

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO CARPETS




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THE URGE TO EXPLORE SPACE

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CHAPTER 1



 O anima del Friuli,
che sembra gaia ed è triste,
che sembra lenta ed è pensosa,
che sembra immobile ed è fedele,
la tua terra fra il litorale
di Grado e l'Alpe carnica,
fra i Veneti giulii e fri
euganei!

Fabrizio d'Ammonio



WHY A CUSTOM DESIGN CARPET IS YOUR BEST STORYTELLING OPTION

Every interior tells a story:

As an architect or interior designer you are the storyteller, expressing the story of a brand, indicating to all who enter whether they are in a high-end or casual retail space, a place of healing or learning, business or luxurious living.

What's underfoot is a key part of this story and custom design carpet is your most versatile way of telling it. With custom design carpets your design possibilities are limitless. In a way, the floor is the largest canvas in a building interior, and carpets can be your paintbrush. They can help you shape the sounds and moods of the building or even an individual room, creating a feeling of liveliness and camaraderie in one space, and with a more subtle, softer design, indicating focus and quietude in another.



Telling the brand story

Many architects and designers opt to incorporate custom carpet in the overall branding scheme by using exact matches to corporate colours or introducing corporate logos. Some go for a more integrated approach by telling the story of a company's products or values in carpet – bold brush strokes for a paint manufacturer perhaps, or fizzing bubbles for a soft drink company. It might sound cliché, but when it comes to custom carpeting, anything is possible. If you can design it, it can be reproduced on carpet. And even if you can't design it, a quality carpet manufacturer will help you with going from a general idea to actual carpet design.

There is just something about a soft, comfortable floor which gives the room a certain ambience that cannot be recreated with harder flooring options like hardwood, concrete or vinyl.

Storytelling through sound and feel

Carpeting is not just about the looks. See, carpet not only impacts the look of an interior, but also the sound and feel through its acoustic properties and the warmth and comfort expressed by having something soft underfoot. That tactile sensation is a critical part of the story you tell through the interior design. And there is just something about a soft, comfortable floor which gives the room a certain ambience that cannot be recreated with harder flooring options like hardwood, concrete or vinyl.

The return of colour and pattern

Carpet sales are on the rise as the purity of minimalism gives way to a return to more decorative interiors with a greater use of colour, pattern and textiles.

Many corporations are seeking to make their office environments more comfortable and 'home-like', with agile furnishings replacing work cubicles and employees empowered to work where they want, when they want.



In workplace design, carpet can be used effectively to indicate different working areas by using a patterned carpet for collaborative areas, for example, and a solid colour carpet for quiet zones for focused work. In large, open plan office environments carpet really comes to the fore for its acoustic qualities and ability to absorb noise. Some innovative designers are even taking carpet off the floor and using it to create decorative and acoustic wall panels.

Today's business leaders are also placing greater emphasis on workplace wellness and sustainability, both of which carpets can assist with. Other environments, such as boutique hotels and restaurants, are favouring the use of rich textiles and jewel-like colours to create an ambiance that can only be enhanced by the addition of a luxurious custom carpet in an ornate, exotic design or silky soft finish with a sheen like panne velvet.

Create a modern masterpiece

Originally, carpets were laboriously handmade and purely the province of princes and potentates. New technologies and dyeing techniques mean that from design to delivery, custom carpets are available affordably and fast in a choice of wall to wall or high quality carpet tiles. Today, a custom carpet can grace any space and look good for many years to come. Whatever story you wish to tell, a custom carpet can help you tell it.

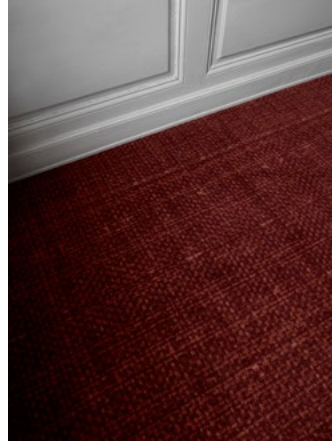
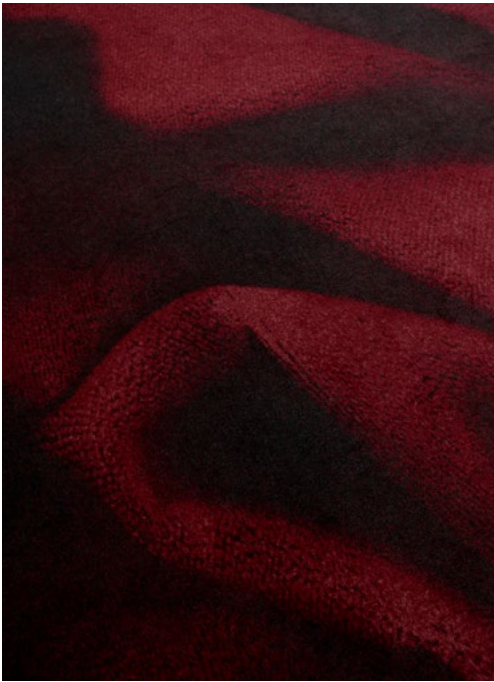
In the following chapters, we hope to both inspire you with actual examples of great carpet design, and also guide you through the practical aspects towards choosing the perfect flooring for your project.

With this guide in hand, you will have all the necessary inspiration and practical know-how you need to turn your next project idea into a beautiful and functional carpet.

Some innovative designers are even taking carpet off the floor and using it to create decorative and acoustic wall panels.



CHAPTER 2



WHY CHOOSE CARPETS?

To carpet or not to carpet? These are the seven things, you should consider.

While there's no denying that options such as hardwood, polished concrete or tiles are ideal for some projects, hard flooring options in general lack the variety of styles, designs, textures and construction types available with carpets. Correctly specified, installed and maintained, a good quality carpet will keep its appearance for many years to come. What's less well known, however, is that carpet also adds several significant benefits to the indoor climate, plus important safety aspects, acoustic benefits and increased energy efficiency.

When specifying a high quality carpet, you can be sure that it will fully address the following seven factors:

A Matter of Style

Today's manufacturers of carpet for both commercial and domestic use offer a vast array of styles and colours, allowing you to source exactly what you want or to custom-order colours and patterns ideal for any project.



With carpet, your options range from vibrant and expressive colours and larger patterns to organic patterns in softer, subdued, neutral tones. What's more, creating your own custom carpet designs is now faster and more cost-effective due to the high velocity dye-injection technology, an advanced dyeing solution available from specialised custom carpet manufacturers.

Durability and Sustainability

Reduction of environmental impact and improvement of overall performance can be achieved in each life cycle of a carpet, ensuring high quality carpet plays an important role in efforts to reduce your project's impact on the environment. If sustainability and environmental impact is of any importance to you or your client, be sure to select a carpet manufacturer that has implemented sustainable processes like "Cradle to Cradle™" and recycling systems. Also keep in mind that the higher quality the carpet, the longer it will maintain its appearance and the less need there will be over time for disposal and replacement.

You obviously also need to ensure the carpet you specify meets all international performance standards. In Europe, carpets should be tested and certified in accordance with the European standard for test and classification of textile floorings, EN 1307, which rates carpeting on durability and long-term appearance retention. Check that the carpet manufacturer you are dealing with uses thorough testing equipment in connection with all its product development activities.

A Healthier Indoor Climate

Most people spend the vast majority of their time indoors, especially in the winter months, so the indoor environments we live and work in play a vital role in our general well-being, health and productivity both at work and in our spare time.

Emissions of vapour from building materials and equipment, known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), are the major culprits in indoor climate problems. Studies¹ have shown that carpets are far better at trapping allergens than hard surfaces, as each carpet fibre catches particles and allergens as they fall to the floor. Once these allergens are captured in the carpet, they are unable to circulate in the air. Regular vacuuming will then remove these particles and allergens from the carpet, ensuring a healthier environment.

