Brush-Coir by Amarco Products

Installations Instructions

I.   GENERAL

These have been developed to offer the best opportunity for proper and successful flooring installation, and any deviation may result in failure. Installation instructions, all Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and label instructions must be read, fully understood and followed. For all situations that are not covered in this document, please contact Amarco Products.

Amarco Products does have an expansion factor under certain moisture conditions. In some cases significant moisture may cause some minor bubbling of the surface. Under ordinary conditions this would not be to an extent to cause a tripping hazard and this minor bubbling would disappear shortly under drying out of the material.

In small areas of installation (sizes which can be easily removed for cleaning) the material may be laid loosely on a smooth sub-floor providing it has an adequate expansion gap allowed during installation around its perimeter to allow for the expansion under high moisture conditions.

When the Brush-Coir is 100% saturated, the expansion will be about 1/16 inch per 12 inches of length and width. Therefore, as an example, if 12 feet long it could require approx. ¾ inch of an expansion gap under totally saturated conditions. This can be expected for exterior installations or where the material is exposed to water. Expansion does not occur immediately when wet, it may take several hours to fully expand.

Should any bubbling occur, then it may be alleviated by washing or soaking the entire mat with clear water, which will cause an overall uniform expansion eliminating the ripples or bubbling of the surface.

When the Brush-Coir dries thoroughly after expansion through water saturation, it will return to approx. 90% of its original size. If the mat is re-saturated it will then again expand to the maximum dimensions to which it had originally expanded when soaked. This expansion and contraction factor must be taken into consideration with any loose laid installation, particularly in large areas where the possibility of heavy moisture conditions exist.

In large areas where substantial moisture is anticipated it is recommended to "wet-set" in PS-100 adhesive, following the adhesive manufacturers written application instructions to fully adhere the Brush-Coir to a properly prepared substrate as defined by *ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Subfloors to Receive Resilient Flooring.*

Note: For this type of application, if required, an exterior grade patching or leveling compound is recommended. This information is based on extreme wet conditions.

Thermal expansion is minimal and it is normally not necessary to take this into consideration when fitting **mats** in mat wells or recesses, etc. Extremely cold temperatures will reduce the flexibility of Brush-Coir. If handling is necessary during subfreezing temperatures it should be done with caution as extreme bending of the backing may cause cracking.

Natural color Brush-Coir is made of coir (coconut fiber) yarns containing no dyes, bleaches or coloring agents. At times there may be a natural variation of the color of the Brush-Coir; this is a characteristic of the matting and is not a defect. This may appear as streaks of various

shades on the mat surface but in no way will it affect the life of the product. These streaks are attractive and add to the appeal of the natural fiber product.

No color dye or coloring process for Coir is fade proof or color fast. When exposed to natural light or UV the colored matting will fade depending on the amount of exposure.

Note: We cannot warrant that any dyed material we produce will not fade and therefore do not consider fading as a product defect.

Shedding condition is not a product defect, but natural with new mat installations. This condition will be minimal after use and vacuuming several times.

The following factors regarding the installation procedures of the Brush-Coir must be taken into consideration by the installers:

(A)   Conditioning

During the manufacturing process Brush-Coir is rolled up under tension so as to eliminate roll telescope and any handling problems. This results in some stretching of the backing from its original manufactured "un-stretched" size. Upon unrolling of the material some initial shrinkage may occur. This is why the Brush-Coir must be unrolled, laid flat and upside-down to acclimate at its service condition (approx. 70° F) for a minimum of 24 hours before cutting to size.

(B)   Cutting

Cut only after proper acclimatization of the mat. Always cut the back of the Brush-Coir using a sharp bladed utility knife and a straight edge; do not face cut as you will damage the pile.

(C)   Seaming

For large installations where seaming is required it is necessary to perform this on the job site because of shipping and handling with the heavy material. We recommend using our own seaming method, utilizing thin vinyl tape and the "solvent system". However many installers prefer their own methods that they are familiar with such as Heat Seaming methods used for carpet installations. These installations may prove satisfactory but we cannot offer any warranty for these procedures.

(D)   Fully Adhered

If required, fully adhere the Brush-Coir (in non-extreme wet conditions) using MI 1000 adhesive over a properly prepared substrate as defined by *ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Subfloors to Receive Resilient Flooring.*

On and below grade concrete subfloors require a confirmed effective vapor retarder with a low permeance (≤ 0.1) having a minimum thickness of 10 mils, or meeting the requirements of *ASTM E1745 — Standard Specification for Water Vapor Retarders Used in Contact with Soil or Granular Fill under Concrete Slabs*. Confirm it was placed directly underneath the concrete, above the granular fill. If this is not possible then a topically applied moisture mitigation system that conforms to *ASTM F3010 – Standard Practice for Two-Component Resin Based Membrane-Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Floor Coverings* must be applied following the manufacturer's written instructions.

Moisture testing is mandatory following the protocol of *ASTM F2170 – Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs using in situ Probes*, regardless of grade level or whether the concrete is freshly poured or classified as an older slab. It is the responsibility of the General Contractor/End User to have the concrete subfloor tested for moisture. It is the responsibility of the Flooring Contractor to request the moisture test results prior to installing the flooring, or they may wish to perform the testing themselves. It is also recommended that an International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) Tier 2 Certified Technician performs the moisture testing. If for any reason you are unable to drill into the subfloor, contact a Amarco Products representative.

The test results must not exceed the maximum acceptable relative humidity for the adhesive. If test results exceed the maximum relative humidity, the installation must not proceed until either the subfloor dries to an acceptable level or an effective mitigation system is used that conforms to *ASTM F3010* is installed following the manufacturer's written instructions.

