

Carpet ^[1]

According to the Carpet and Rug Institute, the industry's trade association, 70 percent of US floors are covered with carpets and rugs. Carpet's lifecycle impacts include chemical emissions from manufacturing, depletion of petroleum and other natural resources, transportation, indoor air quality concerns, and disposal costs at landfills and recycling operations.

To minimize health and environmental impacts, many companies offer recycled content backing, modular tiles that extend carpet life, recycled content cushion, low- or no-VOCs (volatile organic compound) adhesives, refurbishing programs that extend flooring life, and recovery programs that keep flooring out of the landfill. Several manufacturers have even committed to reduce the life-cycle impacts of flooring by lowering emissions during manufacturing, using solar or other renewable energy to power their plants, and making a commitment to reducing waste, toxics, and non-renewable resource depletion.

Choose

- Low levels of VOC
- Environmentally certified carpet
- Recycled content
- Recyclable
- Proper maintenance

Avoid

- Virgin fiber content
- PVC backing

- Anti-microbials
- Harsh chemical cleaners

End of Life

- Recycling and manufacturer take back programs "where available"

Environmental Labels

- NSF International/ANSI;
USDA Certified BioBased;
Cradle to Cradle;
Recycled Content; CRI
Green Label; Declare;

Scientific Certification
Systems; UL GreenGuard;
GreenCircle Certified;
Environmental Choice;
Sustainable Materials
Rating Technology
(SMaRT)

Source URL: <https://www.cu.edu/psc/procurement/sustainability/sustainable-purchasing-guidelines/carpet>

Links

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