Dust particles in the air indoors can also cause a number of symptoms such as irritation of the eyes and air passages, infections and headaches. Independent scientific studies² have shown that carpets can halve the amount of dust suspended in air as compared with hard flooring solutions and other smooth flooring solutions such as vinyl.

When specifying flooring, consider:

- Design versatility
- Durability
- Sustainability
- Indoor climate
- Acoustics
- Insulation and heating costs
- Comfort and safety



As with allergens, carpet binds dust, which can then be removed entirely with regular vacuuming and periodic steam cleaning. This makes carpet a particularly good flooring choice for projects where indoor air quality is important, such as schools, offices and hotels.

Lower Noise Levels

While open plan office environments are now popular for their ability to foster knowledge sharing, collaboration and flexibility, the downside can be noise levels that inhibit focused work. A study by the Danish National Institute of Occupational Health³ indicates that more than half of all employees working in open-plan offices are negatively impacted by noise to the point of having difficulty concentrating. Due to the cushy backing and many soft fibres, carpets provide excellent acoustical benefits and reduce noise by absorbing sound, rather than reflecting it as hard surfaces do. This is the case for all carpets, but of course, some are better at trapping sound than others. As acoustics is a key reason for why many architects and clients prefer carpets, some manufacturers even provide specialized acoustic backing for further dampening effect.

Carpets provide excellent acoustical benefits and reduce noise by absorbing sound, rather than reflecting it as hard surfaces do.

No Little Shocks

Static electricity is often a problem causing considerable discomfort in indoor environments. Choosing a carpet that contains conductive fibres and is permanently anti-static resolves this problem, as any person walking on it will not get a shock when touching an earthed object. Instead, the person walking on the carpet remains below the limit of around 2kV (kilovolt), the threshold generally acknowledged to be antistatic.

Thermal Comfort and Energy Efficiency

Thermal comfort in interior environments can be improved significantly by installing carpet, which not only offers warmth but a measurable contribution to overall heat retention. The fibres also act as natural thermal insulators due to their low heat conduction. This means that carpet does not draw warmth from the feet as quickly as smooth flooring does. Additionally, the surface pile of the carpet traps air and further increases thermal insulation.

The thicker the carpet, the greater the degree of thermal insulation. A carpeted floor not only feels warmer but also provides underfoot comfort. It also does not require the same heating as a smooth surface might. A carpeted floor generally makes it possible to reduce the room temperature by 2-3 degrees Celsius without the room feeling any colder, which means significantly reduced energy bills. Installing a quality underlay beneath the carpet will further magnify the benefits and reduce energy use – and therefore costs – even further.⁴



A Safer Environment

Carpets are beneficial from an orthopaedic stand-point as the soft and springy fibres have a cushion-like effect and the surface adapts itself to the foot, dividing the body weight evenly on the joints. Leading orthopaedic specialists invariably recommend carpet as a flooring choice in order to prevent back pain and injuries to joints, especially in

institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes, senior citizen's homes and schools.

Carpet is also recommended in these institutions where elderly people may be at risk from falls, slips and tripping over. Carpets provide a better foothold than smooth flooring materials. The carpet acts as an adhesive friction which

lightly grabs the soles of the feet, so should an accident occur, the combination of soft carpet pile and backing makes a carpet much softer to land on than any smooth flooring. This means that the consequences of any fall are likely to be far less serious.

A carpeted floor generally makes it possible to reduce the room temperature by 2-3 degrees Celsius without the room feeling any colder.

Compared to hard flooring like concrete, hardwood and vinyl, carpets are:

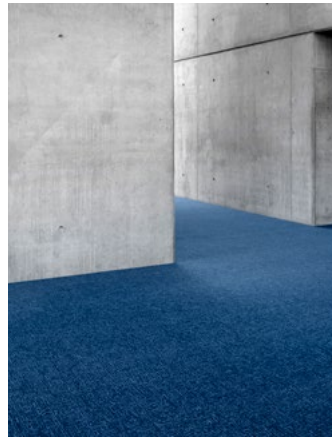
- More versatile in design and style options, especially in cases of unique custom design
- Less durable – but a correctly specified high quality carpet will last 10-30 years
- Better at improving the indoor climate by trapping particles and allergens
- Noise cancelling by decreasing foot traffic sounds and dampening ambient sounds
- In some cases slightly more static-inducing – but most carpets come in non-static models
- Warmer and more insulating and thus cost effective to the end client as it reduces energy costs
- Healthier because of the soft cushion-like surface reducing long-term issues like back pain
- Safer by being less slippery and softer to fall upon, which is particularly important when dealing with children and the elderly

Now you are aware of the many benefits of carpet as a flooring solution, should you choose wall-to-wall carpet or carpet tiles for your next project? Find out in the next chapter.

1. Mitchell W. Sauerhoff, Ph D. DABT, "Carpet, Asthma and Allergies – Myth or Reality", page 8-9, May 19, 2008
2. T. Behrens, W. Maziak, S. K. Welland, P. Rzehak, E. Siebert, U. Keil, "Symptoms of Asthma and the Home Environment, The ISAAC I and III Cross-Sectional Surveys in Munster, Germany", Int Arch Allergy Immunol Vol. 137, page 53-61, 2005
3. NFA (previously Arbejdsmiljøinstituttet), "Støj fra menneskelig aktivitet – et udredningsarbejde", 2006
4. P. Trappl, "Teppishboden auf Fussbodenheizungen", Textil-Praxis- International. June 1981

CHAPTER 3





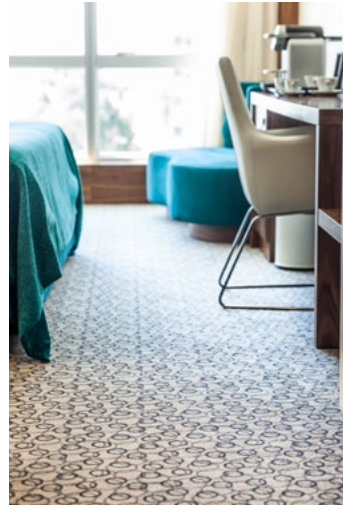
WALL TO WALL CARPETS VS. CARPET TILES

Among the many decisions to be made when selecting carpet, colour and design usually get the majority of the attention. But before these come the critical choice of carpet type

Comparison: Wall to wall versus carpet tiles

Wall to wall is essential if you wish to use large-scale patterning or custom designs. They also generally have that extra touch of quality that you can just feel when walking on it or see when looking at the seamless surface.

Carpet tiles on the other hand are a great alternative if you are looking to lower installation cost and time. You also definitely want to consider carpet tiles if regular maintenance is an issue.



Wall to wall carpet

Wall to Wall carpet (also known as “broadloom”) is manufactured in long, wide rolls. Most manufacturers have different backing options, some of which allow installation directly on the subfloor, but wall to wall is most often laid on underfelt over a substrate floor. Despite the perhaps confusing name, “wall to wall” does not necessarily need to cover the entire room. It can just as easily be installed only in an area, integrating with another carpet or a different flooring.

Wall to wall carpet is more difficult and costly to install than the carpet tile counterpart, but excels in quality and design versatility. Especially if you are considering a custom design carpet, wall to wall is superior.

The seamless finish means that only the interior space and your imagination set the limits. The option of thick carpet backing and the yarn options also mean that wall to wall can have a certain plush comfort, which is hard to replicate with the pre-backed carpet tiles.

Installation and waste

There are a few significant drawbacks to choosing wall to wall carpets, most notably in the installation phase. First of all, the installation process is more demanding, and thus takes longer time.

As the carpet is printed on large rolls, you also have to expect a waste of anywhere from 5-25 % (in some cases even more) from cutting and mishaps in installation. When the amount of corners, edges and odd angles go up, so does the expected waste. This can be greatly alleviated by proper planning and training, both of which your carpet supplier should assist you with. Nevertheless, wall to wall carpets will almost always see more waste than carpet tiles.

