

Carpet maintenance guidelines

Proper maintenance of your carpet will extend the lifespan of your carpet, keep its fresh appearance, and help keep the indoor environment clean. Of course, all of this is contingent on using the right cleaning product.

- **Vacuum regularly** with a CRI seal of approval/green label certified vacuum cleaner. These tested products will assure you that the vacuum cleaner removes soil, contains the dust and allergens, and won't damage the carpet.
- **Remove spills quickly** to minimize staining. When cleaning the stains, be sure to use a CRI Seal of Approval certified product. CRI tests spot removers, in-tank products and pre-sprays to make sure they really clean, do so without leaving behind chemicals that will promote re-soiling, and ensure that the product won't damage the carpet in any way.
- **Have your carpet extraction-cleaned** every 12-18 months, preferably by a professional cleaning service that uses SOA-certified products. CRI also certifies extractors and deep-cleaning systems to assure consumers that water is being removed from the carpet, it isn't damaging the carpet and it is effectively removing the soil.



Carpet installation guidelines

When installing carpet or any other renovation material, it is wise to follow "common sense," fresh air ventilation guidelines.

- Ventilate with fresh air (open doors or windows, and use fans) during removal, installation, and for at least 48 hours following.
- Vacuum the old carpet before removal to minimize the amount of airborne dust particles.
- Vacuum the floor after the old carpet and cushion have been removed.
- The installer should follow the installation guidelines (CRI 104 and 105) published by CRI.
- Persons who are sensitive to low levels of odors or chemicals to avoid the area during removal and installation process

The Carpet and Rug Institute supports these testing programs with written material on carpet, floor covering installation products, and the indoor environment. More information can be found at www.carpet-rug.org



The Carpet and Rug Institute

Indoor Air Quality Testing Programs



The Carpet and Rug Institute is *the* source for science-based information and insight into how carpet and rugs can create a better environment – for living, working, learning and healing.

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The Quality of Indoor Air

Looking at the Big Picture

Today, indoor air quality (IAQ) is an important environmental consideration, especially since we spend approximately 90 percent of our time indoors. In 1992, CRI launched its Green Label program to test carpet, cushions and adhesives to help specifiers identify products with very low emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). CRI has recently launched its next series of improvements called Green Label Plus for carpet and adhesives. This enhanced program sets an even higher standard for IAQ and ensures that customers are purchasing the very lowest emitting products on the market. Using scientifically established standards, the Green Label Plus program symbolizes the carpet industry's commitment to a better environment for living, working, learning and healing.

Green building is no longer a trend; it is a mainstay. Schools, healthcare facilities, businesses and public facilities recognize the benefits of building green, and governmental entities are even passing laws to mandate future green construction of public and private buildings.

Carpet, carpet pads and carpet adhesives contribute to green buildings by helping reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and emissions. Because of the amount of time people spend indoors, it is important to do everything possible to maintain the quality of indoor air, especially for new construction and renovation.

Carpet manufacturers were the first in the flooring industry to study their products for indoor air quality effects in schools and commercial settings. CRI worked with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), academic institutions and independent laboratories to evaluate carpet's

role in the indoor environment. The result is the [Green Label program](#) and the even more rigorous [Green Label Plus program](#).



Look for the Green Label logo when purchasing carpet.

Even though scientists have told us that new carpet is one of the lowest emitters, responsible carpet manufacturers have been proactive in their efforts to scrutinize their products, and develop ways to further reduce product emissions.

These programs, which test for and certify low emissions from carpet, cushion and adhesives, have earned [CRI recognition as an American National Standard Institute \(ANSI\) green certification body](#).

Commercial architects and green builders can earn LEED points by using Green Label and Green Label Plus carpet.

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How the programs work

In the testing programs for carpet, separate carpet cushion, and floor covering adhesives for corporate installations, samples are collected from the manufacturer's production process. Each sample is tested individually for chemical emissions by an independent laboratory, using highly sophisticated, dynamic, environmental chamber technology.

The test procedure follows an approved methodology recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM D-5116). The volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions are identified and quantified as though the products were in a real building situation. Products are retested on an ongoing basis to ensure that the required emission levels are not exceeded.

Products that meet the emission criteria are allowed to display the label. If the products exceed the emission criteria, the manufacturer is so advised and is requested to make process or formulation changes in order to reduce the emissions. After the appropriate product modification, the manufacturer may resubmit the product for additional testing. Products that do not meet the test criteria will not thereafter or be allowed to affix the label until they meet the test program criteria.

In each of these programs, the authorized label displayed on the product contains an identification number assigned specifically to the individual manufacturer for each product that meets the criteria.