



Beaulieu Residential

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Carpet Padding Requirements

One of the most important requirements needed to insure for carpet performance is pad. A properly specified pad can be likened to the foundation of a house-it is the underlying means and primary method of supporting a carpet against the forces of use. These forces include shear, torsion, and impact compression, and without this support, the carpet's pile yarns eventually fatigue, and the carpet's appearance and performance becomes compromised. Depending on the conditions of use, the pile yarns can lose their twist, bend and compress, their spatial alignment changes, and they eventually become entangled. "Ugly out" is the metaphor commonly used by layman to describe a carpet in this condition. From the manufacturer's viewpoint, this carpet has lost its appearance retention.

Like other structures, carpet needs the right foundation to perform at its best. However, if this foundation is too thick or too soft there is no benefit; the carpet will be subjected to excessive flexion, it will eventually wrinkle and buckle, seams will split open, and the carpet's backing will delaminate. Considering this, not any pad will do! Specifying the right pad is equally as important as specifying the right carpet for the end-use. Cutting costs by skimping on pad selection becomes a problem waiting to happen, and like a house with a crumbling foundation, calamity grows fervently in the presence of lapsed standards and poor judgment.

It is not uncommon for consumers shopping for carpet and pad to hear a variety of opinions in regard to the type pad needed for their carpet, and/or for their particular end-use. Descriptions, such as firm, thick, thin, dense, and soft can make pad selection an unsettling experience. Here is what we know: carpet pad intended for residential end-use should be no thicker than ½", and it should have a minimum weight density of 6 lbs. per cubic foot. It can be thinner than ½" and it can be more dense than 6 lbs. per cubic foot. The denser pads are recommended for Berber carpets to offer added support to the bulked loop carpet constructions synonymous to these style carpets.

Proper pad = underfoot comfort, warm and quiet floor, carpet last longer and is easier to maintain.

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