

**DESIGN MATERIALS INSTALLATION SPECIFICATION  
ON 'NATURAL FIBER' FLOOR COVERING  
SISAL – SEAGRASS - COIR**

**WHEN INSTALLING NATURAL FLOOR COVERING, IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW SOME BASIC GUIDELINES. THESE MATERIALS ARE WOVEN ENTIRELY FROM PLANT FIBER AND LIKE MOST NATURAL MATERIALS WILL EXPAND AND CONTRACT UNDER DIFFERENT CLIMATE AND MOISTURE CONDITIONS. MUCH LIKE WOOD FLOORING. IT IS RECOMMENDED THE MATERIAL BE ACCLIMATED FOR 24-48 HOURS, OPEN, AT THE INSTALLATION SITE BEFORE IT IS CUT TO FIT.**

**APPROVED INSTALLATION METHODS;**

- **DIRECT GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION**
- **DOUBLE GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION**
- **DMI DOES NOT RECOMMEND STRETCH-IN INSTALLATION**

**SITE CONDITIONS -All Installations**

- **Temperature and Humidity** – Carpet must be installed when the indoor temperature is between 65-95°F, with a maximum relative humidity of 65%. If ambient temperatures are outside these parameters, the installation must not begin until the HVAC system is operational and those conditions are maintained at least 48 hours before, during and 72 hours after completion.
- **Floor Preparation** – Carpet must be installed over properly prepared substrates that are suitable for the specific product and installation method selected.
- **Concrete floors**, even with adequate curing time, can present an unacceptable moisture condition by allowing excessive amounts of moisture vapor to pass through to the surface. This can be a problem even on suspended concrete floors. Test all concrete floors for moisture emission rates using an anhydrous calcium chloride moisture test kit. As a general guideline, an emission rate of 3.0 lbs. or less is acceptable. Testing for Alkalinity, a pH range of 7-9 is satisfactory, a reading above 9 requires corrective measures.

**DIRECT GLUE-DOWN (Complete Transfer of Adhesive required!)**

Use a **premium multi-purpose** adhesive. Adhesive should be spread evenly, using a spread rate of approximately 7 square yards per gallon. This requires a 1/8X1/8” U-notched trowel. The back of these materials, even with the latex, has a lot of texture. **Getting complete contact between the flooring and the floor requires much more adhesive than typical carpeting to fill in all the voids created by the texture. Failure to apply ample adhesive will result in poor or loose bond to the floor, allowing the material to shrinkage.**

**TRIMMING AND SEAMING** – These floor coverings should be cut from the surface using a row cutter and make sure to follow the row. Change blades frequently. **These floor coverings make good side seams,** because of the flat-weave construction. Cross seams will be more visible and should be avoided.

**General Installation procedures:**

1. Dry fit the pre-cut floor covering into the room, centering the covering so that 3-4 inches surplus will lap against the walls evenly. Allow the material to acclimate for 24 hours. Natural ‘Grass’ materials tend to shrink in length as they acclimate because that is the direction of the ‘grain’ of the weave.
2. Side seams will provide the best results. ‘Always’ trim the factory woven edge off the before seaming.
3. Make sure the trowel lines are heavy enough to be ‘busted’ when the material is pressed onto the floor.
4. Secure the edges of the seam with an appropriate seam sealer without contaminating face yarns.
5. It is best to trim the floor covering ‘in’ as one of the very last steps. This allows the adhesive in the field to start grabbing hold. Use a wall trimmer to get a clean cut along walls.
6. Make sure there are no unprotected edges in transition areas.
7. Keep the conditions at the installation site stable and well ventilated giving the adhesive time to cure.

**DMI expects all installers handling our materials, be familiar with the CRI-104, minimum guidelines for installing commercial carpeting. Many of those guidelines for direct glue down and double stick installation will prove helpful. We also recommend ‘Certified’ installers with experience in flat-weave carpeting. These flooring require more time and attention to detail for proper installation.**