



VARIETIES AND ADVANTAGES OF CARPET AND RUGS

There are a variety of different **carpet styles, patterns & colors** to choose from to satisfy any personal style while matching any possible décor. Here are some other advantages:

- Carpet's cushioned surface **absorbs sound** and is less noisy to walk on than hard surface flooring.
- When considering **affordability**, carpet is one of the most economical flooring products to have installed.
- The **insulating properties** of carpet provide additional warmth underfoot during cold seasons.
- Carpet is a **non-slip surface** that is safe underfoot and provides a cushion to prevent breakage when delicate items are accidentally dropped.
- Most synthetic carpets are treated with static, stain and soil resistant treatments, making them **easy to clean and maintain**.

CARPET FIBERS

To pick the right carpet material, consider how you live in each room. There are five basic types of carpet materials:

Triexta

Also known as Smart Strand. This fiber is known for its stain resistance with built in Nanoloc spill and soil protection. It is more durable than polyester for higher traffic areas and some may say it is equally as durable as Nylon. Smart Strand is also offered in a softer option for extra comfort.

Nylon

Nylon is the most durable and stain resistant carpet fiber available, when treated with stain protection. It is the fiber of choice for homes with pets and children and for those who entertain a lot. Because of its durability, nylon carpet is perfect for heavy foot traffic areas like hallways and stairs.

Polyester

Polyester is known for its luxurious look, feel and wonderful selection of colors and styles. Polyester carpeting has the ideal endurance for homes with a normal amount of traffic. Polyester is a naturally stain resistant fiber, but is likely to wear quicker than Nylon or Triexta.

Olefin (Polypropylene)

Olefin offers good stain and moisture resistance, but scores below nylon and polyester for wearability. It is best suited for loop pile construction or high, very dense cut piles.

Wool

Favored for its natural beauty, wool carpet has natural soil resistance qualities, but is not inherently stain-resistant. As a natural fiber, wool looks good for a long time and is organically well-constructed.

CARPET CONSTRUCTION

Over 90% of residential carpet is manufactured as tufted carpet. A tufting machine works like an oversized sewing machine with hundreds of needles that insert loops of fiber (tufts or stitches) into the carpet's backing to form the face pile of the carpet.

How long your carpet will last, depends on how well it is made. Quality construction will affect the durability, appearance and price of the carpet and is most influenced by the twist of the fibers and the density of the tufts.

Twist

Twist refers to how tightly the fiber (carpet yarn) has been twisted. The tighter the yarn is twisted, the better the carpet will stand up to crushing and matting. This is especially important in cut pile carpet, because the tips are exposed and can easily become untwisted. Frieze carpet has the highest twist level at about 7-9 twists per inch (TPI), whereas most cut pile carpet styles have between 3-6 twists per inch.

Density

Density refers to both the amount, and how tightly packed together the fibers are within the carpet. The closer together the fibers are placed, the denser the carpet will be, and the better it will wear and perform.

Ways to check for carpet density include trying to reach the carpet backing by pressing your fingers on the carpet fibers. The more difficult it is to reach the backing, the denser the carpet. Or with outward facing tufts, bend the carpet into a U-shape and look at how much of the carpet backing is visible. The less backing that shows, the denser the carpet.



STAIN-RESISTANT CARPET?

Consider how you live in each room —you might need more stain-resistant carpeting for living rooms, but can afford to opt for a plush high-pile carpet in the bedroom. If you have kids, pets, and high traffic areas or entertain a lot, you will want to choose a carpet with stain resistance. The desire to protect your home with quality stain resistance won't limit your choice of carpet styles and colors.

The primary factor in determining stain resistance is carpet fiber type: triexta, nylon, polyester, olefin or wool. Beyond fiber type, most manufacturers apply post-production stain protection treatments to enhance the natural stain resistant properties of any fiber.

Textures

Carpet texture refers to how the fibers of the carpet are attached to the backing of the carpet. Primarily, there are three different types of carpet texture.

Cut Pile

Cut pile carpet consists of yarns that are cut at the ends. The soft feel of cut pile carpet makes it a perfect choice for the most comfortable areas of your home - bedrooms, living rooms and family rooms.

There are five basic styles of cut pile carpet: Velvet, Saxony, Frieze, Shag, and Cable, each provide a different look and texture.

The primary difference among these styles is the amount of twist in the yarns that will ultimately influence the carpet's durability. Textured cut pile carpets are currently trending with fibers of uneven lengths providing a fuller, more textured appearance.

Loop

Loop carpet has yarns that are looped and uncut on the carpet surface. The pile height can vary from low, tightly constructed to a more luxurious high-level pile. Loop carpet has, strength and soil hiding capabilities.

This style is ideal for heavy traffic areas. Berber carpet is the most popular style of loop carpet that can be constructed with level-loops or multi-level loops.

Cut-Loop

As the name suggests, this carpet has a combination of high cut tufts and lower loops in a variety of sculptured patterns. Cut-loop carpets offer good performance but are slightly less durable than loop carpets.

DYE METHODS

There are two popular methods for dyeing carpet; both methods offer great color:

Solution-Dyed

The fiber is dyed before the fiber are woven. This method gives the carpet stronger stain and fade resistance, along with resistance to harsh cleaning agents, such as bleach.

Continuous-Dyed

This method is completed during the post-tufting process and most suitable for woven carpet. It is a process that achieves solid colors.

COLOR SELECTION

Think of your floor as the fifth wall that connects all other design elements in the room. Consider the walls, window treatments and other furnishings when choosing a color scheme. Bring fabric and color samples when you visit our store, where our flooring experts will assist you.