

# INSTRUCTIONS

## #24-202 Jr. Carpet Stretcher

### POWER STRETCHING FOR NEW CARPET

Carpet must be properly power stretched and firmly hooked onto the tack strip in accordance with the seven-step procedure described in Figure 1. The use of a power stretcher is mandatory. Devices used as a substitute for, or an attachment to, a power stretcher may cause injury, damage carpet or subfloors, or result in an inadequate amount of stretch and are not acceptable.

Failure to power stretch a carpet may result in:

- Wrinkling and buckling over time
- Localized damage to the carpet
- Delamination

**Note:** For patterned carpet, care must be exercised to ensure pattern alignment along walls. The use of a power stretcher, stay-nails, and a "dead man" may be necessary to achieve proper pattern match at seams and alignment along walls.

### AMOUNT OF STRETCH

Due to the diversity of carpet backings available, the carpet manufacturer's recommendations for the amount of stretch to be applied should be followed. In the absence of specific recommendations, tufted carpet with synthetic backing should be stretched 1% to 1 1/2% in length and in width.

**Note:** Slightly less stretch applied in the width as compared to carpet length stretch will usually lessen seam-peaking tendencies.

**Caution:** Wrinkling and buckling are most often caused by the failure to adequately stretch the carpet using a power stretcher, the use of an inappropriate cushion, adverse temperature and humidity conditions, or inadequate conditioning time.

### GUIDANCE FOR RE-STRETCHING

Buckles, wrinkles, and bubbles normally do not occur with properly stretched-in carpet. Power stretching following these recommendations should correct the situation when these conditions arise.

- Remove all furniture from each room.
- Loosen the carpet from all tack strip.
- Check that all tack strip is firmly anchored to floor. The proper gully for the tack strip is slightly less than the thickness of the carpet, and not exceeding 3/8 inch. Check for cushion (padding) that may have bunched up under the carpet because of inadequate fastening of the cushion. Check for delamination of the secondary backing. Correct all of these conditions before proceeding.
- The seams are to be cut open at all doorways, and the edges at the seams are to be sealed or butte red before re-seaming.
- Using a power stretcher, not a knee-kicker, the carpet is to be stretched 1% to 1 1/2% in each direction in each room.
- Any device that may cause injury, damage carpet or subfloors, or result in an inadequate amount of stretch is not acceptable as a substitute for or an attachment to a power stretcher.
- Restretching one room and not restretching an adjoining room or hallway will likely allow wrinkles to reappear.
- Most floor vents and doorways will require pieces to be seamed into the carpet as the carpet is repositioned with power stretching.
- Edges of carpet that will be placed under a metal strip should be sealed with seam sealer adhesive to deter raveling. Exposed edges fitted to a hard surface flooring should also be sealed.
- Follow all installation guidelines as listed in the Carpet and Rug Institute Residential Carpet Installation Standard-CRI 105.

### ASSEMBLY

- Set the tail block at the wall you are to stretch from, the tail block should be adjacent to baseboard and not the wall. Place the power head approximately 4" from the wall you are stretching to. Stretcher must be placed at the prescribed angle for the type of carpet you are installing. A standard stretching diagram is supplied, but always follow the carpet manufacturer's recommendations on stretching.
- Apply the extension tubes to the desired length that you are to stretch.

Note: The tubes provided are made from high strength steel tubing, however, on long stretches where tube bending can be an issue, it is recommended to overlap tubes as much as possible to provide a stronger tubing section, and decrease the chances of tube bending.

- Set the pin penetration: the dial on the head of the stretcher provides ample adjustments for the carpet and backing to be installed. The pins should penetrate the carpet backing; make sure the pins are not through the backing and into the floor.

### STRETCHING THE CARPET

- Follow the carpet manufacturer's recommendations for the amount of stretch and methods to be used. Some woven carpets do not stretch in length, while other woven carpets do not stretch in width. On carpets with no stretch, these should be snug fit in the prescribed directions.
- Apply the head towards the first corner to stretch, press down the handle to stretch the carpet to the wall. Apply downward pressure with short even strokes. When the handle is in the downward position the stretching is complete.
- Lift handle to release pressure, which will unlock the pins and move on to the next stretch. Follow the carpet manufacturer's recommendations on distance between stretches, or follow the supplied chart.

### MAINTENANCE

- When not in use, it is recommended to keep stretcher in protective case. Do not store in wet /damp areas
- The tubes that are supplied are plated to prevent rusting; however, proper cleaning and lubricating will provide ease of use and a longer life.
- Periodically lubricate moving parts.
- Inspect the product before each use; replace any worn or broken parts before use.

The power stretcher unit is virtually maintenance free other than cleaning and lubricating.

### STRETCH DIAGRAM FOR TUFTED CARPET

