised to reduce / prevents dirt from being walked onto the flooring.  
Matting should be regularly cleaned.

## 6. Adhesive and materials Recommendation

Ardex - AF825 Surface Tackifier - AF 325 Carpet Adhesive (01440714939)

F.Ball - F40 High Tack Adhesive - Dual Bond System - F3 Flooring Adhesive (01538361633)

Mapei - Ultrabond Eco tack - Ultrabond Eco TX3 (01215086970)

Uzin - Unifix - Uzin KE 2560 (01788530080)

Roberts Anti Fraying Spray R5920 and Roberts 8015-A Seam sealer (EasyLay Systems 03443573535)

Janser Carpet Seam Protection (Janser 01215615888)

Egalsoft and Black Onyx - Underlay (EasyLay Systems 03443573535)

Durafit - Underlay (Interfloor 01706238825)

Blind Gripper - (Interfloor 01706238825)

Some products can be purchased through wholesalers.