

# Fitting Desso carpet tiles

## 5.1 Preparatory work

Acclimatisation of tiles should take place in conditions as close as possible to those of the building when occupied. Therefore the tiles should be unpacked at least 24 hours prior to installation and allowed to acclimatise at room temperature. The tiles should be installed at a minimum room temperature of 15 °C with a maximum relative humidity of 75%. A floor temperature of at least 10 °C should be maintained. If it is not possible to unpack the tiles fully, open the carton sides to allow air circulation and stack them to a maximum of 8 to 10 boxes high.

## 5.2 The subfloor

Carpet tiles can be installed on any floor that is smooth, dry, pressure-resistant, clean and protected from damp. Any remnants of previous carpet, felt or underlay must be removed as should any adhesive, dust, grease or polish. Any holes or indentations, joins, cracks or uneven floor areas should be levelled with a good floor filler. Follow the instructions of the manufacturer.

### 5.2.1 Concrete floors

New concrete must be dry when tested with CM-meter or protimeter: the CM-value may not exceed 3% and the protimeter-value may not exceed 5%. The relative humidity in the room may not be higher than 75%.

### 5.2.2 Anhydrite floors

The relative humidity in the room may not be more than 75%. Anhydrite floors must be dry. Tested with a CM-meter the value should be no more than 1% and tested with the protimeter the value may not exceed 2%.

### 5.2.3 Wooden floors

All loose parts must be removed and the surfaces must be levelled. Wooden floors in a poor condition should be re-surfaced using plywood or hardboard sheets. Hardboard sheets (always install rough side up) should be fastened at 15 cm (6") centres, i.e. 15 cm (6") apart, using a spot nailer/stapler. The same method can be used for plywood up to 6 mm thick. Plywood over 6 mm thick should be screwed to the floor at ± 23 cm (9") centres, i.e. ± 23 cm (9") apart. The same goes for chipboard and MDF.

### 5.2.4 Dusty floors

Dusty surfaces should receive a sealer treatment with a primer and this must be allowed to dry before the application of the recommended tackifier system.

### 5.2.5 Others floors

Vanished and polished surfaces should be degreased and then roughened by light sanding.

Note: For floors not mentioned refer to the relevant paragraphs in the section Preparing the subfloors for Desso Contract carpet.

## 5.3 Important considerations concerning the floor

- \* All floors should be dry, clean, solid and resistant to compression
- \* Never install tiles on a sub-carpet or on an existing carpet
- \* On all floors use 100% anti-slip
- \* Make sure the anti-slip is well dried before installing the tiles
- \* When using tape, apply the tape diagonal to the walking direction. If possible, every 2nd row, according to the kind of use and the demands made.
- \* On computer floors always use conducting anti-slip, so the static electrical personcharge can be led away horizontally/vertically. If necessary lay within every room till max 40 m<sup>2</sup> a copper band of 1.25 m. transversely underneath the carpet tiles and make sure the copper band is well earthed. In larger rooms use a 1.25 m. copper band for every 40 m<sup>2</sup>.

## 5.4 Recommendation

Carpet tiles do not require the use of a permanent bond adhesive, gripper or underlay. We recommend the use of an approved tackifier system or anti-slip (which is applied to the whole of the surface area, especially underneath all seams; see the illustration.) Once the tackifier has been allowed to dry the carpet tiles can be placed in position with a hand or knee stretcher. Small areas and individual offices less than 20 m<sup>2</sup> can be laid with the use of double sided tape underneath all the seams. Consult Desso Technical Services about this. Particular attention should be paid to cut tiles forming the perimeter of the area and also to doorways where partial tiles may also feature.

Note: All cut and end tiles should be laid tightly fitting cq fitting to the wall.

