

Learning the Ropes . . . Or Fibers

There are more variations of carpet than just color.

Nylon is the most dominant fiber in commercial carpets today, making up about two-thirds of all applications. Made from petroleum-based chemicals, nylon has excellent wear ability, abrasion resistance and resilience. Many building owners choose nylon for its reasonable price. Cleaners have better luck with nylon carpet because it can be dyed to rejuvenate its look. This type of fiber also holds up well against spot removal. Solution dyed nylon is also popular because it resists fading from sunlight.

Nylon comes in Five (5) Generations:

- 1st Generation - Contains early nylons that are round, smooth & transparent.
- 2nd Generation - Is a soil hider with modified cross section; not stain-resistant
- 3rd Generation – Has a modified cross section & anti-static characteristics using carbon-cored, nylon fiber.
- 4th Generation – Has soil and stain repellent flourochemicals built in.
- 5th Generation – Adds an acid dye resistor to the qualities of earlier generations.

Olefin (polypropylene) is a synthetic fiber, also resists sunlight and minimizes static electricity. It is one of the cheapest and most colorfast fibers on the market. It also is well suited for indoor – outdoor applications in both looped and grass styles. This fiber's most important features are that it is chemical – and stain-resistant, but this carpet is not able to be dyed and is the least absorbent of all synthetics.

Wool costs more than its synthetic counterparts and only make up a small percentage of the commercial market. It is an excellent for soil shedding and it wears well. Wool is easily dyed, but tends to be very sensitive and fragile. The fiber is susceptible to such problems as bleeding, browning, yellowing, color changes and felting. When cleaning carpets you also need to be aware of wool's sensitivity to alkalies and understand that it dissolves with bleach.

Polyester (blend) is made from recycled two-liter bottles. Stain Resistant.

Loop or Clean-Cut

Loop-Pile Carpet consist of equal length loops of yarn that provide long-lasting wear and work well in high traffic areas. Loop pile tend to hold up to increased use more than cut pile because the yarn has more strength to resist matting.

Cut-Pile Carpet here the carpet loops have been cut create individual, upstanding tips, creating a rich, luxurious feel and exhibits varying wearability.

Cut-Looped Pile Carpet is a mixture of cut and loop pile carpet.