

Recessed Grille Mat: Carpet Insert Replacements

### **PREPARATION:**

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http://www.americanfloormats.com

**Never Wheel Heavy Loads Over The Mats:** Heavy loads wheeled over units will bend and damage the rails and supports under the grid. Heavy loads include cars, boats, forklifts, etc.

**Safety First:** Before you remove the unit(s) from the recess: ensure that the opening is either blocked off from pedestrian traffic, or is going to be safely traversable while you are proceeding with the carpet replacement.

**You Will Need the Following Tools:** Utility knife, electric drill with 1/8" drill bit, hook-blade knife, 1/2" chisel, hammer, vacuum cleaner, wiping rags, spray cleaner, propane torch and saw horses. Rivets are included, however, be sure that there are a sufficient amount provided - there should be at least twice as many rivets as there are rails in the grid or grid sections plus a few extras.



# Step 1

Remove grid from the recess and place on saw horses. Locate and drill out the pop rivets at both ends of the rails using an electric drill and 1/8" drill bit. An alternative technique is to snap the rivet heads using a 1/2" chisel and a hammer. Inspect for any damage to grid and repair as needed.



### Step 2

Slide out the old inserts. After the carpet has been removed there will be a fair amount of dirt in the rail, particularly in the recess that holds the insert. All dirt must be removed to ensure the proper fit of the new insert. Also, it will make the installation of the carpet much easier.



NOTE: Removal of dirt in the recess may be difficult. We recommend that you use a hook-blade knife and draw it along the recess.



### Step 3

You are now ready to insert the new carpet into the rails. Simply slide the insert through from one end of the rail to the other. If you find that there is too much resistance, you should clean the rail again using the hook-blade knife.

Allow 2" of excess insert at the ends of each rail. Cut carpet and repeat on next adjacent rail. Ensure that the carpet is installed in one direction to avoid shading variances



## Step 4

Using an electric drill with 1/8" drill bit, drill a hole approximately 1/2" from edge of rail. Using a pop rivet tool, pop rivet carpet to rail. Perform this completely on one side of mat. Trim excess carpet flush to rail edge using a utility knife, then use a torch or heat gun to singe the carpet fiber to prevent fraying. Repeat step 4 on opposite side of grid.



### Step 5

Vacuum the grid and thoroughly clean the recess into which the mat is to be installed. Finally, replace the grille mat into the recessed area.

#### Notes:

- When installing carpet, always install in <u>one</u> direction. (Carpet installed in opposite direction can create a striped or light/dark effect.) Be sure that adjacent grid sections also have their carpet installed in the same direction to avoid a light/dark block effect.
- Allow 1" 2" of <u>excess</u> insert material at the ends of each rail. You will trim this off <u>after</u> you have secured both ends of the carpet with the rivets provided. This ensures uniform edges in the installed mat and saves you from "coming up short" on one end when you install the rivets.