## 5.5 Guarantee

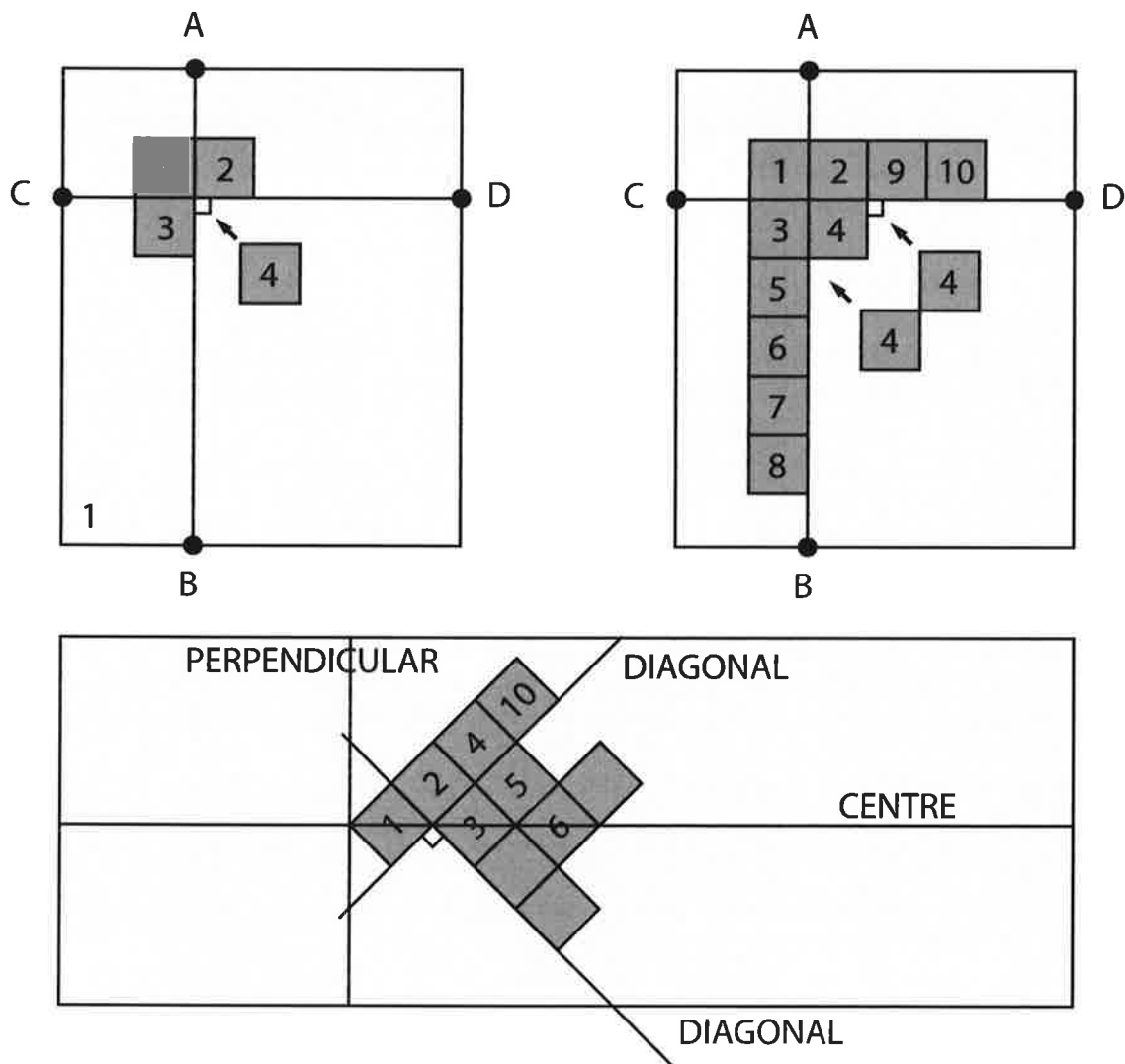
The installer should notify the manufacturer of any defective material before proceeding with the installation. The manufacturer will be responsible, within the scope of the product guarantees for any defective materials. This refers to material defects identified prior to or during the installation. Desso will not be responsible for poor workmanship or problems due to improper installation (see the Appendix with Terms and Conditions).

