

Knowledge Brief: Protecting carpet from microbial contamination and degradation

Interface Flooring Systems offers answers to help protect its floorcovering products from the growth of mold, mildew, and odor-causing microbials.

The Problem

Conventional carpet products may allow dirt, spills and other fluids to penetrate the surface and flow through the porous backing to the subfloor below.

The Result

These contaminants can lead to the growth of mold, mildew and bacteria, as well as subsequent odors and stains, in unprotected carpet products, which shorten the life of the floorcovering investment and may impact the Indoor Environmental Quality.

The Solution

Interface structured back carpet tile and 2-m Performance Broadloom, and Re:Source Technologies adhesive products with the permanent incorporation of Intersept® antimicrobial preservative. Intersept inhibits the growth of a broad spectrum of mold, mildew, bacteria and odor-causing microorganisms.

The Details

Conventional carpet products are often referred to as a sink because everything that lands on them has the potential to sink into them, and oftentimes the contaminants cannot be seen and do not come out with regular cleaning. Spills and dirt flow through the porous backing to the subfloor where they remain untouched. These contaminants can provide a nutrient source for the growth of mold, mildew, and other microorganisms. These microorganisms may lead to degradation of the floor covering and subsequent odors and staining, all of which shorten the product's life span and impact the indoor environment. Hard surface flooring is often recommended as a better alternative, but hard surfaces allow contaminants to become airborne much more easily than do carpet products.

Conventional carpets are NOT the only option when the benefits of a soft surface floorcovering are desirable. Interface Flooring Systems products feature a dense face construction of premium nylon and a moisture-impermeable structured backing. The structured backing prevents the absorption of contaminants through the floorcovering to the sub-floor below where they could otherwise continue to

decay, allowing microbial growth and odor. Moisture, mites and microbes are kept near the surface where they can be easily removed with routine maintenance, and where they are less likely to become airborne as they can on hard surfaces.

While the structured back alone of many soft surface floorcovering products does offer impermeability to contaminants it does not inhibit microbial growth and subsequent degradation. Interface offers solutions to protect its floorcovering products from these contaminants.

Intersept is an antimicrobial preservative developed, patented and manufactured by Interface. It is registered with the EPA for use in carpeting. Intersept is effective against a broad spectrum of bacteria and fungi, inhibiting the growth of mold, mildew, bacteria and odor-causing microorganisms. All floorcovering products manufactured by Interface Flooring Systems contain Intersept, and carpet preserved with Intersept meets stringent certification standards set by the three most recognized testing protocols related to indoor environmental quality -- CRI Green Label, the State of Washington Protocol and GSA Antimicrobial Certification. Carpet that includes Intersept is guaranteed to maintain antimicrobial-preservative effectiveness for the life of the product, assuming proper maintenance.



Notice the Zone of Inhibition in the Interface treated carpet samples on the right side of each petri dish shown above.

At Interface, we share your concern about protecting your floorcovering investment, and we're ready to help. For more information contact your local Interface Flooring Systems Account Executive or visit us on the web at www.interfaceflooring.com.