

**Knowledge Brief:** Environmental Impact of Carpet in Health Care

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

During the past 20 years, carpet has become an integral component for interior design in health care facilities. Recent studies indicate that long term health care consumers want an environment that is conducive to well-being. Carpet can help reduce environmental stresses such as noise and provide visual comfort through color and texture. 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.

The problem is that conventional tufted and woven carpet has never been able to withstand the rigors of the health care 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 require 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 15-year Standard Interface Warranty guarantees:

- 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, contact your local Interface Flooring Systems Account Executive or visit us on the web at [www.interfaceflooring.com](http://www.interfaceflooring.com)