

POWERBOND® INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS
SIX-FOOT ROLL GOODS
(Non-RS)

General Notes

These instructions cannot cover all sub-floor conditions. C&A Floorcoverings cannot be held responsible or warrant Powerbond products if these floor preparation and installation procedures are not followed. If you have any questions concerning the proper installation (or use) of any C&A Floorcoverings products, please contact your C&A Floorcoverings representative.

All Powerbond products should be inspected for dye lot, style, color, size, quality and shipping damage prior to installation. **Do not install Powerbond if any problems are noted.**

It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to make certain the sub-floor is properly prepared prior to starting the installation.

Installer Certification

C&A provides a certification program for installers of Powerbond floorcoverings. Additionally, C&A requires that all installers be certified prior to performing the installation of Powerbond products under actual jobsite conditions. Contact the C&A Floorcoverings Account Executive in your area for more information on installer certification.

Site Requirements

C&A Floorcoverings' Powerbond product is intended for inside installations on dry, properly prepared sub-floors. Powerbond Vinyl Cushion products can also be installed on stairs. The product is not intended for installation on walls, ramps, outside, or on wet surfaces.

C&A Floorcoverings is not responsible for any product failure if floor preparation and installation procedures are not followed. Use only installation materials approved by C&A Floorcoverings. See the shipping container for details on shelf life and freeze-thaw stability of the Powerbond installation materials.

Moisture & pH – Excessive sub-floor moisture and/or high sub-floor pH alkalinity on any sub-floor, especially concrete, can cause product failure. The maximum allowable amount of moisture emission from the floor is 3.0 pounds moisture vapor emission rate (MVER) for all C&A floorcovering products. The acceptable pH range is 7.0 to 9.0.

Exceptions: Maximum allowable amount of moisture emission from the sub-floor when utilizing Powerbond Cushion in conjunction with solvent based #54 Seam Weld is 10.0 pounds MVER. The pH requirement stands at a maximum of 9. If performing In-Situ / RH (relative humidity) testing on concrete on or above grade the maximum allowable RH is 80%.

Installation of Powerbond products on a sub-floor outside the specifications provided in this document will void the applicable limited warranties. C&A does not represent or make any express or implied warranties that C&A floorcovering products will or will not affect, prevent or cure any other moisture or alkalinity-related issues that may arise because of the moisture and alkalinity levels found in the concrete. C&A expressly disclaims such express or implied representations or warranties.

Testing of concrete pH is conducted by slightly wetting the sub-floor with a small amount of water and allowing the water to stand for one minute. Apply pH test paper to the wet concrete surface. Allow five minutes for the pH test paper to remain in place in the wet area to reach equilibrium before taking the reading. The pH test paper changes color depending on the pH present. A color scale is provided with the pH test papers.

Testing of moisture emission is conducted using a calcium chloride moisture kit. The kit includes a sealed container of calcium chloride, a transparent plastic cover, and a sealant material to secure the cover to the floor. The basic requirements of the test include weighing the crystals, opening the crystal container and placing a transparent cover over the sub-floor for 60 to 72 hours, re-weighing the crystals, and calculating via formula using the weight difference and

time. C&A Floorcoverings can provide more detailed instructions on request. C & A Floorcoverings will also accept In-Situ / Relative Humidity testing of concrete as outlined above (Moisture & pH Exceptions).

Temperature & Humidity – The area in which Powerbond is to be installed (including the sub-floor) should have a minimum temperature of 65°F for at least 72 hours prior to, during and after installation. All Powerbond products and installation materials should be stored at this temperature for at least 48 hours prior to installation. This temperature should not exceed 90°F. Relative humidity above 65% will retard primer and adhesive set times.

Floor Inspection – The sub-floor must be structurally sound and dry prior to Powerbond installation. Any curing chemicals, sealers, finishers or other chemical treatments used on sub-floors must be chemically and physically compatible with the Powerbond backing and adhesive systems. If you have questions concerning the compatibility of these chemicals with C & A backing and adhesive systems please contact the Tandus Field Technical Service Department at 800-241-4902 ext 2129.

Floor Debris Cleaning – Clean the sub-floor of all excess concrete spots, solid debris or paint spots using suitable scraping methods. Completely remove all wax, dirt, grease, paints or old adhesives (especially cutback or emulsion). **DO NOT** use solvents or any other chemical adhesive removers to clean the sub-floor. **DO NOT** use an oil-based or silicone based sweeping compound. Contact C&A Floorcoverings for specific sub-floor preparation guidelines for installation over cutback or general-purpose adhesive.

Floor Patching and Leveling – All sub-floors should be level to assure good Powerbond installation. Concrete sub-floors should be troweled smooth and should conform to the standard specifications as recommended by the Portland Cement Association. The floor should be flat to within 1/8" in 10 feet.

Cracks, holes, and depressions can be filled using a good grade of Portland Cement/Latex fortified patching material. Do not install over loose tile (VAT, VCT or others). If installing over VAT or VCT it is essential that any wax be removed from those surfaces and that primer not be applied.

Floor Cleaning – Sweep and vacuum the sub-floor after patching and debris removal. Do not use an oil-based sweeping compound. Make sure all perimeter areas are clean. Smooth, nonporous sub-floors should be damp mopped prior to product installation.

