

Knowledge Brief: Environmental Impact of Carpet in Schools

High performance carpet products from Interface Flooring Systems offer solutions to help enhance Indoor Environmental Quality while creating a safe, warm environment that is more conducive to learning.

During the past 20 years, carpet has become an integral component for interior design in educational facilities. Carpet adds color and texture while imparting a sense of well being and comfort. Compared to hard surface floors, carpet is easier to walk on, offers wonderful acoustical advantages, imparts less glare, and reduces both the likelihood and severity of slip-fall accidents. Recent surveys indicate that teachers and students overwhelmingly prefer carpet over hard surface floors.

The problem is that conventional tufted and woven carpet has never been able to withstand the rigors of the educational environment and has proven to be an expensive and inadequate solution. Initially, carpet can be a very positive element in the overall design scheme, but the wrong product choice can quickly turn into a negative. First of all, many carpet products requires a full-spread application of wet adhesive, which may contain volatile organic compounds (VOC's), to be spread throughout an interior for installation. Conventional, porous-backed carpet allows spills and dirt to flow through the backing to the subfloor, where they remain untouched and continue to decay, creating a breeding ground for microorganism growth! It often unravels at the seams, wrinkles and bubbles, separates from the secondary backing, crushes and mats, and is virtually impossible to maintain properly. All too often, carpet smells bad, looks bad, and has a disgustingly short life span.

However...High performance carpet from Interface IS NOT conventional carpet. Interface carpet products provide award-winning patterns, comfort underfoot, noise absorption and slip resistance, combined with our patented, structured backing system and dense face construction for long-lasting performance and appearance retention.

The Interface construction features a low profile, dense surface of premium nylon fused to our

patented vinyl backing with nearly 30 years proven performance in commercial applications. This construction eliminates the problems commonly associated with conventional carpet.

The 20-year, non-prorated Interface Education Warranty guarantees (see warranty for full details):

- NO shrinking or stretching
- NO excessive wear
- NO edge ravel
- NO delamination

Additionally, the impermeable, structured vinyl backing permanently incorporated with Intersept® antimicrobial preservative:

PREVENTS spills or soil from passing through the surface or being absorbed into the back or subfloor;

PROTECTS against a broad spectrum of microbial growth, which contributes to odors and staining;

ELIMINATES costly, labor-intensive stripping and waxing of resilient floors;

AVOIDS exorbitant removal costs (the material maintains its initial releasable quality).

Besides being the clear performance leader, Interface performance carpet proves to be the most cost-effective solution in life cycle cost analysis, when compared with traditional carpet or VCT floor covering.

For more information on Interface Solutions for Education, contact your local Interface Flooring Systems Account Executive or visit us on the web at www.interfaceflooring.com.