Why and when to choose wall to wall

For projects with high design ambitions or for large spaces, wall to wall carpet more than makes up for its shortcomings. While wall to wall means increased waste, higher cost and more complicated installation, it also means unmatched design versatility, a plush, luxurious underfoot feeling as well as a stunning, seamless finish.



Carpet tiles

Carpet tiles are small squares of carpet that can be installed and combined in many versatile ways. The tiles come with the backing already attached, which enables them to be mounted directly to the subfloor. The modularity and small size of individual patches also means much less cutting than with the large wall to wall rolls. This results in significantly quicker and easier installation. It also means that much less surplus carpet is needed, as waste from installation is usually only 1-3 %.

Nevertheless, many still choose to order surplus stock, as the tiles are very easy to replace. With spare tiles taking up very little space, they can be stored on site, enabling the clients to replace tarnished or spotted tiles as needed.

Look and feel

Even when masterfully installed, most carpet tiles will still show some degree of seams, so it is difficult to achieve the feeling of a single piece of flooring as with wall to wall carpets. However, late advances in technology has made the look of carpet tiles in larger spaces appear much more seamless as well as given versatility in options, as you can read about in the next chapter.

With the simpler construction and pre-attached backing, you also do not have the plush underfoot feeling of some wall to wall carpets. This is not to say that carpet tiles are not comfortable, but they lack the option of thicker backing, giving that extra luxurious feel that you might want in a luxury hotel room or a high end lounge area.

Why and when to choose carpet tiles

Carpet tiles are unmatched in regards to cost and installation time. They also have significant advantages in maintenance and modularity. For most projects which do not require a fully customized design, carpet tiles should at the very least be considered, as they are often the superior choice in both practicality and design for these less complicated projects.

CHAPTER 4





WHAT ARE CARPET TILES AND WHEN SHOULD YOU USE THEM?

Join us for a deeper dive into how you can use carpet tiles, how you can present their advantages to your clients and contractors, and for what projects you should consider them.

Carpet tiles, also known as modular carpet, are justly popular as a flooring option for commercial environments and other relatively un-complicated projects.

Squares cut from wall to wall rolls, carpet tiles are generally available in 48x48, 50x50, 60x60 and 96x96 cm. options. Some carpet providers also offer other shapes and sizes like hexagons and triangles where the installation, however, does increase in complexity and cost.

Carpet tiles can be used as an alternative to wall to wall carpet in almost any situation not requiring unique customization and offer easy installation and maintenance, longevity and the same qualities as wall to wall for creating a healthy, comfortable indoor environment.

Here are four important factors to keep in mind when considering carpet tiles for your next project:



For unique or complicated custom designs, wall to wall is still likely to be your best option, but with the emerging technologies, carpet tiles no longer necessarily mean a boxy look or a clean solid colour.

1: Cost and time savings

With their small size, carpet tiles are considerably easier to lift, move and install when compared to wall to wall carpet. They also typically result in considerably less waste during installation as much less cutting is needed, particularly in rooms with many nooks and odd angles.

Some manufacturers also offer very lightweight carpet tiles that make life even easier for carpet installers.

It's for these reasons that carpet tiles offer considerable cost and time savings over wall to wall carpet – making them an ideal choice for projects on a tight budget or tight timeline.

2: Ease of removal

Carpet tiles are not only easy to install, but also easy to remove. Should wear and damage occur, carpet tiles can readily be replaced individually rather than replacing an entire floor. Wall to wall carpets can be spot-repaired as well, but the process is often significantly more complicated, both in terms of ordering a matching segment of carpet and in terms of fitting expertise required.

Another maintenance advantage of the carpet tiles is that the tiles can be easily lifted if access is needed to the substrate floor beneath. This means technicians are able to gain access to underfloor cables when needed, a considerable advantage in spaces that are constantly subject to change, such as conference halls and agile workplaces.

3: Design flexibility

In some ways, carpet tiles offer greater design flexibility than wall to wall carpets. With new dye technologies it's possible to create a wide range of colours and patterns on carpet tiles that are not possible on wall to wall. By applying dye after the carpet is cut into tiles, it's possible to achieve perfect design registration across all edges of each tile, so a design flows almost seamlessly from tile to tile.

Like wall to wall, carpet tiles can be custom coloured or applied with a custom design to create unique environments only limited by the designer's imagination. For unique or complicated custom designs, wall to wall is still likely to be your best option, but with the emerging technologies, carpet tiles no longer necessarily mean a boxy look or a clean solid colour.



4: Ambient advantages

Carpet tiles today offer all the warmth, comfort, acoustic qualities and health and safety benefits of wall to wall carpet with the added advantage that their layered structure absorbs even more structure-borne sound than wall to wall, providing a noticeable improvement in sound

levels even in large open plan office environments, call centres, crowded bars or busy restaurants. Tiles do, however, lack the option of extra plush backing, which may not impact acoustics, but will impact the tactile underfoot sensation that might be desired in certain high end projects.

All in all, carpet tiles can be used successfully to striking effect in almost all commercial and institutional environments. While wall to wall carpet remains the superior

While wall to wall carpet remains the superior choice for large-scale patterning and to create a luxurious ambience, carpet tiles are a cost-effective choice in almost all other cases.

choice for large-scale patterning and to create a luxurious ambience, carpet tiles are a cost-effective choice in almost all other cases and create a freedom of design potential far above any other non-carpet flooring options.

Continuing on, in the following chapter we look at how to go about choosing the right carpet for your project.

A tip from our interior designer:

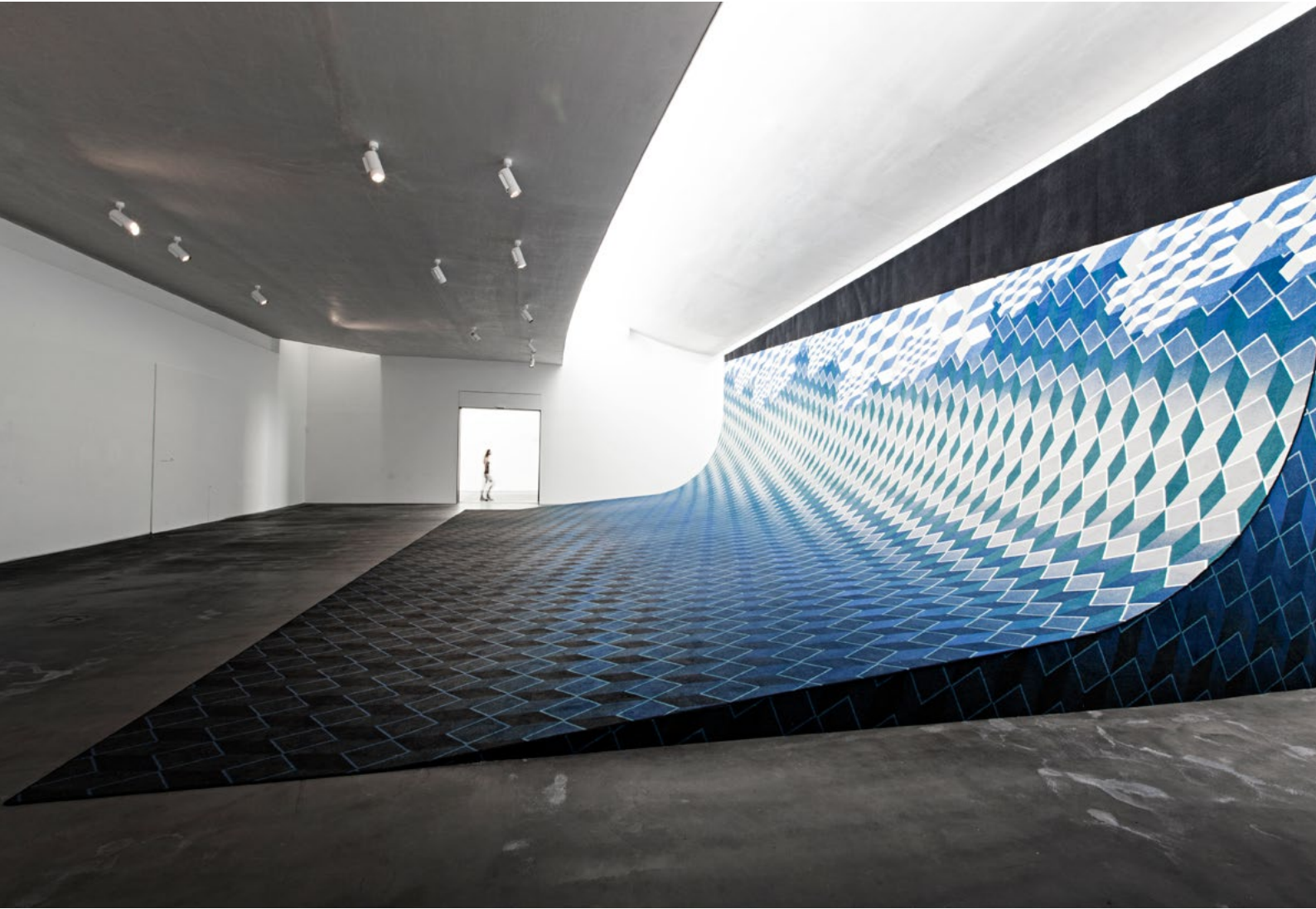
Carpet tiles can be installed in different configurations to create different effects. Patterned tiles can be used for traffic areas and solid colours to delineate break-out areas for example, or changes in tile colour or pattern can be used for wayfinding, such as indicating where people should queue at ticket windows.