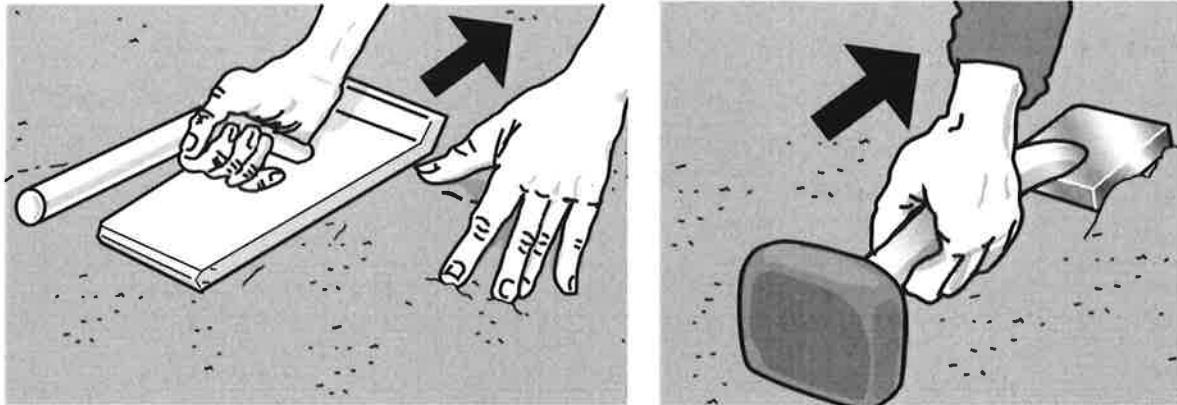
### 5.6 Protection during and after installation

Until the area being tiled is completed with all perimeter tiles adhered in position, there should be no walking on, or movement of heavy furniture over the partly completed installation. Once the installation has been completed the surface should be protected particularly if the area is to be used by other trades during final finishing. If heavy use is anticipated prior to occupation, the area should be protected with hardboard suitably taped at the joins and also a flexible sheet material which will prevent the ingress of dust.

### 5.7 Laying Desso carpet tiles

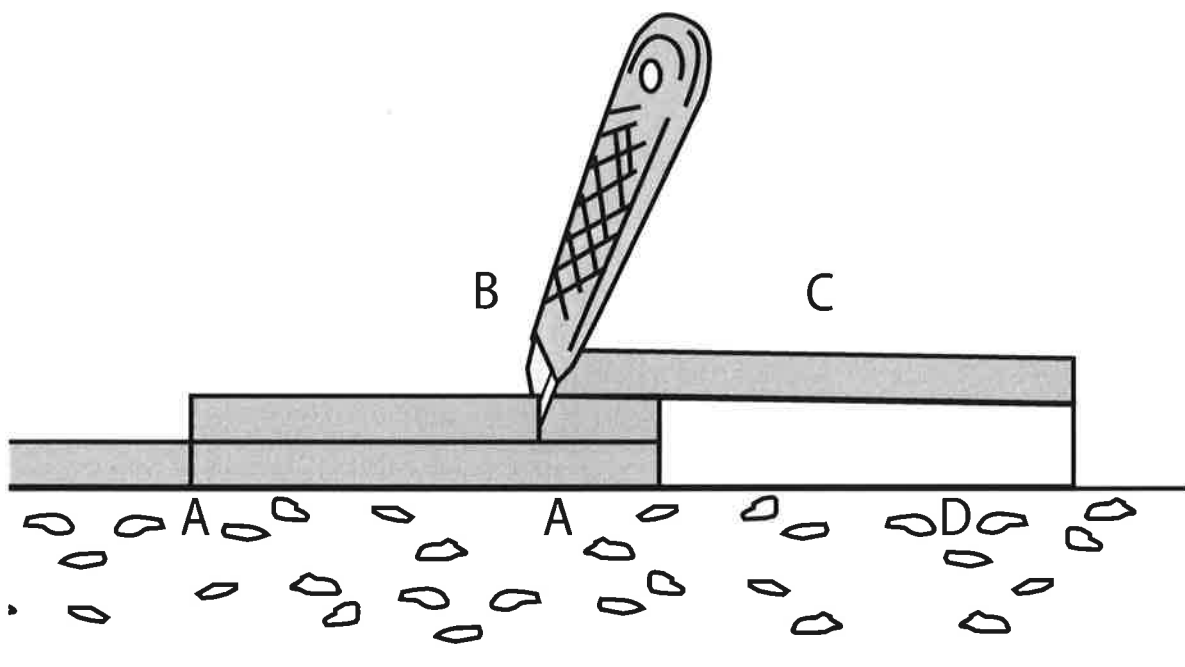
Never start installing carpet tiles against a wall. Always start from a calculated point in the room along a perpendicular line or chalk line. In offices start with the corridor and install the rooms afterwards, in order to obtain a good connection. Apply a recommended tackifier to an area convenient in size and once the tackifier has become completely dry, the carpet tiles can be installed in accordance with the illustration. The tiles should be firmly fitted together with a hand stretcher. Be sure that the underbackings are closely together to limit the appearance of joints to a minimum. Care should be taken with cut pile products to avoid trapping edge tufts between the tile joints. The use of hand-knicker ensures that the tiles be butted firmly together: joints will be less visible that way.





