

Stair trim & expansion profile range

Installation Guide

Stair Nosing (Flush & Return Profiles) | Single Sided Expansion Bars | Double Sided Expansion Bars
For use with Rhino Premium Hardfloor – WPC and COREtec Floating Floor Ranges

IMPORTANT: Read this guide in full before beginning installation. Improper installation, or failure to comply with the requirements set out in this document, may void the product warranty and/or result in non-compliance with the New Zealand Building Code. All installations must comply with NZS AS 1884:2013 (Floor Coverings — Resilient Sheet and Tiles — Installation Practices), the flooring manufacturer's own installation instructions, and the New Zealand Building Code (NZBC), in particular Clause E3 (Internal Moisture).

NOTE: This guide covers general installation principles for the Carpet Court NZ stair trim and expansion profile range. Where project drawings, adhesive manufacturer instructions, or product-specific directions differ from this guide, those requirements take priority. The installer must assess the staircase or floor junction, substrate, product profile and site conditions before starting.

Part A: Product Overview

1. Product Range

This guide applies to the following Carpet Court NZ trim products, for use with Rhino Premium Hardfloor – WPC (12mm UniClic floating floor) and COREtec floating floor ranges. Both are floating floor systems and must be allowed to expand and contract freely at every junction, as set out through this guide.

Product	Description	Fixing Method
Stair Nosing — Flush Profile (Standard)	Sits flush with the tread edge on stair applications where the flooring is fully bonded to the stair substrate.	Bonded directly to the substrate — Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or equivalent.
Stair Nosing — Return Profile (Standard)	Returns down the face of the riser/ tread edge for a wrapped finish on stair applications where flooring is fully bonded to the substrate.	Bonded directly to the substrate — Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or equivalent.
Stair Nosing — Flush Profile (Top Step / Floating Floor Application)	Used where a floating floor meets the top step or landing. Bridges the junction while allowing the floor to continue expanding and contracting.	Glued directly to the substrate — Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or equivalent — positioned to leave an expansion gap beneath the profile above the floating floor edge.
Stair Nosing — Return Profile (Top Step / Floating Floor Application)	As above, with a return profile wrapping the leading edge.	Glued directly to the substrate — Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or equivalent — positioned to leave an expansion gap beneath the profile above the floating floor edge.
Single Sided Expansion Bar	Used where a floating floor meets a fixed structure on one side only (wall, cabinetry, hearth, fixed joinery).	Fixing channel bonded to the substrate — Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or equivalent. Floating floor edge must remain free to move beneath the bar.
Double Sided Expansion Bar	Used where a floating floor meets another floating floor — room breaks, large-area intermediate expansion joints, or doorways between floating floor areas.	Central fixing channel bonded to the substrate — Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or equivalent. Both floor edges must remain free to move beneath the bar.

1.1 Flooring Products Covered

This trim range is designed for use with Carpet Court's Rhino Premium Hardfloor – WPC (12mm UniClic floating floor) and COREtec floating floor ranges. Both are floating floor systems installed without adhesive to the subfloor, and rely on maintained expansion gaps at every perimeter and junction — the Top Step nosing and both Expansion Bar products in this range exist specifically to preserve that allowance.

Standard (substrate-glued) nosings apply only where this trim meets a floor surface that is fixed directly to the substrate — for example, tile, glue-down flooring, or a bonded stair tread — rather than the WPC or COREtec floating floor itself.

1.2 Choosing the Correct Variant

- Use the Standard (substrate-glued) Flush or Return nosing wherever the adjoining flooring is fully bonded to the substrate (e.g. glue-down LVT stair treads).
- Use the Top Step (floating floor) Flush or Return nosing wherever this trim meets a floating floor and an expansion allowance must be preserved beneath the profile at the junction.
- Use a Single Sided Expansion Bar where a floating floor meets a fixed structure.
- Use a Double Sided Expansion Bar where a floating floor meets another floating floor area, or where an intermediate expansion joint is required in a large floor area.