Additionally, the seams between carpet tiles can be either disguised or celebrated, depending on the desired effect. Different sizes of carpet tile can also be used to create a range of effects across a single flooring project.

The modularity of carpet tiles is part of what makes them an amazing creative tool for any playful architect and interior designer. Remember, any carpet provider worth their salt will let you order samples, so you can play around with the different sizes, shapes and colours. never compromising on things.



CHAPTER 5



5 UNEXPECTED WAYS TO USE CARPETS IN INTERIOR DESIGN

Take a look at these amazingly creative ideas and find inspiration for new ways to use carpet in your future designs.



CARPETS ARE NOT JUST FOR FLOORS!

In the lavish interiors of Bronnums Hus Office Club in Copenhagen, Denmark, the custom design carpet is not just something that decorates the floors. One room features a vibrant Tom Dixon designed carpet on both the floor and as upholstery on a wing chair. In other rooms, a wallpaper is complimented by a matching carpet for a coherent interior and design story.



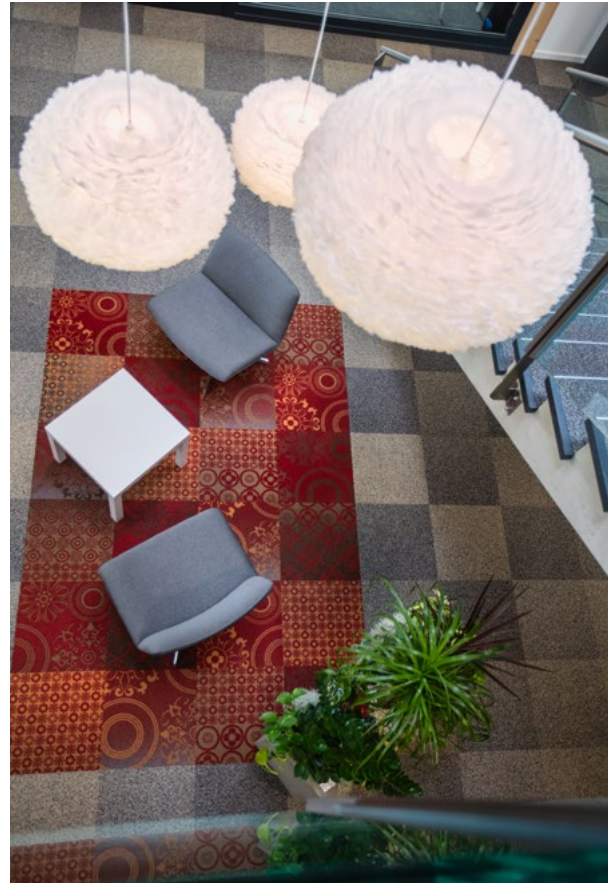
Projects still in the development phase have even seen the use of carpet as a wall feature move from complimenting wallpaper to a tapestry style, literally hanging sections of carpets on the walls as featured works of art.





USE CARPET TILES TO MARK DISTINCT AREAS

Carpet tiles have been used to great effect in the offices of Oceanerring in Norway, Chantier Altage in Switzerland as well as Alm. Brand in Denmark to define areas with different purposes and to create intimacy within large spaces.





TURN THE CARPET INTO A DIRECT EXTENSION OF THE BRAND OR PRODUCT

A great way to use carpet customization is by making a design which references the client's brand or products. A unique and very creative example of this is in the offices of French paint manufacturer Akzo Nobel. Here the designers have used custom carpet in vibrant stripes, reflecting painted brushstrokes to dazzling effect. Another great idea is to have dollar notes on the carpet in a hotel with a stock broker theme like Berlin Hotel Wall Street.





TURN AN EVENT INTO AN EXTRAVAGANZA

For the ELLE Style Awards in Copenhagen, the event designers replaced the traditional red carpet with a custom carpet designed by Helene Blanche and created from her hand drawings of Danish meadow flowers.





COMMISSION ARTWORKS FROM CARPET

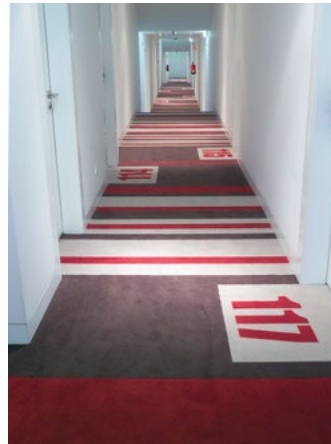
Many multi-media artists are exploring the possibilities of custom design carpet for their artistic expression, including Danish artist John Korner whose work 'Tsunami' features a "wave" of blue custom carpet. He has also since incorporated carpets in his 'Blue Bedroom' Project.



As you can see, the design possibilities of custom design carpet and carpet tiles are as exciting as they are endless. Now you are feeling inspired and brimming with ideas, we turn to more practical issues you need to know about when specifying carpet for our next chapter.

CHAPTER 6





HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT CARPET FOR YOUR PROJECT

With all that inspiration and knowledge in hand, how do you actually go about choosing the right carpet specifications?

Once you've decided that carpet is the right flooring choice for a project, there are just so many variables to consider that going about choosing the right carpet might seem a formidable task. But with your newfound knowledge of carpets, the complex process is actually fairly straightforward and your carpet supplier will be on hand to assist you along the way.

Here's a brief guide on how you should approach the 3 main steps you go through when selecting commercial carpets and their specifications:



New dye-injection technology has made custom carpet and carpet tiles achievable faster and more cost-effectively than ever. The only limitations are the project budget and your imagination.

1. Select your carpet properties

Once you have decided between wall to wall carpet or carpet tiles, or a combination of both, look into the specific properties required for each area of the project. Are there areas of heavy traffic use? Open plan areas where extra acoustic control will be required? What does the longevity of the carpet need to be? Are there areas in use 24/7 where access for cleaning and maintenance could be an issue?

