GETTING MORE FROM YOUR CARPET

Underlay - a carpet's best friend

It is essential that your new carpet is layed on a new thick underlay. This will ensure that you get maximum wear life and appearance as well as providing heat and accoustic benefits.

Don't make the mistake of believing that you will save money by utilising your old underlay. It will probably have little, if any, life left and certainly will have next to no bounce or resilience.

Some floorboards are ill-fitting with gaps between the planks. It is possible that through vacuuming your carpet, you will suck air and dirt through to the surface resulting in "dust lines" appearing. This can be avoided by using paper felt as a preliminary lining. Check with your fitter if paper felt is advisable.

Your floor should be as smooth as possible before your carpet and underlay are fitted. In some very old houses, this may entail laying hardboard to compensate for any uneveness.

Fitting

The best quality carpet can be ruined by incorrect fitting. If a carpet is layed without the correct tension it will ruck and wear badly and joins in areas of heavy tread will be subject to exessive wear. Sometimes, there is a difference between one estimate and another but don't automatically assume that the cheaper quotation is the best. It is perfectly reasonable that one quotation cuts corners by incorporating more joins and another quotation, although more expensive, actually uses more carpet to avoid seams in a prominent spot.

Always take the advice of a qualified carpet layer and do not hesitate to ask about the suitability of underlay and accessories and where the seams, if any, are likely to fall. The National Institute of Carpet and Floorlayers can give you the name of a qualified fitter in your area. Tel: 0115 958 3077.

Looking after your new carpet.

Never drag furniture over your carpet, always lift it or fix castors. Install a barrier mat at all external doors to remove grit and dirt. Vacuum your new carpet regularly. Treat all stains or spills as soon as possible, the longer they are left the harder they will be to remove. Pad up excess liquid with plenty of fresh paper towels. Cold water, carpet shampoo, household dry cleaning fluid or one part white vinegar to three parts water, will clear up most stains. Don't over-wet the carpet and do pad up all excess moisture.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CARPET & FLOORLAYERS

"Dedicated to fitting beautiful floors"

For your nearest NICF member contact:

NICF, 4d St Mary's Place,
The Lace Market, Nottingham NG1 1PH
Tel: 0115 958 3077
Fax: 0115 941 2238
www.nicf.carpetinfo.co.uk

NICF
National Institute of Carpet & Floorlayers

See more at www.carpetinfo.co.uk