



HOW-TO BOOKLET #3046 'GRASS' CARPETING



TOOL & MATERIAL CHECKLIST

- Tape Measure
- Utility Knife
- Roller
- Carpenter's Square
- Notched Adhesive Spreader
- Quality Multi-Purpose Waterproof Adhesive
- Chalkline/Chalk
- Straightedge
- Pushbroom
- Scissors

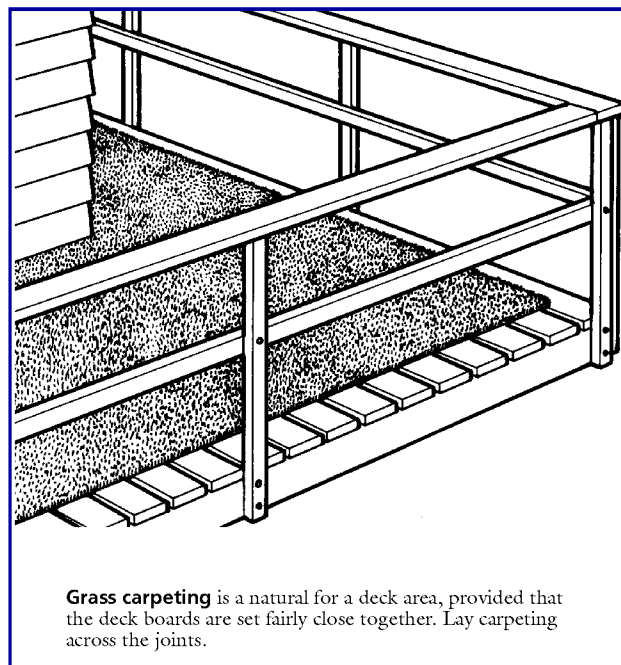
Read This Entire How-To Booklet for Specific Tools and Materials Not Noted in The Basics Listed Above.

One of the very easiest types of carpeting for a homeowner to install is “grass carpeting”. It is fairly inexpensive, readily available, and requires a minimum of basic tools for installation.

The material used in so-called “grass” carpeting is called polypropylene and often goes by the trade name of “Olefin”. The product is sold in a variety of colors in widths usually 6 feet wide, but also available 12 feet wide. The backings can vary from a flexible marine back which is a thin rubberized skin to stiff and sturdy action back, which looks like regular jute carpet backing. Both are waterproof. Grass carpeting may be installed indoors or outside over almost any surface including concrete, asphalt, and wood decking. Resistant to mildew and moisture, the carpets may be cleaned with a hose.

FIRST, PLAN THE AREA

In any area that you do, the first step is to measure the width of the project to determine exactly how many 6-foot- or 12-foot-wide pieces of carpeting you will need. Bring a sketch with these dimensions to the carpeting retailer.

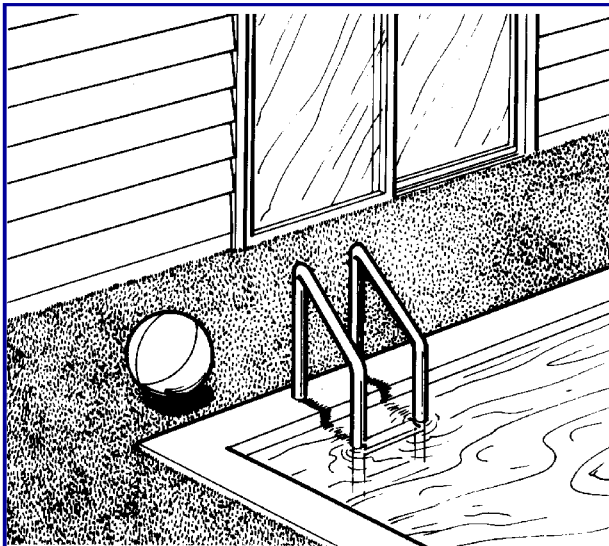


Grass carpeting is a natural for a deck area, provided that the deck boards are set fairly close together. Lay carpeting across the joints.

An example: Your project measures 11 feet wide by 17 feet long. You would need either two pieces of carpeting 6 feet wide and 18 feet long or, if purchasing from 12-foot-wide material, a single piece 12 feet wide and 18 feet long.

STEP 1: PREPARE THE SURFACE

Grass carpeting can be layed over almost any surface, but the surface must be smooth and dry. If you will install the material over tile, be sure that all the tiles are tightly bonded to the floor surface. If the material will go over a wood strip floor, wooden subfloor, or decking material, large wide cracks and holes should be filled with wood putty, which is sanded smooth and level when it is dry. Fill any cracks and holes in concrete with concrete patch; fill holes and cracks in asphalt with asphalt patching compound. If properly drained and compacted, the carpeting may be installed over earth surfaces.