All commercial carpets are rigorously tested and classified for suitability for a variety of end uses. Once you know what these classifications are you will be able to work with your custom carpet supplier to choose the most suitable for each area of your project.

Backing materials and types of cushioning also have an impact on aspects such as underfoot comfort, longevity, appearance retention and acoustics and should be selected with care in consultation with your supplier.

2. Colour, design and pattern

Carpet's versatility as a design tool opens up a vast range of exciting possibilities. Your choices of colour and pattern, however, will be affected by factors such as the lighting in the space and the need to camouflage soiling that could build-up between vacuuming in areas subjected to heavy foot traffic.

Taking a range of samples on site and comparing them in situ will help you narrow down your decisions.



Of course, if you want to tell a unique story throughout your project you will be looking to customised carpet. Here, you have the choice of presenting your own design to a custom carpet supplier or working with their in-house designers to develop a design from concept to completion. New dye-injection technology has made custom carpet and carpet tiles achievable faster and more cost-effectively than ever. The only limitations are the project budget and your imagination.

3. Installation costs and timing

Your carpet choices may be limited by installation costs and/or the timeline for the project. Even the logistics of delivering large, heavy wall to wall rolls may limit your choices in some instances.

Installation of wall to wall carpet is considerably more complex, more costly and more time-consuming than installation of carpet tiles. Before making your final selections of carpet for a project be sure to consult with both your carpet supplier and an experienced installer on all details and time required for installation to prevent any costly errors or preventable delays.

Next, we delve into the important topic of sustainability and how to judge a carpet's carbon footprint.

In-depth guide to choosing and specifying carpet

For more in-depth information on how to select carpet for commercial projects, download The Architect's Guide to Choosing the Right Carpet:

<http://blog.egecarpets.com/the-architects-guide-to-choosing-the-right-carpet>

CHAPTER 7





11 THINGS YOU NEED TO LOOK FOR WHEN TALKING CARPETS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Most carpet manufacturers talk the sustainability talk. But do they walk the walk? These are the 11 things you need to check and question

There's no doubt there's a growing realisation of the negative effect consumption patterns are having on the environment and climate. More and more governments, corporations, business owners and individuals are requesting that architects and corporate designers incorporate sustainability into their projects.

When choosing materials for an interior fit-out, including flooring, the answers as to which product is the most environmentally friendly can be complicated. For example, there are carpets available that use sustainable yarns such as ECONYL®, which is produced from recycled fishing nets and other waste materials transformed into strong and hard wearing textile flooring.



For a truly sustainable carpet, however, it's not just the materials that need to be sustainable but the entire manufacturing process.

For a truly sustainable carpet, however, it's not just the materials that need to be sustainable but the entire manufacturing process. This means it's necessary to select a carpet supplier with a high level of corporate and environmental responsibility that focuses on environmental policies and practices at every level of the manufacturing process.

Here are 11 factors to check and questions to ask your carpet supplier to ensure you are specifying a truly sustainable product:

1. Sustainable development

Does the company follow the principles of sustainable development, as defined in the Brundtland Report published by the United Nations in 1987: "...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."?

Sustainable development can be broken into three parts:

- Profit – economic development
- Planet – environmental protection
- People – social responsibility

If sustainability is truly important to you and the project, look for companies that view sustainable development as a constant process in which utilisation of resources, management of investments and technological development are in agreement with future as well as current needs.

2. Cradle to Cradle™ practices

Does the carpet company follow Cradle to Cradle Certified™ practices for all stages of the product lifecycle, right up to the return of worn or outdated carpeting and backing and responsible disposal via high-powered incineration?



3. Sustainable raw materials

Does the company provide carpets made from sustainable or recycled raw materials?

4. Energy use

Does the company source its energy from a sustainable source, such as wind power or solar power, throughout all its manufacturing facilities?

5. Documenting environmental claims

Does the carpet supplier have documentation for all environmental claims for its manufacturing processes and products?

6. Waste disposal

Does the company have a policy of responsible disposal of all waste?

7. Greenhouse gas account

Does the company publish a greenhouse gas account that can be accessed? A greenhouse gas account details the company's total emissions of CO², calculated in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol developed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and World Resources Institute.

8. Environmental management certifications

Is the company certified in accordance with ISO 14001 standards and registered under The Economic Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)?

ISO 14001 specifies requirements for an environmental management system that enables the company to constantly develop and implement policies and objectives that take into account legal requirements and environmental aspects. To receive ISO 14001 certification, a company needs to comply with various demands related to its environmental management system:

- Environmental policy
- Planning
- Implementation and operation
- Control and corrective actions
- Management review



EMAS is a voluntary based instrument designed to encourage better environmental performance from all types of organisations. It goes further than ISO 14001 in its requirements for performance improvement, employee involvement, legal compliance and communication with stakeholders. EMAS recognises and rewards organisations that go beyond minimum legal compliance and continuously improve their environmental performance.

Both these certifications give any supplier you are dealing with a badge of credibility when making claims of environmental performance. EMAS in particular is a clear and verifiable way to identify a company that is committed to improving environmental performance as it provides a systematic framework for setting environmental objective and measuring, monitoring and reporting on performance.

By asking the above questions and checking certifications you can be sure that the carpet you are specifying meets the highest possible standards of sustainability. Next up, we have some design inspiration for you, including some unusual and unexpected ways to use carpet!

Additional certification

Other important environmental certifications and registrations to look for include:

CE (Conformite Europeenne)

This mark ensures that the product meets all demands of the European standards in key areas such as fire safety, health and environment, safety in use, energy savings and thermal insulation.

BRE – Environmental carpet profiles

Environmental profiles from BRE Certification Ltd provide a measuring system for the environmental performance of building products, including carpets, and provide life cycle assessment information on the environmental impact associated with the extraction, processing, manufacture, installation, maintenance and disposal of products.

LEED

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is a voluntary building certification program established by the US Green Building Council with the purpose of encouraging and accelerating global adaptation towards sustainable green buildings. The system provides architects, designers and specifiers with a concrete and practical set of design and performance goals, and provides independent third-party certification that validates their achievements.

CHAPTER 8





THE MAIN PROBLEMS YOU WILL FACE WITH CARPETS – AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM

There are many considerations when specifying carpet. These are the top five questions architects and interior designers most commonly ask carpet suppliers – and their answers

1: I need carpet for a very large room that will help to reduce noise levels. How do I achieve the best results?

Carpets are naturally great for improving the acoustic qualities of a room, even very large, open plan office environments. But of course some are better than others, and much of the difference comes down to backing and construction.

Generally, a carpet with a higher total mass of fibres will be more effective at trapping ambient sound. The acoustic properties vary, but wool fibres are often worth looking into. The imperfection which comes from being a natural fibre means it has a wide range of yarn diameters and lengths. All these slight variations contribute to trapping sound slightly more effectively than a smoother carpet surface and considerably more than a hard floor.



While the fibres contribute to acoustic quality, the carpet backing plays an important role too. There is no standard or certification in regards to backing, but some manufacturers have a specialised “acoustic backing” which you can inquire about. If not, we recommend that you speak with your carpet supplier about the project and what type of backing they recommend.

2: Which carpets are best for high traffic areas?

The durability of a carpet exposed to foot traffic on a daily basis is measured in foot traffic units.

Foot traffic is classified as follows:

One foot traffic unit is measured as a pedestrian walking across a section of carpet one time.

Light traffic: 100 units per day

Moderate traffic: 100 to 1000 units per day

Heavy traffic: 1000 to 10,000 units per day

Extra Heavy traffic: more than 10,000 units per day

For rooms where chairs and other furniture on castors are used you will need to do similar calculations, remembering that chairs can be pushed back and forth numerous times each day. For these rooms, you will need to order carpet certified EN 985 for castor chair suitability.

3: How do I know which carpet offers the best indoor air quality?

Carpets are a great way of improving indoor air quality as they naturally trap dust particles which would otherwise be swirling around.

