

Why New Carpet Pad

As a result of continued technological advancements in our trade carpets are marketed with an assortment of warranties that are extended by the manufacturer as a guarantee of the carpet's materials quality, its workmanship and certain performance properties. Included in this last category are warranties against excessive wear and texture retention, both of which address certain aspects of a carpet's vertically oriented pile yarns longevity when subjected to the everyday and constant forces of movement caused by foot traffic (shear, torsion and compression).

Properly specified carpet pad is the firm foundation beneath a carpet. Carpet manufacturers stipulate the minimum pad weight density and maximum thickness they require to assure that this foundation is adequate enough to allow their carpets to meet your expectations and theirs. Although carpet pads offer other features, such as some degree of underfoot comfort, added insulation, improved vacuuming efficiency, etc., the most important role of a carpet pad is to limit the amount of movement a carpet will be subjected to, thus helping to maintain the carpet's appearance and performance for many years. However, no textile product lasts forever. Eventually, the carpet's pile yarns fatigue to various degrees, and, as a result they become less resilient, lose some luster, crush and mat; all of which is often summarized, by the commonly referred to state of being known as "ugly out".

Because it cannot be readily seen, the useful life cycle of the carpet pad is occasionally overlooked or underestimated. As a result, a consumer shopping for new carpet will fail to consider the equally important consideration of the pad. While playing its daily role as traffic "shock absorber" the pad becomes compressed repeatedly and will eventually reach a condition often referred to as "bottoming out". At this point, the pad offers a carpet little in the way of physical attributes such as compression load deflection (foot traffic) and indentation load deflection (furniture leg impressions). Continuing to use a pad in this condition can actually accelerate carpet wear rather than prolong it. For this reason, it is absolutely imperative to replace the carpet pad with new pad when purchasing new carpet.

One argument made in regard to the useful life cycle of a carpet pad stems from the amount of time it was used. It is not unusual for someone who used their pad for 1-2 years to argue that it is not necessary for them to replace their pad when they are in the process of replacing their carpet. What should be understood here is that any loss of pad performance properties can accelerate the loss of carpet appearance and performance. Because new carpet is a major investment, and because new pad is a relatively small investment in comparison, why compromise? It only makes sense to invest a little more for new pad to assure that you get the full functional benefits of a carpet. Very few consumers would be willing to subtract from the time duration of their express warranties based on the amount of time their existing pad has already been in use!

In addition to the aforementioned common sense factor, carpet manufacturers have no means in which to establish the remaining physical properties of an already in-use pad. Nor can they determine if the pad's properties were compromised by improper pad installation, on-site water intrusion, or improper carpet installation (i.e. stretch). With these things in mind, and, considering the vital role pad plays and the significant influence it has on long-term carpet use, carpet manufacturers, including Beaulieu are not willing to provide their warranty package for a new carpet purchase if that carpet's performance is compromised by used pad.

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