IMPORTANT: All products in this range are glued directly to the substrate. The difference between variants is not whether they are glued, but whether an expansion gap must be preserved beneath the profile. Never fully bed a Top Step nosing down onto a floating floor edge, and never leave a Standard nosing under-supported. Restricting a floating floor's ability to move will cause buckling or joint failure and void the warranty.

Part B: Pre-Installation Requirements

2. General Pre-Installation Checks

These checks apply to all products in this range — stair nosings and expansion bars alike — regardless of fixing method.

2.1 Staircase and Substrate Inspection

- Inspect the complete staircase or floor junction before cutting any material. Each tread, riser, or floor edge must be structurally sound, clean, dry and free from movement.
- Remove loose material, protruding nails, staples, old underlay, paint build-up and dried adhesive residue.
- Correct high spots, hollows, damaged edges and loose or squeaking components before proceeding.
- Do not rely on adhesive to level an unsuitable substrate or to bridge unsupported gaps.
- Confirm the substrate is dry and suitable for bonding. Where the adjoining flooring required moisture testing prior to its own installation, confirm those results before fixing trims.

2.2 Confirm the Installation Build Up

- Plan how the nosing or expansion bar will sit relative to the adjoining flooring, substrate and any underlay. Confirm finished heights will be consistent from step to step, or level across a floating floor junction.
- Check whether an existing stair edge or subfloor must be trimmed, packed out, or otherwise adjusted to suit the selected profile.
- Allow for the combined thickness of the trim, flooring, underlay (where applicable) and adhesive bed.
- Pay particular attention to the top and bottom of a staircase, and to any point where the flooring finish meets an adjoining floor covering or floor level change.

2.3 Product Inspection and Preparation

- Confirm the supplied profile, colour and finish match the specification and the adjoining flooring.
- Check board/profile direction, colour variation and grain before final placement, and arrange components for a balanced, consistent appearance.
- Store and condition trim components in line with the acclimatisation requirements of the flooring product they are being installed with.
- Do not install any component showing visible defects. Once installed, a component is considered accepted.

IMPORTANT: Do not sand, dry sweep, or dry scrape any existing floor covering, adhesive or underlay without first testing for asbestos, particularly in buildings constructed prior to 1990. Any removal of asbestos-containing materials must be undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016 and WorkSafe NZ guidelines.

Part C: Tools and Materials

3. Tools and Materials Required

3.1 Tools - All Products

- Tape measure, straightedge, square and pencil
- Measuring, marking, cutting and scribing tools appropriate to the trim material
- Spacers and temporary weights or bracing
- Clean cotton rags and appropriate adhesive clean-up solvent
- PPE: safety glasses, hearing protection, dust mask (P2 rated minimum)

3.2 Adhesive

A single adhesive is specified across this range — Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or an approved equivalent high-strength construction/ flooring adhesive rated for the substrate and trim material. All products, including Top Step nosings, are glued directly to the substrate.

NOTE: On Top Step nosings, adhesive is applied only to the substrate contact area at the back of the profile — never beneath the leading edge or within the expansion gap above the floating floor (see Part E). Always read the adhesive manufacturer's technical data sheet for coverage rate, open time and cure time before use, and confirm the correct adhesive with your Carpet Court representative if in any doubt.

3.3 Additional Materials

- Colour-matched flexible sealant, where required, for closing small perimeter gaps
- Expansion gap spacers
- Fixings and packers as required by the specific build-up

Part D: Installation: Substrate-Fixed Trims

(Standard Flush & Return Stair Nosings — Single Sided & Double Sided Expansion Bars)

4. Step-by-Step Installation - Substrate-Fixed Trims

This section applies to Standard (substrate-glued) Stair Nosings, and to both Expansion Bar products, all of which are bonded directly to the substrate using Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or equivalent.

Step 1 - Check the Substrate

- Inspect the complete staircase or floor junction before cutting any material, per Section 2.
- Remove loose material, protruding nails, staples, old underlay, paint build-up and dried adhesive.
- Correct high spots, hollows, damaged edges and loose or squeaking components.