Floor Priming (General)

All porous, gritty, chalky and dusty surfaces should be primed using C&A Floorcoverings' C-36E Floor Primer. All patched areas must be fully primed.

Surfaces that are nonporous **do not** require primer. These surfaces must be cleaned as noted above.

Primer can be applied using a paint roller. Allow the primer to dry completely. Primer turns light blue and will not transfer to hand when dry.

When old adhesives other than cutback or emulsion adhesives have been removed, the appropriate primer is C&A's C-46E Premium Floor Primer. This premium floor primer does an excellent job of covering small amounts of old adhesive that may interfere with adhesion of the new floorcovering. This is not a substitute for removal of old adhesive and for proper sub-floor debris cleaning, but a safeguard for problems caused by small amounts of old residual adhesive.

When cutback or emulsion adhesives have been removed from the sub-floor, the sub-floor must be skim coated with an approved Portland cement/latex patching material and allowed to dry completely. Contact C&A Floorcoverings for details on covering cutback adhesive.

Installation

Determine the lay direction of the carpet based on building design and installation efficiencies.

- 1) Place (snap) a white chalk line in the center of the room in the lay direction. **Do Not** use blue or red chalk.
- 2) Roll out the Powerbond carpet face-up with the arrows printed on the back pointing in the same direction. Lay out carpet so seams run toward main light sources when possible.
- 3) Lay the first breadth of carpet with the edge on the chalk line. Allow the ends and edges of carpet (as needed) to run up the wall a minimum of 2" for later trimming. Roll out the second breadth of carpet with the common edge overlapping the first breadth of carpet a minimum of 2" for straight cut or for serpentine cut.
- 4) The above described procedure can be followed to dry-lay the carpet in a room or work area. Allow a 2" (straight or serpentine cut) overlap at the butt ends of all rolls and anywhere a seam is required.
- 5) On the first seam only, working with two breadths of carpet, fold back one-third of each breadth of carpet (lengthwise) exposing the chalk line. Start folding back from one end of the carpet to prevent shifting. This procedure is referred to a "1/3 - 1/3 start." This procedure sets up all remaining seams in either direction for the "1/3 - 2/3" installation system.
- 6) Spread C&A Floorcoverings' C-16E adhesive on the sub-floor between the folded back sections of carpet. Use a 3/32 x 3/32 x 3/32" notched trowel to apply the adhesive (on a smooth surface, use a smaller notched trowel). Allow adhesive sufficient open time to set-up (see installation instructions on container).
- 7) Starting from the center of the first breadth of carpet, feed the carpet into the adhesive in a continuous, rolling manner. The edge of the carpet should be the last section of material to feed into the adhesive. Do not allow adhesive to come in contact with the face of the carpet.
- 8) Roll the first breadth of carpet using a 75-pound roller starting from the center of the breadth and rolling straight to the seam.
- 9) Feed the second breadth of carpet onto the floor. Make sure the overlap onto the first breadth is maintained.
- 10) Roll the second breadth of carpet using a 75-pound roller starting from the center of the breadth and rolling straight to the seam.
- 11) Adjust the C&A Floorcoverings double cut knife blade to cut through both pieces of Powerbond carpet and lightly touch the floor. A sharp blade is required to successfully complete this procedure.
- 12) Determine the pile lay direction of the carpet and cut in the "smooth" direction. Using firm pressure on the knife-body, cut through both breadths of carpet in one fluid, continuous motion. Double cut down the middle of the overlap for a straight cut 2" overlap. For a serpentine cut (2" overlap), cut the carpet in a wave pattern with an 18" – 24" repeat in the wave. Do not allow the knife to track off the top piece of carpet. Use a carpet-trimming knife to double cut up to walls and structural members.
- 13) Remove top and bottom strips.
- 14) Hold back one edge of Powerbond and apply a thin bead (approximately 1/8" wide for Cushion (Mark I; M) and 1/16" for Condensed Cushion (Mark II; N)) of C&A Floorcoverings' Seam Weld #54 to the backing only of the carpet on the floor. Seam Weld is only required on one side of the carpet. **Note:** Seam Weld #54 is a fast drying sealer.
- 15) Make up the seam starting at the center of the seamed line. Use a sliding motion to push the second breadth of carpet into the seam and Seam Weld. Avoid pushing the carpet down into the Seam Weld, as this may push the Weld away from the seam and result in a poor seam. Do not get any seam sealer in the face of the yarn.
- 16) As needed, use a clean, white, dry absorbent cloth and Seam Cleaner #77 to clean up any excess Seam Weld. Seam Weld must be cleaned up immediately. Place the Seam Cleaner on the cloth, but **DO NOT** saturate. **DO NOT** apply seam cleaner to carpet. Blot gently to remove the excess Seam Weld.
- 17) Roll the completed seam lightly using a carpet tractor.

The above methods are necessary to complete all required lengthwise, butt, or end seams.

Other

For installation on stairs and/or over substrates not covered above, information on exposed edges, air pockets, repairs, more-detailed installation instructions, and/or other installation information, please contact C&A Floorcoverings' Installation Services at 800/241-4902, ext. 2023, 2670, 2649, or 2129.