

# Firm-Step® Installation Guide

FOR FIRM-STEP® STANDARD & HEAVY DUTY GRP ANTI SLIP STAIR TREAD COVERS & SHEETS AND FIRM-STEP® PRECISION ANTI SLIP STAIR TREAD COVERS



**Watco**

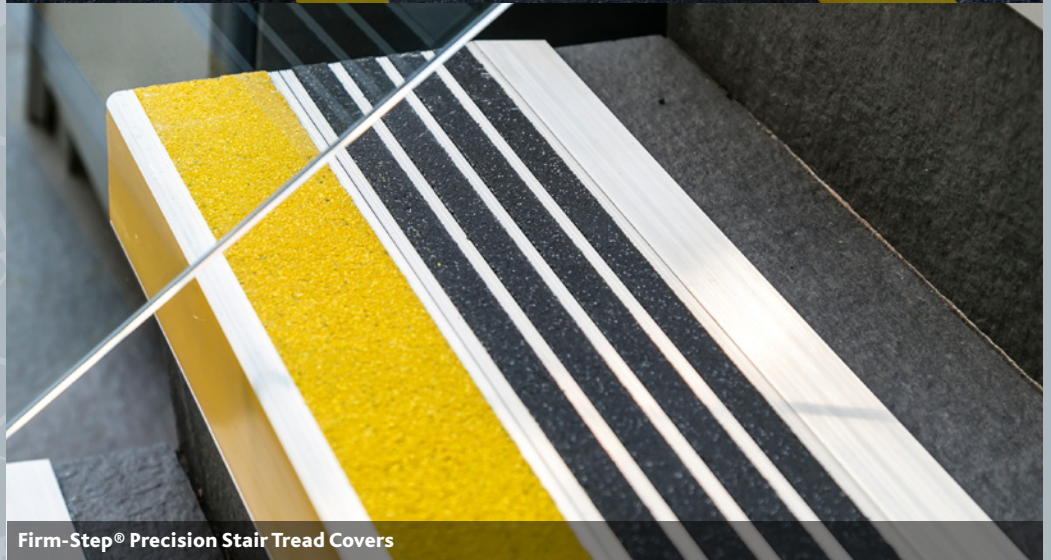
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## Watco Firm-Step® Installation Guide

### HANDLING & STORAGE

Safe handling practices should always be employed and the appropriate Personal Protection Equipment is to be worn. Store the covers flat and upside down.

### PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

It is recommended that the following Personal Protection Equipment is worn for installation of Firm-Step® GRP sheet and stair treads and further protective measures may be necessary but this will depend on the installation environment:

#### Bonding

- Eye Goggles
- Protective Gloves
- Safety Boots

#### Cutting & Mechanical Fixing

- Ear Defenders
- Eye Goggles
- Dust Mask (available from Watco)
- Protective Gloves
- Safety Boots

### MEASURING

#### Width

Measure from left to right across the tread substrate. Then deduct 5mm (2.5mm either side) to ensure they easily fit and to allow for any expansion.

#### Depth

Measure from the front (nosing) to the back of the tread substrate. Then deduct 5 mm. E.g. 300mm measured depth minus 5mm = 295mm.

### CUTTING

Firm-Step® anti slip sheets and stair treads can be cut to size using orbital cutting equipment with a diamond blade. Cutting should be carried out externally or where there is dust extraction or suitable ventilation and the appropriate protective equipment detailed above should be worn. A jigsaw can be used for trimming or for occasions where only a small amount of cutting is required.

#### Cut to Size service

Watco offers a free cut to size service for all Firm-Step® products except Firm-Step® Precision. When you place your order, advise the technical advisor that you intend to install the product yourself and they will tailor the order to meet your requirements.

### PREPARATION

Any damage or undulations to the substrate should be remedied to ensure that the stair tread or flat sheet will be on a reasonably flat and even surface. If using an adhesive, the substrate must be clean and dry and free from oils, grease, dust and any loose particles. The underside of the sheet or stair tread must also be clean and dry. Where the substrate is contaminated (e.g. by oil), mechanical fixing is essential. Prior to applying any adhesive, it is advisable to carry out a dry-fit first to ensure a suitable fit.

Watco recommends a double fixing method for installing GRP anti slip sheets and stair treads, consisting of a high strength adhesive or double sided tape such as Watco Mastic Adhesive or UltraBond Tape, both supplied by us, and mechanical fixings.

#### Please note:

- Watco Tape Primer should be used with UltraBond Tape when affixing to unsealed, porous concrete, brick, stone, blockwork and surfaces prone to dust.

### BONDING

UltraBond Tape is suitable for bonding to concrete, wood, metal and steel in conjunction with Watco Tape Primer for unsealed, porous concrete, brick, stone, blockwork etc. Watco Mastic Adhesive is also a sealant and can be used to seal around the edges and stop water lying between the sheet or stair cover and the substrate. Water will not affect the sheets or stair covers but can affect the substrate such as wood or metal causing rot or rust. Watco Mastic Adhesive also offers a secondary fixing in the unlikely event that a mechanical fixing fails.

- Run a bead of adhesive around the perimeter of the sheet or stair tread approximately 25mm in from the edges and then cross hatch at about 200mm apart.
- Apply sufficient hand pressure to bed the sheet or stair cover into position.
- With Watco Mastic Adhesive, optimum bonding will be obtained after 24 hours (at 20°C). However, stairs can be made available to traffic a few hours after bonding, but this is subject to temperature so it is worth testing first.

#### Adhesive Coverage

1 x 310ml tube of Watco Adhesive Mastic is sufficient for any one of the following: 5 x 600mm wide stair tread covers 3 x 1000mm wide stair tread covers 2 x 1500mm wide stair tread covers 2 x 1200mm wide stair tread covers.

### MECHANICAL FIXING

Firm-Step® anti slip sheets and stair treads can be drilled and secured with stainless steel screws. Follow the preparation procedure prior to fixing:

1. Always ensure that the screw length is slightly longer than the plug length to obtain a good fixing.
2. Use Mastic Adhesive on the underside to prevent the GRP drumming and rocking on the substrate.
3. Fixing is generally recommended at approximately: 70mm from the front, 50mm from each side, 60mm from the back, at a maximum of 250mm apart.
4. If fitting to a metal substrate, use self-tapping screws. There is no need to counter sink the screw holes since the screw can be tightened so that it beds into the gritted surface, making it flush with the wearing surface.

#### Predrilling

Stair tread covers and sheets can also be predrilled. Just call 01483 418 418 and advise the technical sales representative with the measurements.

The above installation instructions are to be used as a guide. Always employ safe practices. It is recommended to first test the suitability of any fixing method on a small area before carrying out a full installation programme.

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