Concrete surfaces at poolside benefit from grass carpeting's softer feel underfoot. The carpeting is resistant to moisture damage

STEP 2: CHECK THE WEATHER

Just before you're ready to install the carpeting, sweep up and remove any debris from the floor surface. The floor must be squeaky clean.

If you are installing the carpeting outdoors, check the weather report. The carpeting material is best installed when temperatures are from 60 to 75 F degrees: moderate. Also, the carpeting must be installed on a clear day and never during a rain or in a rainy season or period. The material needs at least 24 hours of dry weather so at least 90 percent of the adhesive will cure for a lasting installation. After the project has dried for 72 hours, it is completely "cured".

STEP 3: FITTING THE CARPETING

Unroll the pieces of carpeting to be installed over the floor area. Allow about 6 inches of extra carpeting at each end of the roll for cutting and fitting.

Now cut the edges to be joined so the edges are "square". Do this by folding over the edges of the pieces about 12 inches. This will expose the backing.

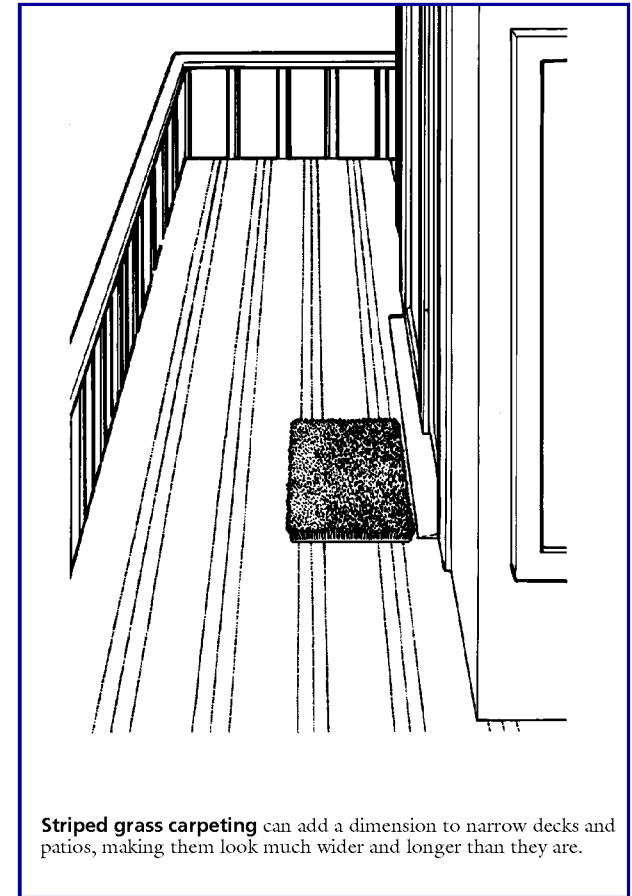
With the tape measure and chalkline, snap a line about 1-1/2-inch from the edge. Check it for square with a carpenter's square. Then with a utility knife and straight edges, trim the carpeting at the chalkline. **CAUTION:** Trim from the back only.

Now, trim all edges that will be joined, using the straightedge and utility knife. You may have to change the blades in the utility knife often. Work with a sharp blade.

If you are installing striped carpeting, make sure that you are trimming for a pattern match of the strips. Lay out the carpeting and adjust it so that the stripes will match after cutting.

Double-check your layout and your trim lines **TWICE** before you make any trim cuts.

Repeat this process for all widths that are required to cover the surface. We suggest that you roll up the carpeting sideways—from cut edge to cut edge—for easier handling of the material.



Striped grass carpeting can add a dimension to narrow decks and patios, making them look much wider and longer than they are.

STEP 4: THE GLUE-DOWN

When you are absolutely certain that all trim cuts have been properly made and that patterns match, you are ready to glue down the carpeting. Work with just one width of carpeting at a time. With a notched adhesive spreader, the size recommended by the adhesive manufacturer on the container of the adhesive, spread the adhesive for the first length and width of carpeting, plus one foot beyond the first "seam" position.

Unroll the carpeting into the adhesive and smooth out the carpeting with your hands. Work carefully; you want the surface just as smooth and even as possible. If the material “bunches” in the adhesive, lift the carpeting, retrowel the adhesive, and reset the carpeting. Easy does it; have patience.

STEP 5: JOINING PIECES

Note that the grass carpeting has a very definite nap that goes in a very definite direction, unless you are buying a non-directional grass. The non-directional grass usually is plainly marked by the store or the manufacturer of the product.

