

Guidance for Restretching to Remove Buckles, Wrinkles, and Bubbles

Buckles, wrinkles, and bubbles normally do not occur with properly stretched-in carpet. If wrinkles do occur, proper stretching with a power stretcher, following these recommendations should correct the situation.

- Remove ALL FURNITURE from each room.
- Unhook the carpet from all tack strips.
- Verify that all tack strips are firmly anchored to floor. Inspect pins on tack strip to ensure they are free of rust and are at the proper angle.
- Verify that cushion (padding) has not wrinkled under the carpet due to inadequate fastening of the cushion.
- Verify there is no delamination of the carpet's secondary backing.
- Cut open the seams at all doorways
- Using a power stretcher, not a knee-kicker, stretch the carpet 1% to 1½% in each direction in each room. The method to be used is described in the current CRI Installation Standards. The knee-kicker cannot produce adequate stretch to prevent future wrinkles. Stretchers with a spike on the end are not to be used.
- Restretching one room and leaving an adjoining room or hallway not restretched will likely cause 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 resist raveling. Exposed edges fitted to a hard surface flooring should also be sealed.
- Finally, always refer to installation instructions as listed in the CRI Carpet Installation Standards (CRI 104 Installation Standard (Commercial) and/or CRI 105 Installation Standard (Residential) <http://www.carpet-rug.org/Industry-Resources/CRI-Installation-Standard.aspx>