The carpets that offer the best indoor air quality will have both an indoor climate certificate and a Cradle to Cradle™ certificate, so look for these in particular.

4: I am considering using broadloom carpet for a project. What should I consider before installation?

Rolls of broadloom carpet are mostly four to five metres long and very heavy. Before going ahead, check all the logistics. Ensure that the rolls will fit through all access doors and into and out of lifts. Also check that there will be sufficient manpower to lift and move the rolls into place.



Once delivered, broadloom rolls need to be laid out flat in the empty space and checked for any flaws or mismatches between rolls so you will need to be present at this process. The carpet then needs to be left to settle for at least 24 hours prior to installation, a period that needs to be factored into your timeline for the project.

Lastly, if you have ordered a complex custom design or the space is an unusual shape you may need a representative of the carpet supplier to be present at installation or remotely instruct the carpet fitters. A good custom carpet supplier will be happy to provide this expert service to ensure the results are flawless.

5: When completed, the project I am working on will be in use 24 hours a day. How do I overcome maintenance issues with the carpet?

To reduce any disruption caused by regular vacuuming and cleaning, speak with your carpet supplier to source a carpet treated with soil retardant, a chemical finish applied to carpet fibres that inhibits the attachment of soil.

Further reduce maintenance by ordering mats to be placed in entrances and lifts to collect dirt before it reaches carpeted areas. For optimum results, ensure the mats cover a distance of several footsteps.

Finally, select colours carefully. Medium shades, tweeds and patterned carpets hide soil most effectively and require less frequent vacuuming than light coloured, plain carpets.

*Select colours carefully:
Medium shades, tweeds and patterned carpets hide soil most effectively and require less frequent vacuuming than light coloured, plain carpets.*

With commercial carpet, most questions you have about choosing the right carpet can be answered by checking the certifications for flammability, sustainability, soil resistance and other factors – for everything else simply ask your custom carpet supplier and they will be only too happy to assist you with expert, detailed advice.

Next up, we discuss the cost factors involved when specifying commercial carpet.

Stain Removal

How do you clean pen ink stains? And what do you do about shoe polish streaks? What should you use to clean dirt? And what about the inevitable coffee stain?

You can get the complete chart of techniques and cleaning agents to use for all the 50 most common stains, as well as the four stain removal first aid steps in our Stain Removal Guide [EF1].

CHAPTER 9



Rooms
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Rooms
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HOW MUCH DOES A COMMERCIAL CARPET COST?

This guide is intended to help you develop an initial budget and give you a sense of what aspects to look out for when getting a specific price quote

Flooring can be a major component in any interior project budget, so how does commercial carpet rate in cost terms against alternative floorcoverings such as timber, stone or tile? The answer is basically "How long is a piece of string?" There are so many variables in carpet, from construction and type of backing to custom design and installation costs, that there's no simple set answer.



While we can't give you the exact prices without knowing your product specifications, we can however give you the variables that most significantly affect the cost of commercial carpet:

Type of carpet

- Wall to wall carpet is generally more expensive than carpet tiles, both in initial costs and especially in total costs due to differences in installation difficulty, waste and time. Some pre-dyed wall to wall carpet in certain qualities will have initial costs equal to carpet tiles.
- Woven wall to wall carpet is generally more expensive than tufted wall to wall
- Tufted wall to wall is available in a wide range of qualities, with price points to suit

Type of fibre

The type of fibre used – from natural wool to several different types of nylon – also affects the cost of carpet, with natural fibres generally being more expensive. For wool, prices depend on the pureness and the average length of fibres. For nylon, prices depend on the use of BCF or staple fibres. It also plays a role if the yarns are pre-dyed or not, with pre-dyed yarn generally being less expensive.

Standard or custom design

A carpet in a standard design or colourway will generally be less costly than a custom designed or custom coloured carpet or carpet tiles.

Type of backing

Carpet backing plays an important part in ensuring high quality carpet properties such as:

- Underfoot comfort
- Insulating properties
- Wear resistance
- Acoustics
- Footstep suppression
- Fire resistance

Carpet backing adds structural stability, shape and protection and the material used, its thickness and firmness, can affect the long-term durability of the carpet. Carpet backing can also act as an integrated underlay so the carpet can be fixed directly to the subfloor reducing the installation costs.



Generally, initial costs decreases in this order, with the first being the most expensive:

Wall to wall backing:

- Thick latex
- Felt
- Thin latex
- Woven textile

Carpet tile backing:

- Felt
- Woven textile

All these backing types have different purposes, and different price points, so be sure to consult your carpet supplier to choose the most suitable backing for every situation in your project – such as high and low traffic areas – and that best fits within the overall project budget.

Also consider that while some might have higher initial costs, choosing a cheaper carpet backing might mean added expenses for installation, maintenance and replacement – and vice versa.

Installation

Wall to wall installation is typically more complex, more time-consuming and more costly than carpet tile installation and there is also typically significantly more wastage. This means that comparing square meter prices between wall to wall and carpet tiles is like apples and oranges when calculating total costs.

The installation that you need to consider in regards to installation are:

- Wall to wall carpet needs to be laid flat in situ for at least 24 hours prior to installation so can add time as well as cost to your project, which you should also consider.
- Carpet tiles are generally easier to lay and have little wastage, thereby saving both money and time.
- Installation on perimeter grippers is the most expensive carpet installation technique but provides a cushion-like effect when walking over the carpet, increased footstep suppression, high strength and elasticity, resistance to heavy traffic and a simple and quick replacement of the carpet when needed.

What you should ask about when considering costs

When talking budget with your carpet manufacturer, ask about how changes in these aspects will affect your total price:

- **Type:** Wall to wall vs. carpet tiles
- **Construction:** Tufted vs. woven
- **Fibres:** Natural vs. synthetic
- **Design:** Standard vs. custom
- **Backing:** What type and is it pre-attached?
- How do all the above affect **installation**?

CHAPTER 10





CARPETING GLOSSARY

The world of carpets is as technical and complicated as it is creative and inspiring. Next time you're wondering what crocking means or how yarn denier is measured, look no further

A

Abrasive wear: Wear or texture change to an area of carpet that has been damaged by friction caused by rubbing or foot traffic.

Antistatic: A carpet's ability to dissipate an electrostatic charge before it reaches a level that a person can feel.

Attached cushion: Padding, such as foam rubber or polyurethane, that is made as an integral part of the backing.

Average pile density: The weight of pile yarn in a unit volume of carpet. It is expressed in ounces per cubic yard in the formula: Density = pile yarn Weight (in ounces per square yard) times 36 divided by pile Thickness or pile Height (in inches). Average pile density factors for commercial carpets range from 4200 to 8000.

B

Backing: The fabric and yarns that make up the side of the carpet that lays next to the floor. In tufted carpets there are two types of backing.

Primary backing: a woven or nonwoven fabric through which the yarn is inserted by the tufting needles.

Secondary backing: Fabric that is laminated to the back of the carpet to reinforce it.

Beck dye: Dyeing of tufted greige carpet in a large vat of dye liquor. In this process, the carpet roll is sewn into a loop and then is continuously rotated and immersed in the heated vat for several hours. Most commonly used for cut pile carpet, it offers good custom colour flexibility.

Bound Carpet: Carpet that is cut and bound (by stitching or serging around all sides) but not attached to the floor.

Broadloom: Wall-to-wall carpets, up to four and five metres width.

C

Cable: Carpet with casual cut pile construction featuring chunky tufts and long pile height.

Carpet tile: Also called "modular carpet". Generally 48 x 48, 50 x 50, 60 x 60 or 96 x 96 cm squares cut from broadloom carpet, but also available in other shapes and sizes.