### 5.7.1 Cutting to skirting boards

To ensure a good fit to skirting boards cut the tile using the methods shown in the diagram, and place the cut edge against the skirting board. When calculating the starting point, check to ensure that tiles can be installed without the need for narrow cuts, minimum 10 cm. It may therefore be necessary to adjust the starting point.



### 5.7.2 Effects

The majority of carpet tiles may be installed to give four different appearances as shown in the diagram; arrows on the back of the tiles indicate lengthwise. On the samplecards and on the tile boxes you find the useable possibility for each type of tile.

#### 5.7.2.1 Quarter-turn appearance

For this effect the tiles should be installed with the pile direction at right angles to the adjacent tile. This type of installation may be necessary for carpet tiels with a short (loop) pile and needle felt or fiber bonded tiles. This type of installation should not be used with cut pile products.

### 5.7.2.2 Monolithic appearance

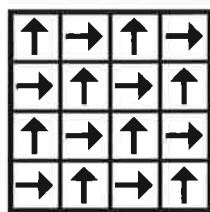
Tiles should be installed with the arrows on each tile pointing in the same direction. This type of installation is necessary for most cut and loop pile tiles and for printed qualities. Install the tiles as much as possible traverse to the light or with the arrows in the traffic direction of the room.

### 5.7.2.3 Brick wise appearance

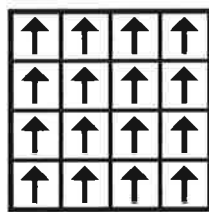
Tiles should be installed with the arrows on each tile pointing in the same direction, but started at the half of the width of the adjacent tile. This type of installation may be necessary for carpet tiles with a structural design

### 5.7.2.4 Ashlar appearance

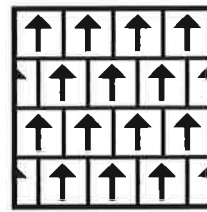
Tiles should be installed with the arrows on each tile pointing in the same direction, but started at the half of the length of the adjacent tile. This type of installation may be necessary for some loop pile carpet tiles.



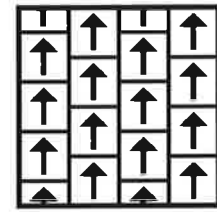
**checkerboard**



**monolithic**



**brick**



**ashlar**

### 5.7.3 Raised flooring systems

Raised access flooring systems are normally 600 mm panels. Desso is able to supply carpet tiles in the 500 mm format and certain products can be made available in 600 mm. The installation technique will vary dependent on whether 500 mm tiles are laid conventionally as with a normal floor or whether a 600 mm tile is placed over the access floor panels. Either size of carpet tile can be installed over a raised access flooring system using a recommended tackifier. The tackifier should be applied with a roller and care should be taken to ensure that the tackifier stops before the edge of the raised panels. This enables panels to be lifted freely as and when the need arises.

### 5.7.4 Underfloor heating

Carpet tiles can be installed on floors with underfloor heating, providing the floor surface temperature does not exceed 28 °C. The heating should be reduced at least 48 hours prior to installation. Only 48 hours after installation the heating system slowly may be turned up to the maximum of 28 °C.

### 5.7.5 Castor chairs

In areas where office furniture has castor wheels it is imperative that the tiles are installed on an all over tackifier system. To prevent damage occurring to the tiles, the castor wheel should have a minimum diameter of 50 mm and be at least 20 mm wide.

### 5.7.6 Stairs

Carpet tiles are suitable for installation on stairs, if fitted with nosings. The tiles and sections of tiles must be secured with a tackifier system on the treads. The risers can be secured with

either a single coat of tackifier applied to the riser or with a second coat applied to the back of the tile which, when allowed to dry, will act like a contact adhesive.

#### 5.7.7 Skirting board

When carpet tiles are used in the vertical plane as a skirting board, the application may need to be approved by a local fire officer.