

# Dear Customer, Thank you for your order at Lano Carpets! Your order has been processed with the greatest care and inspected in detail by our quality service. We then also hope that you are satisfied with your purchase and that our carpet contributes to the atmosphere and cosiness of your interior. Laying a carpet is a big step and installing carpet on stairs is highly technical. In our experience, stair carpet is 5x more susceptible to wear and tear than carpeting in the rest of your house. So it's essential that carpet on stairs is installed correctly. The end result will depend on the quality of the installation and for a perfectly fitted stair carpet, our advice is to hire an experienced carpet fitter. If, nonetheless, you would like to have a go yourself, then these instructions may put you on your way. We have prepared this document to get you started. Consequently, we have confined ourselves to the general guidelines. Thank you for your trust and enjoy your new carpet! Kind regards, Joe Lano

# **TABLE OF CONTENT**

Choices	3
Preparation	3
A good base	3
Installation	4
Glue down installation	
Stretch-tight installation	
Drying times	5

## **CHOICES**

It's your choice to fully clad each stair or, alternatively, to leave a strip free, on the left and right. If you opt for tufted (or hand-tufted) carpet, then the stairs will be fully clad. With woven carpet, it's up to you and woven stair runners come in standard widths.

You can either a stretch a stair runner or glue it into place. A stretched runner can be laid like a cascade. In other words, the carpeting of each stair runs over the nosing, continuing onto the next stair. Another possibility is to first attach the carpet under the nosing, and then let it run on up. The consumption of carpet is slightly higher with the last option, so it's important to determine this in advance. If the sides of the steps are open, then the 'cascade' type installation may not be the most aesthetically pleasing solution.

It's best to install carpet underlay (a.k.a. carpet underfelt) on your stairs so that the wear life of your carpet is guaranteed. It's not a good idea to reuse existing underlay.

Our advice is to make a sketch plan of the stairs on which you jot down the key dimensions of each stair (height, width, nosing, etc.). Measuring a set of stairs is not easy, so it's best to discuss your order and your sketch plan with an expert when buying your stair carpet.

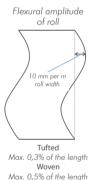
### **PREPARATION**

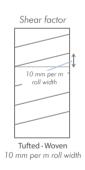
Before installation, it's best to recheck the delivery against your order: colour, pattern, key dimensions, amount, quality, etc., ... .

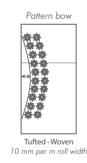
#### Acclimatization

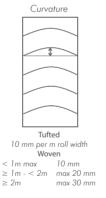
It's advisable to unpack and unroll the carpet, beforehand, in the room where it is to be laid. 24 to 48 hours' acclimatization to the ambient temperature and humidity will stop the carpet, after the installation, from suddenly shrinking or extending beyond its nominal size, which could cause unwanted and irreversible side-effects.

We gladly give you our tolerance limits:









## A GOOD BASE

A thorough check of the base (or substrate) is essential as that base has to be dry, clean, perfectly level and sufficiently stable.

Dry and clean, i.e. dust-, grease- and oil-free, free of solvents or old coatings or residues of glue or other products, so as not to jeopardize the bond of the gluing (if any) and to prevent any fungoid growth beneath the floorcovering.

Stable and flat, so as not to mortgage the decorative appeal of the new carpet, because any minor unevenness - which is almost invisible to the naked eye - may, after laying, stand out and be an eyesore.

Any large cracks should be repaired with repair material. As to protruding nails, either pull them out or hammer them in. Next, thoroughly wash down the wood and fill the cracks with wood filler. Protruding parts should be re-fastened. If the stairs of your staircase are worn away, replace them before all else. As far as new stairs are concerned, it's essential that the nosing is well chamfered.

## **INSTALLATION**

Depending on your personal preference, the type and shape of the stairs, the kind of carpet and the carpet backing, the carpet can be glued in place or held taught by tacks. If the staircase is a spiral one, gluing is pretty much your only option. Consequently, for certain kinds of combination stairs, you can part-glue or part-stretch the carpet.

If you elect to install a stair runner that is narrower than your stairs, our advice is to measure off your stairs and to mark, on each stair, where the stair runner has to come. That way, you'll be certain that the stair runner is fitted straight and true.