Colour matching: The proper coordination of colour and shade. Critical to colour matching are:

1. The light under which the colours are compared. (The light source being used in the real conditions of the commercial environment should be used to match colours).
2. The surface texture of the object being matched (cut pile carpet can appear darker than loop made of the same yarn).
3. The surface lustre of the object being matched (higher yarn lustre can look darker than lower lustre fibres).

Colour fastness: The ability of a fibre or carpet to retain colour when exposed to

1. ultraviolet light,
2. crocking (wet or dry) and
3. atmospheric conditions (according to manufacturers' and government test standards).

Commercial matching: Matching of colours within acceptable tolerances or with a colour variation that is barely detectable to the naked eye.

Construction: The carpet manufacturing method, usually tufted, woven or bonded. The term also can refer to the specific details of a particular carpet's specification, including fibre type, yarn twist level, density, method of dyeing, etc.

Conventional backing: Carpet with a primary and secondary latex-laminated woven or nonwoven fabric.

Crock fastness: The resistance of transfer of colourant from the surface of a coloured yarn or fabric to another surface, or to an adjacent area of the same fabric, principally by rubbing.

Crocking: The removal of dye from a fabric by rubbing. Crocking can be caused by insufficient dye penetration or fixation, the use of improper dyes or dyeing methods, or insufficient washing and treatment after the dyeing operation. Crocking can occur under dry or wet conditions.

Crushing: The collapsing of pile yarns, resulting in carpet matting and loss of resilience. This form of carpet failure usually occurs in the areas of heaviest traffic. It is also called "matting" and "walking out". It can be minimised by the use of more resilient fibres, denser construction, somewhat higher weight and (in cut pile) with higher tuft twist and proper heat setting.

Cushion: The material placed under a carpet for softness and support. It helps reduce noise, increases insulation benefits, and contributes to a softer feel underfoot. Purchasing an incorrect type of cushion may invalidate your warranty. Also known as padding or underlay.



Cushion-backed carpet: Carpet having a cushion, padding or underlay material as an integral part of its backing.

Cut pile: A carpet in which the yarn loops are cut to create a textured look and feel.

Pattern cut pile: Made from saxony yarn, this carpet features a sophisticated look created by running cut pile and loop pile on a level pile height.

D

Decitex: The metric equivalent to denier; equals the total weight in grams of 10,000 metres. Decitex is used in Canada and Europe.

Delamination: A form of deterioration of tufted carpet in which the primary backing and face yarns separate from the secondary backing.

Delustring: Synthetic fibres with polymer additives and/or cross-section design modification that limit its natural brightness or reflectivity. Delustring improves soil-hiding characteristics.

Denier: Denier is the amount of yarn per area of carpet.

Density: Density refers to the amount of pile yarn per area of carpet or the closeness of the tufts. Higher density carpet improves resistance to crushing and matting.

Dimensional stability: The ability of carpet to retain its size and shape once installed. Typically, dimensional stability is obtained in tufted carpet by the application of a secondary backing. In woven carpet, dimensional stability is normally provided by choosing stable backing yarns, especially the stuffer and filling, as well as by application of latex to the completed carpet.

Double-glued seams: Double-glued seams attach carpet to bare floor to prevent delamination and edge ravel. Installers should double-glue seams to prevent fuzzing.

Drop match: A drop match is a pattern that continues across the carpet diagonally or at a 45-degree angle to the edge of the seam.

Dull: A term applied to manufactured fibres that have been chemically or physically modified to reduce the brightness of the fibre.

E

Extra heavy traffic: More than 10,000 traffics per day. Could also include some directional, nondirectional, pivoting and rolling traffic, as well as tracked-in dirt. See "Foot traffic units."



F

Face weight: Face weight is the number of ounces of fibre per square yard in the face of the carpet (not including the backing). The face weight affects performance and durability. Face weight is different from density because it varies with carpet height.

Fading: Loss of colour caused by sunlight or artificial light, atmospheric gases including ozone, nitrogen dioxide and hydrogen sulphide, cleaning and bleaching chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite, and other household and industrial products. Commercial installations in areas where such exposures occur require care in selection of colour-fast carpet.

Fibre: Fibre is the fundamental unit of carpet. Carpet fibres are made from nylon, polyester, cotton, acrylics, wool, and recycled material.

Finishing: Processing of carpets after tufting (weaving) and dyeing is called finishing. Processes include application of secondary backing, application of attached foam cushion, application of soil-resistant treatment, shearing, brushing, dyeing, printing and others.

Flame-resistant: A term used to describe a material that burns slowly or is self-extinguishing after removal of an external source of ignition. A fabric or yarn can be flame-resistant because of the innate properties of the fibre, the twist level of the yarn, the fabric construction, the presence of flame retardants or a combination of these factors.

Flocked: Flocked carpet is made of tufts of wool or cotton fibre.

Fluffing: Loose fibre fragments remaining from the manufacturing process that appear on a carpet surface. This condition is remedied by vacuuming and carpet use; also known as “fuzzing” or “shedding”.

Foot traffic units: One foot traffic unit is described as a pedestrian walking across a measured section of carpet, one time. Foot traffic is classified as follows:

Light:	less than	100/day,
Moderate:		100 – 1,000/day,
Heavy:		1,000 – 10,000/day,
Extra Heavy:	more than	10,000/day.

Fusion bonding: Fabrication of carpet for a 6” wide or modular tile. It uses a thermoplastic process that implants yarn in a liquid vinyl compound to two backing materials in a sandwich configuration. A knife splits the sandwich to create two carpets simultaneously. Spun yarn is used in this process, and only cut pile carpets are produced.

Fusion bonded carpets: Backing material for fusion-bonded carpet is a system of layered vinyl or plastic compound and fibreglass scrim for dimensional stability.



For Tufted Carpets:

- 1.** Primary backing – In tufting, a woven or nonwoven fabric in which the pile yarn is inserted by the tufting needles. Usually woven or nonwoven polypropylene for carpet. In the past woven jute was used.
- 2.** Secondary backing – Fabric laminated to the back of carpet to reinforce and increase dimensional stability. Usually woven or nonwoven polypropylene.

For Woven Carpets:

Backings of woven carpets are the “construction yarns” comprising chain warp, stuffer warp, and shot or fill, which are interwoven with the face yarn during carpet fabric formation.

Fuzzing: Fuzzing occurs when fluffy particles appear on carpet surfaces. It is caused by fibres that loosen because of weak twist or snags. Professional carpet cleaners can shear the carpet to remove fuzzing.

G

Gauge: The distance between two needle points in knitted or tufted carpet. It is usually expressed in fractions of an inch.

Greige goods: Pronounced “gray” goods. Term designating carpet in an undyed or unfinished state.

H

Hybrid carpet: A carpet in which two or more different yarn types are combined in the carpet construction.

I

International Grey Scale for Colour Change: A standard comparison to rate degrees of colour change from 5 (no change) to 1 (severe change).

International Grey Scale for Staining: A standard comparison to rate degrees of staining from 5 (no stain) to 1 (severe stain).

ISO (The International Organization for Standardization): A non-governmental, worldwide organization whose work results in international agreements that are published as International Standards.



L

Level loop: The fibre in the carpet is stitched in uncut loops of the same size. It creates a smooth, level surface.

Light fastness: The degree of resistance of dyed textile materials to the colour-destroying influence of sunlight.

Loop pile: A tufted or woven carpet pile surface where the face yarns are comprised of uncut loops. Loop pile can be level, textured or multilevel.

Lustre: Brightness or reflectivity of fibres, yarns, carpets or fabrics. Synthetic fibres are produced in various lustre classifications including bright, semi-bright, semi-dull and mid-dull. The lustre of finished carpet could also be influenced by yarn heat setting methods, dyeing and finishing. In high-traffic commercial areas, duller carpet yarns are often preferred for soil-hiding ability.

M

Matting: Matting is the usually irreversible adhesion of carpet yarn caused by traffic or dirt.

