



**WORLD FLOOR COVERING
ASSOCIATION**

Choosing the Best Carpet for Each Room of Your Home.

Each room in your home serves a different purpose and will thus have different practical requirements to consider when it comes to selecting the best carpet. Following are some carpet suggestions for each room.

Bedrooms

The best carpet for a bedroom depends on whose bedroom it is. Carpet in a master suite or a guest room, for example, is less likely to become soiled and stained than carpet in a room used by a child or teen.

For an adult bedroom, softness and comfort underfoot are most often top of the list. In this low-traffic room, just about any fiber in a plush or texture style will work well. Wool is an ideal option for adding a soft, luxurious look and feel to a bedroom. But as a natural fiber, it can be bit pricey. Synthetic carpets are usually more budget-friendly, and may be a more realistic option if you have a large bedroom. Nylon, a highly durable synthetic option with the softest feel, is typically the most costly synthetic option. Polyester carpeting is usually less expensive than nylon, and, like most natural fibers, it is also non-allergenic, making it an ideal choice for allergy sufferers. However, as an inexpensive material, polyester carpeting can shed or pill. A good choice for a child's bedroom is a soft, nylon or an inherently stain-resistant polyester carpet.

Living Room

Your lifestyle and personal taste are key factors in choosing the best carpet for living rooms. In busy families with children and pets, where the living room gets daily use, stain resistance and wear are of top concern. A solution-dyed or stain-treated product, possibly one with some type of added odor treatment, is a good option.

If your living room is for formal use only, consider a classic cut pile saxony or a sophisticated cut and loop patterned carpet. A textured plush or a frieze will work well for a more casual lifestyle.

Family Room

Family rooms in active households with kids and pets demand carpets that are stain and soil resistant and constructions that can stand up to a lot of traffic. Dense textures, loop piles, as well as many patterned carpet styles tend to show less matting and traffic patterns.

A multi-colored, textured looped carpet, such as a berber made from wool or nylon, will likely be more forgiving of tracked in debris and everyday mess.

Dining Room

Want to give your dining room an elegant look? A plush saxony carpet can be a great choice. Triexta or P.E.T. polyester carpets with inherent stain resistance, solution-dyed nylon carpets, or nylons with advanced stain resistance are all safe bets for dining rooms, where occasional soiling from spilled food and beverages is a concern. Products that feature anti-microbial and other topical treatments will also help protect against spills.

Hallways and Stairs

For stairs and other high-traffic areas such as hallways, a low-profile, densely packed carpet can add to the life expectancy of carpet. Because of its resilience, nylon carpet is often recommended in pulled-down textures or level-loop constructions.

For stairs, the direction of the pile should run from the top of the stairs to

the bottom (not sideways). This ensures better wear and also prevents noticeable gaps between fibers where the carpet bends over each step. Stairways that are open on one or both sides require the carpet to wrap around the outside edge of the staircase, presenting the possibility of a portion of the backing to show. Here, a higher-grade berber will work much better than a lower-grade option. Seams are also a concern on stairs, particularly where the carpet joins around posts. A longer pile such as frieze, tends to hide seams better than short or looped piles.

Basement

A big concern in basements is most often moisture. Carpets made from man-made fibers, such as olefin (polypropylene), and polyester, do a good job at standing up to moisture and tend to dry more quickly than natural fibers such as wool. A lower pile will also dry quicker. A dense, multi-color loop or level loop construction is a good choice for basements. If concerned about the possibility of flooding, carpet squares may be a better option than wall-to-wall carpeting, as soaked squares can be more easily replaced.

A Word on Carpet Cushion

Carpet cushion serves a vital purpose, acting as both a shock and spring to help improve carpet's overall wear. Without the use of the appropriate carpet cushion, even the highest-quality carpet will surely flatten and quickly look worn. Prior to purchasing carpet, be sure to review the carpet manufacturer's cushion recommendations with your carpet retailer.

The Final Choice

With any carpet selection, it's always important to ask your local, specialty carpet retailer for recommendations for your specific use. Remember to ask about any special care requirements and installation considerations.

See our list of local floor covering retailers who have the experience and industry knowledge to help you select the best carpet for your home.