Step 2 - Confirm Build-Up and Prepare Components

- Plan the finished build-up as per Section 2.2, allowing for trim, flooring, underlay and adhesive thickness.
- Remove any attached underlay, foam or backing from the areas of the trim that will be bonded — the trim must make full, stable contact with the adhesive and substrate.
- Keep visible faces protected while cutting and fitting. Check colour variation and direction before final placement.

Step 3 - Measure, Cut and Dry Fit

- Measure each step or junction individually — do not assume all steps or runs are identical.
- Cut components accurately and dry fit the complete run before applying adhesive. Scribe to walls, strings or irregular surfaces as required.
- Check that joints close correctly and visible edges are neat. Do not force a component into position — adjust the cut until it fits correctly.

Step 4 - Apply Adhesive and Fix to Substrate

- Apply Bostik Tuf-As-Nails (or equivalent) in accordance with the manufacturer's required coverage, open time and curing conditions.
- For Stair Nosings: apply adhesive to all required contact areas, including beneath the front of the nosing. Avoid small isolated beads that leave the nosing unsupported.
- For Expansion Bars: apply adhesive to the central fixing channel only. Do not allow adhesive to bridge under the wings of the bar where the floating floor edges sit — both floor edges must remain free to move.
- Avoid excessive adhesive where squeeze-out could contaminate the finished surface or a locking joint. Clean accidental adhesive marks immediately using the approved cleaning method.

Step 5 - Position and Secure

- Place the nosing or bar firmly into its final position. Check that it is straight, level and fully supported, particularly around the front edge and any return.
- Use temporary weights, tape or bracing where required, without damaging the finish. Never leave a nosing suspended over a void or supported only by the flooring joint.
- For Expansion Bars, confirm the floating floor edge(s) sit freely under the bar wings with the correct expansion gap maintained — do not compress or pin the floor edge under the bar.

Step 6 - Cure

- Keep the area free from foot traffic, impact and movement for the full curing period stated by the adhesive manufacturer.
- Maintain suitable temperature and ventilation during curing. Leave weights, tape or bracing in place for the required period.
- Prevent other trades from using the stair or floor junction until the installation is secure.

Step 7 - Finishing

- Once cured, inspect all joints and edges. Apply a neat, uniform bead of colour-matched flexible sealant only where required to close small perimeter gaps.
- Do not use sealant to disguise poor cutting, unsupported edges, or excessive gaps.
- Remove all adhesive residue, dust and installation marks. Confirm there are no sharp edges, movement or trip points.

IMPORTANT: Stair nosings and expansion bars installed under this Part are fixed components and must not be left as a floating installation. Full, continuous support and bonding to the substrate is required.

Part E: Installation: Top Step Stair Nosing (Floating Floor Interface)

(Flush & Return Profiles — Expansion Allowance Required)

5. Step-by-Step Installation - Top Step Nosing

IMPORTANT: The Top Step nosing variant is glued directly to the substrate, the same as a Standard nosing. However, an expansion gap must be left beneath the profile, above the floating floor edge it adjoins, to allow the floor to continue expanding and contracting. Do not bond, pack, or bridge this gap with adhesive, sealant or packers — doing so will restrict the floating floor's movement and may cause buckling or joint failure. This will void the product warranty.

Step 1 - Confirm the Floating Floor Installation

- Confirm the floating floor has already been installed up to the top step or landing in accordance with its own manufacturer's instructions, with the correct expansion gap left at the stair edge.
- Do not proceed until the floating floor's own expansion gap and edge condition at the top step have been checked and confirmed correct.

Step 2 - Dry Fit the Nosing

- Dry fit the Top Step nosing over the junction. Position it so the leading edge sits over — but does not bear down on — the floating floor, leaving a clear void beneath the profile above the floor edge.
- Check the nosing sits straight, level, and consistent with the adjoining tread or landing height.
- Identify the substrate contact area at the back of the profile, clear of the floating floor edge, where the nosing will actually be glued down.
- Confirm the gap beneath the leading edge of the profile is consistent along the full run and matches the expansion allowance required for the floating floor.