Memory: Carpet memory refers to texture retention.

Metameric colour match: A colour match between two materials in which the colours are identical under some lighting conditions but not under others. Metameric colour matches are common when different pigments or dyestuffs are used to colour the two materials.

Multilevel loop pile: A woven or tufted carpet style having tufts of varying pile heights, resulting in a sculptured appearance, pattern or subtle shading.

N

Needle punched: Needle punched carpet is stitched into backing material.

Nonwoven:

1. Any carpet manufactured by a method other than weaving, but particularly those composed of fibres held together by chemical, mechanical, adhesive or fusion means.
2. Any primary backing material manufactured by a method other than weaving.



O

Olefin fibre: Also known as polypropylene. Olefin is a lightweight fibre and can have good bulk and cover. However, the polymer base creates a soft fibre which has poor resiliency, a lower melting point and poor texture retention as compared to nylon. Only when budget is the main consideration, lower life expectancy is anticipated, and long-term appearance retention is not a priority, olefin can be considered.

P

Pattern match: Lining up patterned carpet in such a way that the design element is continued across seams, making the finished installation appear cohesive. Patterns must be matched in the same way as they appear on the carpet itself either in a set match or drop match.

Pattern streaks: Visually apparent streaking in patterned carpet resulting from linear juxtaposition of pattern elements in one direction. It is usually most visible in the length direction. It is not a carpet defect, but is inherent in certain designs. Contract specifiers should view rolls of carpet laid out on a floor to evaluate geometric or other busy patterns for this characteristic which may be unsuitable in long corridors and other large areas, but not visible in small rooms.

Patterned loop: A woven or tufted carpet style having all tufts in a loop form in either a defined or random pattern or design.

Pile: The visible surface of a carpet, consisting of yarn or fibre tufts in loops that can be either cut or uncut. Also known as the “face” or “nap” of a carpet.

Pile crush: Loss of pile thickness by compression and bending of tufts caused by foot traffic and heavy pressure from stationary furniture. The tufts collapse into the space between them. It may be irreversible if the yarn has inadequate resilience and/or the pile has insufficient density for the traffic load.

Pile height: The length of the tufts measured from the primary backing top surface to their tips. Pile tufts should be gently extended but not stretched during accurate measurement.

Pile Reversal: Pile reversal or shading is a feature of cut pile carpet. Traffic bends the carpet fibre in different directions creating an impression of light and dark areas. Regular vacuuming can create uniform shades.

Pile thickness: The resulting thickness when the thickness of the backing is subtracted from the total thickness of the finished carpet.

Pile weight: The weight in ounces of the fibre in a square yard of carpet.



Pilling: A condition, often caused by heavy use, in which fibres from different tufts of carpet become entangled in one another forming hard fibre masses or “pills.” These pills can be cut off with scissors.

Plush: A cut pile carpet in which the individual carpet fibres appear to be cut the same length. The carpet offers a smooth, luxurious surface.

Ply: A measure of the number of individual yarns twisted together to produce the finished carpet yarn. For example, a two-ply yarn means that each tuft consists of two yarns twisted together. For cut-pile carpets, plied yarns must be heat set to prevent untwisting under traffic.

Power Stretcher: A tool used to install broadloom carpet that prevents wrinkles and ripples.

Printed carpet: Carpet having printed coloured patterns. Printing methods include flatbed screen printing, rotary screen printing, and modern computer-programmed jet injection printing.

PVC hard-backed or closed-cell PVC (polyvinyl chloride): Used mostly in carpet tile or 6” wide goods due to its weight and stiffness. PVC gives a stiff, stable backing with little cushioning but excellent tuft bind and stability.

R

Random sheared: A carpet texture created by lightly shearing (shaving off) either level loop or high-low loop so only some of the tufts are sheared. Shearing gives a cut and loop texture.

Repeat: The distance from a point in a design in a patterned carpet to a point where the identical pattern appears again, measured lengthwise and widthwise in the carpet. In matching the pattern, there will inevitably be some waste of carpet in order to obtain the best possible side match—whether it is a drop or set match pattern.

Resilience: The ability of carpet to spring back to its original texture and thickness after being walked on or compressed by the weight of furniture. Also known as “resiliency.”

Rippling: Heat and humidity can cause ruffles or waves in wall-to-wall carpet. A professional carpet retailer or installer can re-stretch the carpet with a power stretcher.

S

Shading: Apparent colour shade difference between areas of the same carpet caused by normal wear and/or random difference in pile lay direction. It is a characteristic of cut pile carpet. It is not a manufacturing defect.



Shedding: New carpet tends to shed for a few weeks after installation. Regular vacuuming can resolve this problem. Shedding is more common in cut pile carpet and in wool carpet. Synthetic fibre carpet (such as nylon) does not shed as much.

Soil retardant: A chemical finish applied to carpet fibres or surfaces that inhibits the attachment of soil.

Sprouting: The raising up of an individual tuft or fibre above the level of the pile. These may be cut with scissors. If the sprouts are large, however, call in a professional carpet cleaner, retailer or installer to resolve the problem.

Static control test: A measurement of the amount of static discharge that occurs under specified conditions.

Static shock: Build-up of electrostatic energy on a carpet and the subsequent discharge to a conductive ground such as a filing cabinet. Various static control conductive systems are used in commercial carpet to dissipate static charge before it builds to the human sensitivity threshold, which is 3.5kV.

Stretch-in: The procedure for installing carpet over a separate cushion using a tackless strip with a power-stretcher.

Surface energy: Technical measure of the tendency of a surface – in this case, the carpet yarn – to repel molecules of another substance. Low surface energy refers to a repelling action.

T

Texture Retention: Texture retention or carpet memory is the ability of tufts to retain their shape under traffic.

Tufted: A method of manufacturing carpet. Tufts of fibre are inserted through a carpet backing to create a pile of cut and/or loop ends.

V

Vinyl: Colloquial term for the synthetic polymer, polyvinyl chloride. Also called PVC. PVC is used as a carpet back-coating for carpet tiles and 6" goods. Vinyl foams have been used as attached cushions. Many walk-off mats have solid sheet vinyl backing.

W

Waterfall Installation: Stairs are composed of a tread (the upper horizontal part of a step) and a riser (the upright member between two stair treads). Waterfall installation attaches carpet to two points on each step (one at the back of the tread and one at the bottom of each riser). This type of installation extends the life of carpet on stairs. When the carpet on the treads become worn, they can be taken up, reversed, and reinstalled with the worn areas placed over the risers.



Woven backing: A tufted carpet term for primary or secondary backing manufactured by the weaving process. Secondary backings are usually woven jute or woven polypropylene.

Woven carpet: Carpet produced on a loom. Warp pile yarns intertwine with wires and backing yarns called warp yarns. These yarns are locked in with the weft yarns. Warp stuffer yarns are included to provide extra stability. Weaving is a slower, more expensive, labour-intensive fabrication method than tufting. Woven carpet is distinguished by intricate patterns and tailored, controlled textures.

Y

Yarn count: A number used to describe the size of the yarn. Denier is used for BCF yarns, and cotton count for spun yarns.

Yarn denier (bundle): The total weight in grams of 9,000 metres of a filament yarn bundle. Common commercial carpet yarn deniers range from 1,200d to 5,000d.

Yarn ply: The number of single fibres twisted together to form a plied yarn.

Yarn weight: Total amount of yarn used in the manufacturing of carpet. It is measured in ounces per square yard.

Z

Zippering: A loop pile carpet in which tufts are pulled from the backing resulting in long, lengthwise pulls out of the carpet. Zippering occurs when the tuft base is not securely encapsulated by the backing compound.

Glossary sources:

Stainmaster Carpet:

www.stainmaster.com/global/glossary

Carpet.org:

www.carpet.org/glossary

Please note: As of November 2017 these sources are expired.

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