Make very sure that the two pieces that you are joining match in nap direction. That is, all joining sections must “sweep” in the same direction. Take your time and make sure the nap direction is correct.

Then, with the second strip of carpeting, hold one trimmed edge next to the edge of the strip that has been laid on the floor. You may need a helper to guide this second strip down so it is tightly butted against the installed strip. Don’t unroll the second strip. Just set it down tightly against the strip on the floor.

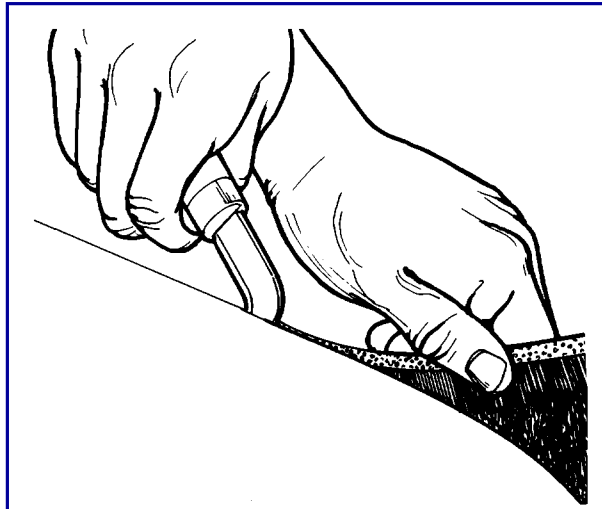
Now, with the second piece of carpeting still rolled, spread the adhesive for the second piece of carpeting (plus 1 foot) beyond the location of the next joining section—assuming there is another section.

Unroll the second piece of carpeting, butting it against the edge of the first piece, and setting it into the adhesive by unrolling the carpeting as you go. Make sure that the seams of both pieces are tightly butted together as the second piece of carpeting goes into the adhesive.

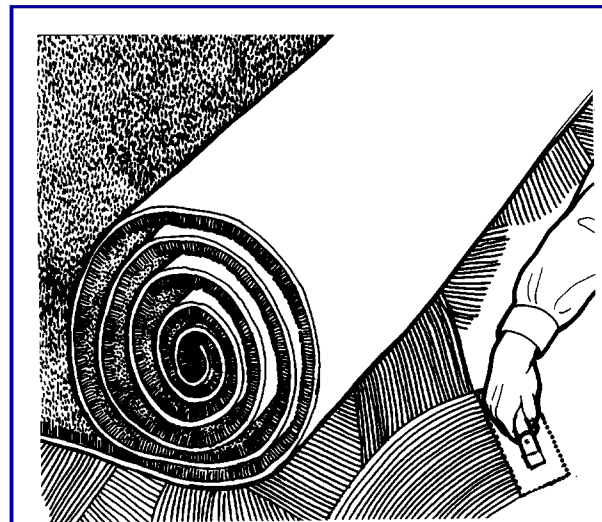
Continue the very same procedures as you install the remaining carpeting. Always be sure that the nap of each piece runs in the same direction.

STEP 6: TRIMMING

After the carpet has set into the adhesive, trim off the excess carpet around the entire perimeter of the area. Use a sharp utility knife for this, and change the blade when it starts becoming dull.



Trim carpet from the back only, checking it for square before making cuts. If you are trimming striped carpets, allow for matching after cut.



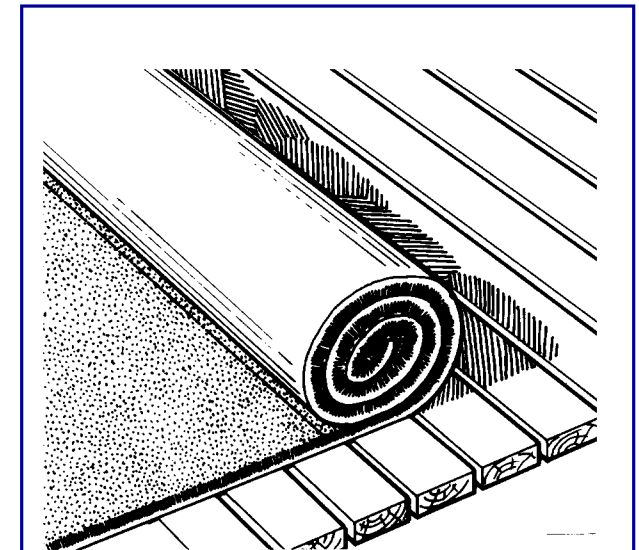
Spread adhesive with notched trowel the width and length of the carpeting, plus one foot beyond the first seam, if there is a seam.

