

**Volume 8 No. 1****Kanga® and Handy Back Installation Guideline**

Kanga® back and Handy Back backing systems are designed using very durable and highly resilient attached cushion secondary backings. Kanga® and Handy Back are made from prime urethane rubber. Unlike typical latex backings, these backings are very resistant to most spills, won't scuff, crack or crumble during storage, shipping, or handling. They are also highly resistant to mold and mildew. Along with added tread comfort, Kanga® and Handy is also a big energy saver, because of their superior insulation properties.

**Floor Preparation and Site Conditions**

Regardless of age, all concrete sub floors should be tested for moisture emission utilizing the anhydrous calcium chloride test method (ASTM 1869) and for alkalinity utilizing the ASTM F-710 test method. Additional slab moisture testing, including the use of in-situ probing meters used to test slab Relative Humidity, can be used to help assist in slab moisture testing.

All sub floors should be structurally sound, clean, dry, and be free of all wax, paint, or other finishes. Holes should be filled and rough or craggy concrete slabs should be smoothed using a cementitious patch or skim coat. Embossing self-levelers should be used on un-level sub floors and over cracks and grout lines.

Indoor temperature should range between 65-95 degrees F with a maximum relative humidity of 65%. These conditions should be maintained at least 48 hours before and during installation, and for at least 72 hours after completion. Floor temperature of slab cannot be less than 65 F.

**Handling**

Forklifts should not be used. Use only hysters equipped with a carpet boom (pole). Avoid bending and folding this carpet. If the carpet must be bent for delivery purposes, ensure that it is loosely rolled prior to bending, and that it is immediately unrolled and allowed to relax prior to installation

To augment installation and facilitate installation, it is recommended that carpet be un-rolled, pre-cut, and allowed to relax for a minimum of 24 hours in the installation area. Pre-cuts should be made 3-4 inches longer than the actual room measurement.

**Installation**

Before starting the installation, roll the carpet out so it can be inspected for visible defects prior to cutting or installing the carpet. If more than one carpet drop is being installed, check the pile lay direction to be certain that the carpet's pile lay remains the same throughout the installation. Be certain to use a chalk line to mark the floor where additional carpet drops will be installed.

In the event a gauge difference exists between adjoining carpets; this variation can be adjusted so the carpet's backing thickness is the same by applying the required layers of paper tape along the edge of the thinner backing. This process, referred to as "shimming" is commonly used to maintain carpet backing thickness at seam locations when slight variations occur.

No special urethane adhesives are required to install these backings. The backing can be installed using premium grade multi-purpose latex floor covering adhesives. Recommended trowel notch size for Kanga back is 3/32" x 3/32" x 3/32" U or V, with an adhesive spread rate of 12-15 square yards per gallon. All cut edges to be seamed must be sealed with a continuous bead of a solvent based or multi-purpose seam sealer to prevent fraying, raveling and delamination at the seams.

To apply adhesive, first roll each carpet length back one half of its width to expose the floor. Spread the adhesive using the recommended trowel notch size, which must be maintained. Drop this section of the carpet into the adhesive spread. Fold back the opposite edge of the carpet and repeat the same procedures.

Because Kanga® and Handy Back are non-porous; they will not permit moisture released by the adhesive during open time to pass through them. Because of this, some additional adhesive open time is typically required to allow moisture to be released from the adhesive before it can develop a suitable tack. Use the carpet's core to roll the carpet after it is placed into the adhesive to ensure that optimum adhesive transfer occurs.

The lightweight and toughness of Kanga® and Handy Back makes these two backings ideal for carpet intended for the do-it-yourself market. Special adhesives, tack strip and power stretchers are not required. One additional feature these two backings provide is an allure of certitude consumers feel when they are looking for affordable carpets that are durable, long lasting and easy to install.