If your stairs have jagged nosing, it's best to attach a stair edge profile to the nosing. This prevents premature wear and tear. In ideal circumstances, the carpet is laid such that the pile of the carpet is pointing vertically downwards.

#### **GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION**

You may lay your carpet in cascade fashion but, relatively soon after that, the carpet, if it wasn't glued down well, will come loose, making the stairs unsafe. An alternative technique is to fit each stair & riser (i.e. the upright member between two stair treads) with a separate piece of carpet. Each piece is fixed in place, thus ensuring a safe and long-lasting installation.

Please measure everything out accurately and cut exactly to size. Start at the bottom of the stairs, applying the glue to the riser and the first stair. Always place the transverse seams neatly in the corner between stair and riser. With a carpet punch, make sure that all parts of the carpet are nice and taut.

## STRETCH-TIGHT INSTALLATION

If you are going to pull it taut, the curve of the nosing must have an axial line or diameter of at least 2.5 cm. If the transition between riser and stair is a hollow corner, then this corner too should have an arc of at least 2.5 cm.

Stretcher bars are narrow battens that can take slanting nails (barbs). Depending on the width of your stair runner, cut the stretcher bars to size, keeping in mind that the batten has to be ca. 5 cm shorter than the width of the stair runner. Fix the stretcher bars in place, centrally aligned according to the width of the stairs. On wooden stairs you can nail in the battens; on natural stone stairs you'll have to glue them on.

One batten behind the stair and - depending on the quality of the carpet - leave a bit more or a bit less space between the stretcher bar and the riser ( $\pm 2/3^{rds}$  of the carpet thickness). The nails or pins of the stretcher bar should be pointing towards the riser. Attach a second stretcher bar beneath the riser. Like before, leave some space between the bottom edge of the riser and the stretcher bar, depending on the thickness of the carpet. The nails or pins should be pointing towards the stair. If laid in cascade fashion, no extra stretcher bar is needed beneath the nosing. Carry on like this until the whole staircase is fitted with stretcher bars.

Don't cut the underlay as wide as the stretcher bars. The underlay is laid until it's just touching the stretcher bar of the stair. Aesthetically speaking, it's best to match the height of your underlay to the height of the stretcher bar. If laid in cascade fashion, you may incise the underlay, at the nosing, on both sides. This helps conceal the underlay after installation.

On a wooden staircase, the underlay doesn't need to be fixed to the stair. Simply bend it over the stair until just under the nosing. Staple the underlay in place (or not), just underneath the nosing. If you have a natural stone staircase, the underlay will have to be glued on. Cut through the underlay and repeat this for each stair.

The carpet can be laid now. Fasten the carpet to the stretcher bar of the bottom riser, work upwards and fasten the carpet to the stretcher bar of the first stair. With the aid of a knee kicker, make sure that the carpet is nice and taut. A carpet punch helps to fasten your carpet to the stretcher bars. If your stair runner is narrower than your stairs, take care that you keep flush within the marker lines (drawn in advance). Check this with each stair, so that you can order extra, if needed, step by step. Continue like this until the whole stairs has been clad.

On winding stairs or a spiral staircase, it's best to cut per stair and per riser. With woven carpet, there's a risk that the pattern won't run true because seams that are cut slantwise to the warp and the weft of the carpet cannot be laid as neatly as 90-degree cut seams.

#3

# Types of glue

It's essential to use the right carpet glue. Specific kinds of glue exist too for carpet made from natural fibres. So take professional advice when buying. It's best to choose a solvent-free, low-emission adhesive. You can recognize the glue by the EC1 (solvent-free) label. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Spread the glue evenly onto the stair, using a glue comb or a spatula.

Don't forget to heed the relaxation time of the glue and this as per the manufacturer's instructions.

# **DRYING TIMES**

Drying times only apply to glued-down types of carpet. The importance of this, however, is often underestimated. A drying timed of 24 h., with adequate ventilation in the room, is always recommended notwithstanding the fact that the carpet may, in principle, be walked upon straight after it's laid. Heeding the requisite drying time stops the carpet from sliding due to premature use, before the glue is fully cured.