Test methodology, results and photographs must be documented and provided to the flooring contractor, General Contractor, owner and/or architect. Providing the moisture test results are acceptable to both Amarco Products and the adhesive manufacturer then the installation may proceed.

Acceptable Adhesive: PS-100

(Maintenance Instructions Continued on Next Page)

Maintenance Instructions

Brush-Coir

These instructions supersede any verbal or written instructions from Amarco Products representatives, and must be followed in order for the warranty to be in effect.

Overall

Preventative maintenance: Because 90% of all dirt in a building comes in on footwear, Amarco Products strongly recommends installing and maintaining entrance matting (preferably permanently installed) at all outdoor entrances (20-30 linear feet for major entrances; less for infrequently used entrances). Doing this will improve indoor air quality, reduce flooring maintenance costs, and lengthen the life of your interior floors.

Safety: Always post "Wet floor" and/or "Caution" tape when wet maintenance is going to be performed. Refer to cleaners' MSDS for any Personal Protective Equipment requirements.

Routine Cleaning

1. Vacuum the carpet with a heavy-duty commercial vacuum (rotary brushes recommended) to remove all dirt and grit. **This is the single most important maintenance activity for preserving the floor's appearance and performance – and typically the most overlooked and omitted.** Post "wet floor" signs.

    a. A slow pass against the carpet pile is more effective than several quick passes.

    b. A vacuum brush will open up the tufts.

    c. Agitation will loosen the soil.

    d. Slow movement allows time for air to circulate through the face of the yarn and extract the soil.

Periodic Cleaning

Absorbent powder is recommended for interim cleaning. The powder contains a carrier, which incorporates a solvent and detergent so that oil and water debris can be absorbed by the powder.

1. Spread the powder on the carpet.

2. Allow the powder to absorb dirt and moisture from the carpet.

3. Vacuum the carpet with a heavy-duty commercial vacuum (rotary brushes recommended) to remove all dirt and grit. Post "wet floor" signs.

Deep Cleaning

Eventually the carpet will require more intensive cleaning. The frequency of such cleanings will depend upon the amount of traffic in the area.

The most effective method for deep cleaning is hot water extraction.

1. Move any furniture or fixtures to expose the entire carpet.
2. Vacuum the carpet to remove any loose soil to allow the extractor to be as effective as possible.
3. Plug in the extractor and allow the wash tank to heat the water. Add defoamer to the extraction tank to prevent excess foaming.
4. Inject the steam into the carpet according to the instructions on the machine you are using.
5. Pull the cleaning wand slowly toward you.
6. many extractors instruct you to close the cleaner dispenser valve just before you first your first line so the solution won't "puddle".
7. Lift the wand and return it to the original position and then pull it again to vacuum up the excess water.
8. Begin a new line with it slightly overlapping the previous one.
9. Work quickly to avoid over-wetting the carpet. Do not let the carpet soak. Excess water can shrink the backing or carpet lining.
10. Allow the carpet time to dry completely and vacuum it again.

Spot Removal

CLEANING METHODS

1	**Solvent** > blot > **detergent** > blot > **water** > blot
2	**Detergent** > blot > **ammonia** > blot > **detergent** > blot > **water** > blot
3	**Solvent** > **detergent** > blot > **water** > blot
4	**Detergent** > blot > **white vinegar** > **detergent** > blot > **water** > blot
5	**Detergent** > blot > **ammonia** > blot > **white vinegar** > blot > **water** > blot
6	**Detergent** > blot > **white vinegar** > blot > **ammonia** > blot > **water** > blot
7	**Freeze** with ice cubes > **shatter** with blunt object > vacuum > **solvent** > wait several minutes > blot. Repeat if necessary
8	Blot > **water** > blot > **ammonia** > **detergent** > blot > **water** > blot
9	**Denatured alcohol** > blot > **white vinegar**. Repeat if necessary

10 Call a carpet cleaning professional

11 Use cold ingredients **detergent** > blot > **ammonia** blot > **detergent** > blot > **water** > blot

12 **Detergent** > blot > **vinegar** > blot > **ammonia** > blot > **detergent** > blot > **water**

Caution:
No carpet is absolutely stain proof. In general hot liquids, bleaches and products containing naturals dyes such as curry, mustard, herbal tea etc., can cause permanent discoloration

CLEANING METHODS
(Number determines cleaning method to be used)

Item	No.	Item	No.	Item	No.
Asphalt	1	Gravy, culinary sauces	1	Shoe Polish (liquid)	10
Beer	4	Hair oil	1	Shoe Polish (paste)	1
Berries	4	Hairspray	1	Soft Drinks	4
Blood	11	Hand Lotion	1	Solder	10
Butter/ Margarine	1	Ice Cream	2	Soya Sauce	2
Cheese	2	Ink (ball point)	1	Starch	2
Chewing Gum	7	Ink (felt-tip marker)	1	Sweets	4
Chocolate	2	Ink (permanent)	6	Tar, Soot	1
Coffee	4	Ketchup	2	Tea	4
Cooking Oil	1	Lacquer	3	Toothpaste	2
Cough Syrup	5	Lard	1	Typewriter ribbon	1
Crayon	1	Linseed Oil	1	Urine (dry)	12
Curry	10	Machine Oil	1	Urine (wet)	8
Dye	10	Mascara	1	Varnish	3
Egg	2	Mayonnaise	2	Vomit	5
Excrement	2	Milk	2	Wax (candle)	7
Foundation Cream	1	Mixed Drinks	4	Wax (paste)	1
Fruit Juice	4	Nail Varnish	1	White Glue	2
Furniture Polish	1	Paint (latex)	1	Wine	4
Furniture Polish (stain)	9	Rust	10		
Garden Soil	2	Salad Dressing	1		