Step 3 - Apply Adhesive to the Substrate

- Apply Bostik Tuf-As-Nails (or equivalent) to the substrate contact area at the back of the profile only, in accordance with the adhesive manufacturer's coverage, open time and cure requirements.
- Do not apply adhesive under the leading edge of the profile, or anywhere within the expansion gap above the floating floor — this area must remain a clear, unbonded void.
- Do not allow adhesive to squeeze out and bridge into the expansion gap during fixing.

Step 4 - Fix the Nosing to the Substrate

- Press the nosing down firmly onto the glued substrate area only, keeping the leading edge clear of the floating floor as set out in Step 2.
- Wipe off any adhesive squeeze-out immediately using the approved cleaning method for the finish.
- Use temporary weights, tape or bracing where required to hold the nosing in position while the adhesive cures.

Step 5 - Confirm the Expansion Gap

- Once fixed, check along the full run that a clear, unobstructed expansion gap remains beneath the profile above the floating floor edge.
- Do not fill, pack, or bridge this gap with adhesive, sealant, or a rigid filler, and never fix the profile down through the floating floor into the substrate.
- Where a small visible gap remains at the perimeter face of the nosing, this may be closed with a colour-matched flexible sealant only — never in a way that closes off the expansion void beneath the profile.

Step 6 - Cure and Check

- Keep the area free from foot traffic for the full cure period stated by the adhesive manufacturer.
- Once cured, confirm the nosing is firmly and fully fixed to the substrate, and that the floating floor beneath retains its ability to expand and contract freely into the gap left under the profile.

Part G: New Zealand Building Code Compliance

9. Relevant NZ Standard and Codes

The installer is responsible for ensuring that all installation work complies with the New Zealand Building Code (NZBC) and applicable New Zealand and Australian Standards. The following references are relevant to this installation:

Standard / Code	Relevance
NZS AS 1884:2013	Floor Coverings — Resilient Sheet and Tiles — Installation Practices. Primary installation standard referenced by this guide.
NZBC Clause E3	Internal Moisture — controls moisture from internal sources including condensation and spillage.
NZBC Clause F2	Hazardous Building Materials — relevant where existing flooring or substrates may contain asbestos.
NZBC Clause D1	Access Routes — slip resistance requirements for stair nosings and flooring in accessible areas.
NZS 3604	Timber-framed buildings — subfloor clearance, ventilation and vapour barrier requirements.
Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016	Removal and management of asbestos-containing materials.
WorkSafe NZ	Guidelines for managing asbestos-containing materials in buildings.

10. Warranty Conditions

The following conditions must be met for the warranty on this trim range to remain valid. Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the warranty being voided.

- All installation work must be carried out by a competent, experienced flooring installer.
- The correct product variant must be used for the application — Standard (substrate-glued) trims for fully-bonded flooring, and Top Step (floating floor) nosings for floating floor junctions.
- Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or an approved equivalent must be used for all substrate-fixed bonding. Use of non-approved adhesives voids the warranty.
- Top Step nosings must be glued directly to the substrate using Bostik Tuf-As-Nails or an approved equivalent, with the expansion gap beneath the profile left clear, unbonded and unpacked.
- Expansion allowances must be maintained and must not be bridged by adhesive, sealant or rigid fixings at any Top Step nosing or expansion bar.
- The warranty does not cover damage caused by flooding, structural movement, or installation in unsuitable conditions.

11. Disclaimer

Carpet Court NZ Ltd and the manufacturer accept no responsibility for installation failures resulting from failure to read or follow this guide, from non-compliant substrate conditions, from use of the incorrect product variant for the application, or from use of non-approved adhesives. The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection and acceptance of the installation. If in doubt regarding any aspect of this installation, contact Carpet Court NZ Ltd before proceeding.

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