Now is the time to also install any vinyl edging at exposed edges along thresholds, between rooms, and where the carpet ends. Use contact cement to set the edging into place.

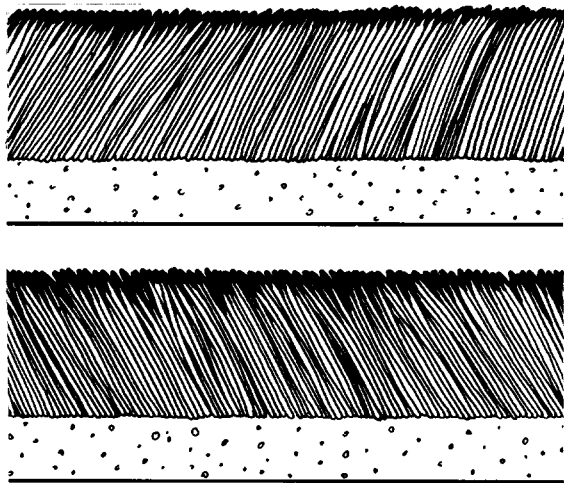
SOME GENERAL WORKING TIPS

Here are several “working” tips for grass carpeting that the experts use:

- ▶ If the carpet you bring home from the store seems stiff and hard to work, try rolling it out on a clean flat surface in the sunshine. Or, unroll the carpeting in a warm room and let it set 24 hours or so. The heat will make the carpeting more pliable.
- ▶ Carpeting adhesive “cures” in 24 hours. To be sure the carpeting is firmly imbedded into the adhesive, use a lightweight carpet roller on the carpeting, running the roller lengthwise and widthwise of the installation. If a roller is not available, you can use the rounded back of a push broom. Press down on the handle of the broom. Press down on the handle of the broom fairly hard.



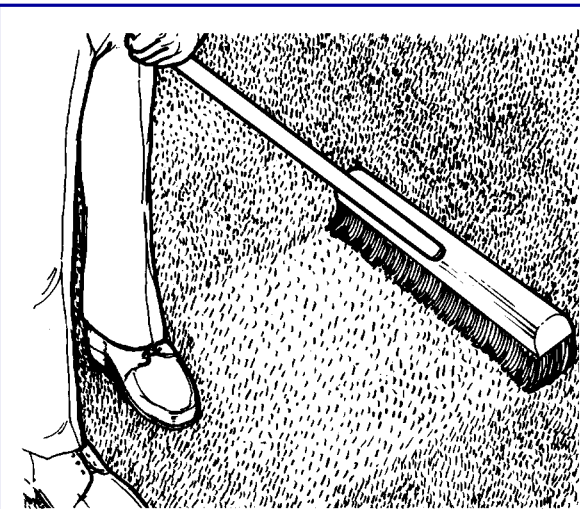
Unroll carpeting in adhesive. Smooth it out with your hands so there are no bumps. If there are bumps, lift the carpet and re-set it again.



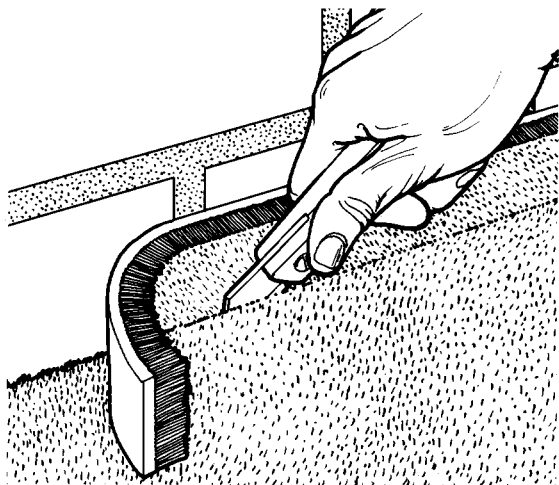
Pile of carpeting must always run the same direction, so check the direction when you join two pieces of carpeting at the seams.

Grass carpeting takes a minimum amount of maintenance to keep it looking new. However, you should sweep the carpeting often with a stiff broom and brush. It's also a good idea to hose down the carpeting from time-to-time.

You can remove spots and stains with a mild household detergent and water. Rinse with clean water. To remove oil and grease spots, use a solvent.



Use a **stiff broom** and brush to clean carpeting



Use a **utility knife** to trim excess carpeting at walls and other vertical obstructions. Use edging at thresholds and where carpet ends.



A **lightweight carpet roller** that you can rent will set carpeting firmly into adhesive. Crisscross carpeting with the roller.



If **setting carpeting** over soil, make sure area is well drained and soil is tightly compacted. Make trim cuts as you come to them.